2020

Zimbabwe Progress Review Report of **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), December, 2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Revised Edition

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List of Acronyms

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
ACFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
ADI	Affordability Drivers Index
AETI	Automatic Exchange of Tax Information
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AFSTS	Agriculture Food Systems Transformation Strategy
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARFSD	African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
AGRITEX	Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ATIMC	Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee
BEAM	Basic Education Assistance Module
BIPPAs	Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements
BCSDZ	Business Council for Sustainable Development Zimbabwe
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
CBD	Central Business District
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CICs	Community Information Centers
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSOT	Community Share Ownership Trust
CTB	Challenge TB
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
CZI	Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries
DFID	Department for International Development

DPA	Distributed Power Africa
ECD	Early Childhood Development
E-GP	Electronic Government Procurement
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
ENDA	Environment and Development Action
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
ESOT	Employee Share Ownership Trust
ESSP	Education Sector Strategic Plan
EU	European Union
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FfD3	Third International Conference on Financing for Development
GAM	Global AIDS Monitoring
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
GISP	Government Internet Services Provider
GHI	Global Hunger Index
GNI	Gross National Income
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HSCT	Harmonised Social Cash Transfer
HDF	Health Development Fund
HDI	Human Development Index
HIT	Harare Institute of Technology
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HRH	Human Resources for Health
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICDS	Inter-Censal Demographic Survey
ICES	Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	International Development Association
IFFs	International Financial Flows
IFLAI	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IPRSP	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IPPs	Independent Power Producers
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
LADS	Local Authorities Digital System
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy
LFCLS	Labour Force and Child Labour Survey
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MHw	Megawatt hours
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MNCs	Multi-National Corporations
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSU	Midlands State University
MtCO2e	Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission
MVA	Manufacturing Value Added
MW	Megawatts
NAC	National Aids Council

NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NAPF	National Agriculture Policy Framework
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDS1	First 5-year National Development Strategy
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGP	National Gender Policy
NPRC	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
NREP	National Renewable Energy Policy
NSSA	National Social Security Authority
NUST	National University of Science and Technology
OBS	Open Budget Survey
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OOP	Out of Pocket
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
OPEC	Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PDL	Poverty Datum Line
PEPFAR	U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PFMS	Public Finance Management System
PICES	Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PRAZ	Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SafPHHE	Sanitation Focused Participatory Health and Hygiene Education
SBDs	Standard Bidding Documents
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SIG	School Improvement Grant
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa

STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TB	Tuberculosis
TNF	Tripartite Negotiating Forum
TCPL	Total Consumption Poverty Line
TPES	Trade Policy and Export Strategy
TSP	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
UCDW	Unpaid Care and Domestic Work
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
US$	United States Dollar
UZ	University of Zimbabwe
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organisation
WHO AFRO	World Health Organisation Regional Office for Africa
WHO PEN	World Health Organisation Package of Essential NCD services
WID	World Inequality Database
YETI	Youth Employment Tax Incentive
ZAGP	Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme
ZACC	Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission
ZCCYI	Zion Christian Church Youth International
ZCDF	Zimbabwe Community Development Fund
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey
ZERA	Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority
ZGC	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
ZIDA	Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation

ZIM-CLIM	Zimbabwe Climate Change Technical Assistance Programme
ZimLA	Zimbabwe Library Association
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
ZMC	Zimbabwe Media Commission
ZNCC	Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce
ZNPI	Zimbabwe National Productivity Institute
ZSE	Zimbabwe Stock Exchange
ZSHP	Zimbabwe School Health Policy
ZUNDAF	Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework
ZUPCO	Zimbabwe United Passenger Company
ZWMB	Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank

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The review of progress made in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Zimbabwe would have not been possible without the active participation of SDGs Focal Persons from all Government Ministries, Civil Society Organisations, the Private Sector and Trade Unions. The Government of Zimbabwe acknowledges the inputs provided by a number of stakeholders that include the Parliament of Zimbabwe, traditional leaders, local authorities, persons with disabilities, youth and women during the consultations.

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Finally, the guidance provided by the Office of the President and Cabinet is noted and appreciated.

Foreword

The idea of undertaking a fully-fledged review of the progress in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was mooted by the Government of Zimbabwe in liaison with the UNDP in 2019. This report is the first of such reports to be produced in Zimbabwe since the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. It presents the findings of the progress review exercise on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Zimbabwe.

Sustainable Development Goals progress review reports are very crucial to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the SDGs, as they provide a barometer for measuring progress in the attainment of the SDGs. They serve as a dash-board which provides useful information on various socio-economic and environmental indicators towards the implementation of the mutually reinforcing agendas of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063.
The report identifies gaps and emerging issues that require the attention of national policy makers such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It also analyses the underlying causes of any implementing lags or challenges and offers policy suggestions to overcome the obstacles and deal with the emerging challenges.

The findings herein are derived from a robust research methodology and extensive consultative process. Though the advent of Covid-19 coincided with the finalisation of the report, necessary measures including provincial stakeholder validation workshops were conducted to ensure quality of results.

Information gathered from a wide spectrum of stakeholders assisted in bringing out the country's progress in implementing SDGs. With less than a decade of implementation left before 2030, this will contribute to the acceleration and strengthening of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the spirit of "leaving no one behind" the report is now being shared with our stakeholders. Let us all work together to achieve the targets set in the 17 goals because SDGs are about People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

His Excellence, CDE, E. D. Mnangagwa
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Executive Summary

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has gathered pace and momentum in the country. The country is pursuing the 'whole of government' and the 'whole of society' approaches to facilitate an integrated approach and ensure that no one is left behind. A Steering Committee with representation of permanent secretaries from all government ministries, heads of UN task force agencies, the private sector, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) is responsible for providing strategic overall guidance. The country is in the process of setting up a dedicated SDGs Secretariat to manage and coordinate the implementation of SDGs. The country has established the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2019-2023 to track the progress.

The SDGs have been incorporated into the Vision 2030, the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) (2018-2020), the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) (2021-2025), as well as the National Budget. The Vision 2030 is anchored on 'broad based citizenry participation in national and socio-economic development programmes.' The National Budget has incorporated and internalised SDGs through increasing public expenditure and investments on agriculture, education, health, social protection and infrastructure. In particular, the 2020 National Budget provided fiscal incentives to promote employment creation as well as the uptake of alternative renewable sources of energy. The global SDGs Index and Dashboards Report of 2019, ranks Zimbabwe 121 (out of 195 countries) in terms of progress towards the implementation of SDGs with a score of 59.7.

Parliament of Zimbabwe has created a thematic committee on SDGs. This thematic committee supports and monitors SDGs implementation in the country. Parliamentary involvement is key to ensure accountability for the effective implementation of SDGs. A number of CSOs have been proactively contributing to the implementation of SDGs by creating platforms to enhance mutual accountability and collective responsibility. A case in point is the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group that was established in 2017 to create space for dialogue on the SDGs among CSOs. The Reference Group has been actively facilitating consultations between the Government and CSOs as well as assisting to build awareness around the SDGs.

A number of youth-led initiatives are also mobilising young people across the country through raising awareness and setting up partnerships for effective engagement and action. In September 2019, a Zimbabwe National Youth SDGs Summit was organised through the joint coordination of the 2030 Youth Alliance, the African Youth SDGs Summit Secretariat and the Zion Christian Church Youth International (ZCCYI). The Summit which ran under the theme, 'Youth as Drivers of Sustainable Development' sought to mobilize the active participation and effective coordination of youths in Zimbabwe at all levels to meaningfully participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

The private sector is recognized as a key partner in the attainment of SDGs. The private sector is contributing to the SDGs in a number of ways including through sustainability practices and reporting, local economic development initiatives and community investment. A number of businesses across all economic sectors are proactively investing in renewable energy. To help mobilise resources for clean energy and social development projects, the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) has started the process of developing the guiding principles for the issuance of Green and Social Bonds in Zimbabwe. To date, the ZSE has drafted a Green and Social Bonds Framework which is meant to act as a guide on the operational regulatory environment on Green and Social Bonds in Zimbabwe and the procedures for listing and trading of Green and Social Bonds. Through its ease of doing business reforms, the Government aims to leverage greater private sector participation in the achievement of SDGs.

Real GDP growth rate increased from 4.7% (2017) to 5.5% (2018) in response to the TSP policy measures. In 2019 the real GDP contracted to -6.0% and in an effort to stabilize the economy, Government reintroduced the local currency along with other fiscal and monetary reforms which resulted in an improvement to -4.1% in 2020. The real GDP is expected to grow by 7.4% in 2021. The Dutch auction rate system introduced in June 2020 stabilised the exchange rate. Exchange rate stability and increased access to foreign exchange stimulated industry recovery which saw capacity utilization increasing from 36.4% in 2019 to 47% in 2020 albeit dampened by effects of the COVID-19 lockdown measures. The global restrictions on travel and international distribution of goods resulted in a boost in locally produced goods which saw a 40% increase in the occupation of the shelf space by local products in supermarkets.

Furthermore, the Government implemented the fiscal consolidation programme in an effort to maintain fiscal deficits averaging not more than 3% of GDP in line with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) targets. For example, Government managed to contain the Public Wage Bill to below 50% of Government revenues. Fiscal consolidation measures were complemented by a tight monetary policy regime pursued by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and exchange rate stability induced by the Dutch auction system. The gross national income (GNI) per capita decreased by -2.5% from US$1,189.84 in 2018 to US$1,159.81 in 2020. Mobile banking has resulted in increased financial inclusion with recorded active users standing at 47.9% of the population. Overall, the proportion of banked adults sat at 69% in 2020 and is expected to grow to 80% at the close of the year 2021.

The proportion of the population deemed poor slightly improved from 72.3% in 2011/12 to 70.5% in 2017, the poverty rate remains stubbornly high. The prevalence of poverty is more widespread in rural areas, with the rural individual poverty increasing from 84.3% in 2011/12 to 86.0% in 2017. On the other hand, extreme poverty among the population increased from 22.5% in 2011/12 to 29.3% in 2017. The limited social protection in the country has affected the capacity of the Government to effectively address chronic poverty (by helping the poor households) as well as the capacity to mitigate the socio-economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, according to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), about 249,000 persons, which is approximately 2% of the population, were receiving a monthly pension or any social security fund or both. With respect to medical insurance, about 984,000 persons, representing about 7% of the population, were members of a medical aid scheme.

Years of successive droughts have led to a rapid rise in the number of Zimbabweans who are food insecure. The 2020 Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) of April 2020, highlighted that 7 million people in urban and rural areas were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, compared to 5.5 million in August 2019. More than 4.3 million people were severely food insecure in rural areas in Zimbabwe, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, undertaken in February 2020. On a positive note, public expenditure towards the agriculture sector as a percentage of total public expenditure has progressively increased from 7.11% in 2018 to 17.5% in 2020, testifying to the growing recognition of the agricultural sector to sustainable development in the country. This needs to be sustained and complemented through greater private sector involvement.

With respect to SDG 3, the country has made some progress in terms of reducing the maternal ratio and child mortality rates. The maternal mortality ratio declined from 651 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 462 in 2019. This achievement has been on account of a combination of targeted measures such as the removal user fees for pregnant women, free blood coupons for maternal cases, intensified trainings for health care workers and construction of waiting mothers' shelters. The infant mortality rate decreased from 50 per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 47 in 2019. The under-5 mortality rate on the other hand decreased from 72.4 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 65 in 2019. In terms of the share of women with a live birth in the last 2 years whose most recent live birth was attended by skilled health personnel, there was an improvement from 80% in 2014 to 86% in 2019. Skilled birth attendance during delivery is vital in the reduction of maternal deaths.

The estimated TB treatment coverage now stands at 83%, up from 70% in 2014. TB incidence has declined to 210 per 100,000 population in 2018, from 278 per 100,000 population in 2014. HIV incidence continued to decline at national level from 6.39% in 2010 to 2.81% in 2019 per 1000 uninfected population. AIDS mortality significantly declined by 69% from 409.4 in 2010 to 126.7 in 2019 per 100,000. These improvements are on account of the strategic collaboration between the country and development partners. Notwithstanding these milestones, there is a need to close gaps in coverage and outcomes by eliminating huge income and urban/rural differentials in key health indicators. The inadequate public financing of health has resulted in an overreliance on out-of-pocket and external financing which is highly unsustainable and risky. Development assistance towards the health sector is projected at US$360,745,139 in 2020 up from US$316,224,754 in 2019.

The UN has supported the health sector through the Health Development Fund (HDF) (2016-2020) with an estimated overall budget of USD681,920,000.

The Education Amendment Act, 2020 which came into effect on 6 March 2020 aligns the Education Act (Chapter 25:04) with the Constitution. The Education Amendment Act provides for compulsory basic state funded education. The Act provides that no pupil shall be excluded from school for non-payment of school fees or on the basis of pregnancy. The Act also provides that pupils are not subject to any form of physical or psychological torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment at school, and prohibits corporal punishment. The Act guarantees the right of pupils with disabilities to be provided with suitable infrastructure. The Government has adopted the Inclusive Education Policy to ensure that no child including persons with disabilities are not left behind. This has also seen the introduction of Disability Management and Aging Issues as a compulsory subject.

The country has made good progress in terms of early child development index (%) with the total early child development index rising from 61.8% in 2014 to 70.8% in 2019. However, there has been an inverse relationship between the completion rate and the level of education. At ECD level the completion rate was 92.3% in 2018 up from 75.4% in 2014, with near gender parity. At primary school level the completion rate was 77.6% in 2018, with gender parity in favour of females. At lower secondary level the completion rate was 63.1% in 2018 down from 67.4% in 2017, with gender parity in favour of males. The completion rate at the upper secondary level was 14.9% in 2018 up from 11.0% in 2014, with gender parity in favour of males. The country also faces a serious challenge with the high levels of school dropouts. There were an estimated 20,400 dropouts at primary school level (including ECD) and 37,081 at the secondary school level as at 2018. The main reasons for dropping out of primary school are absconding (45.1%) and financial reasons (32.9%).

The country has made good progress in terms of coming up with policies to promote gender equality. According to the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), Zimbabwe has seen improvements in laws and policies concerning gender equality. In 2008, the country had a score of 1.5 on policies for social inclusion/ equity which increased to 3.7 in 2018 (1 is the lowest and 6 the highest level). In 2018, Zimbabwe's score specific to gender equity was 4.0 which was above the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) average of 3.2. This indicates that the country has developed policies to promote gender equality in education, health, and political leadership.

There has been an increase in representation of women in decision-making bodies. The Constitution provides for special quota system for women of 60 additional seats in the lower house of assembly and election to senate through proportional representation. The representation of women in the Senate increased from 23.2% in 2012 to 43.75% in 2019 and from 16% in 2012 to 31.85% in 2019 in the National Assembly. The proportion of women in managerial positions has improved from 27.6% in 2014 to 31% in 2017. However, the percentage of adolescent girls and women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15 was 39.4% in 2019 up from 35% in 2015.

The country faces challenges in terms of ensuring clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) as well as affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (SDG 7). Water and sanitation are at the heart of sustainable development and therefore key in the attainment of the other goals. Providing water and sanitation in schools is key to keeping girls and children in school. Poor and inadequate water and sanitation is a leading cause of poverty, morbidity and mortality. The occurrence of drought and low rainfall patterns result in reduced availability of safe drinking water. Results from the 2019 MICS show that 77.1% of the households have access to improved sources of drinking water up from 76.1% in 2014. Meanwhile 68.8% of households have access to improved not shared sanitation facility as at 2019 up by 1% from the 2017 figure. The country has also experienced a rise in informal settlements where water supply and sanitation services are virtually non-existent and waterborne diseases are prevalent. About 48% of households in Zimbabwe have access to electricity (86% in urban areas and 27.7% in rural areas), an increase from about 34% in 2015.

Zimbabwe faces a number of employment-related challenges. For instance, the shrinking of the formal economy through deindustrialisation has resulted in a boom in the non-formal economy through informalisation, with the 2019 Labour Force Survey showing that the share of informal employment to total employment was estimated at 76% in 2019. The manufacturing value added (MVA) as a share of GDP declined from 8.6% in 2015 to 7.3% in 2019, lower than that of South Africa (11.6%) and Zambia (7.5%). Economic growth in the country has not been inclusive and fast enough to absorb the growing labour force. The country faces a scarcity of regular wage employment for all who would like wage jobs and are capable of performing them. Would-be wage employees cannot afford to remain unemployed and continue to search so they find it better to create their own self-employment opportunities in the informal economy. The national proportion of youth (15-24) years who were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) was 44.7% in 2019 up from 35.2% in 2014. The female youth (15-24) NEET was much higher at 52.0% in 2019 when compared with the male youth NEET of 36.4%.

Child labour has also been on the increase, with the proportion of children aged 5-17 in child labour rising from 4.7% in 2014 to 9.1% in 2017. The incidence of child labour is more rampant in the agricultural sector. A key binding constraint for creating decent employment opportunities is the challenging doing business environment and regulatory framework. Estimates from Enterprise Surveys for the African continent reveal that about 1.3–3.0 million jobs are lost every year owing to administrative hurdles, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, poor tax administration, and other red tape.

The country has also been adversely affected by climate change. In particular, the country is more vulnerable due to its low adaptive capacity, limited climate knowledge and over-reliance on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture. In 2019, the Zimbabwean economy declined by 6.5% on account of a number of factors including climate change-induced Cyclone Idai which ravaged parts of the country as well as the El Nino induced drought which negatively affected agricultural production and electricity/power generation. The Climate Change Bill which is at advanced stages of finalisation will amongst other things: establish a well-defined institutional structure; establish a National Climate Change Funding Mechanism; and, ensure climate change is mainstreamed in planning and budgetary processes at national and sub-national levels.

The mobilization of adequate finance is an important means for the attainment of sustainable development in the country. This requires the proactive involvement and partnership of all the relevant stakeholders as well as the integration of a number of sources of finance involving the Government, the private sector, international partners, as well as the diaspora. There is need to explore innovative and sustainable sources of finance. It is also important to ensure the participation and involvement of all key stakeholders including local authorities, the private sector, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, community-based organisations, the elderly and people with disabilities, in the coordination and implementation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no one is left behind. Importantly, in view of the structural barriers to disability inclusion, it is important to adopt and implement a national disability strategy and plan of action with clear priorities and measurable outcomes, setting out the specific actions to improve the well-being of people with disabilities.

Zimbabwe is currently not able to mobilise adequate domestic revenues to sustainably finance sustainable development. Tax revenues are the most important component of domestic resources. The tax-GDP ratio in Zimbabwe remains erratic and inadequate. A major obstacle to government's ability to raise revenues is caused by the prevalence of a narrow tax base owing to the large size of the informal economy. Widening the tax base and enhancing the efficiency and capacity of tax administration are important for effective resource mobilization for financing sustainable development. The right mix of incentives is necessary to encourage the greater participation of the private sector in the financing of sustainable development. Private sector resources are crucial to complement public sector investments and to contribute to economic growth and job creation, as well as innovations in areas critical for sustainable development.

There is now growing consensus that the Diasporas can be a powerful and effective drivers and agents of sustainable development if well harnessed and in the right policy context. The key areas in which Diaspora members have played positive development roles are: remittances, direct investment, human capital transfer, philanthropy, capital market investment, and tourism. In particular, it has been shown that remittances are a significant and stable source of financing accounting for as much as 30% of GDP in some developing economies contributing immensely to sustainable development. There is scope for Zimbabwe to leverage greater remittances inflows for sustainable development by increasing incentives, reducing the cost of remittances services and improving the overall investment climate.

To ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is need for empirically sound evidence-based policymaking. Carrying out evidence-based policymaking, however, requires strong statistical systems as well as a sound, credible and well disaggregated database. The country has an overall 44% data gap. Capacitating the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) is therefore necessary to effectively address the data requirements of the 2030 Agenda and close the data gap. There is need to continuously improve collection, analysis and dissemination of high quality, reliable and timely data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, disability, region and other relevant variables. Importantly, effective local action requires disaggregated data collection and management at various local levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the exigency and necessity to make the economy more sustainable, resilient, diverse and innovative. Scaling up investments in clean energy, strengthening health systems and expanding social protection coverage can help to initiate and sustain an inclusive, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery and mitigate the fallout from future crises. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted how important it is to keep resources in reserve for times of crises. For example, a number of countries have been drawing down on their sovereign wealth reserves to sustainably finance their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This therefore implies the need for the country to fully operationalise the Sovereign Wealth Fund in line with the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Zimbabwe Act, 2014. The Sovereign Wealth Fund will also go a long in helping to mobilise domestic savings to finance critical productivity enhancing and poverty reducing investments in key sectors of the economy.

Key Messages

Successes

• Zimbabwe has established a clear, functional and elaborate institutional framework for supporting, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is the coordinating ministry for the 2030 Agenda and works under the overall guidance and supervision of the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC). The country has also established a Steering Committee that is chaired by the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet.

The Steering Committee comprises of Permanent Secretaries, Cluster Chairs and Co-Chairs, Heads of UN Task Force Agencies, the Private Sector, the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT), Parastatals and Donors. This is in line with the 'whole of government[1] ' and the 'whole-of-society[2] ' approaches adopted by Government. The Steering Committee meets twice per year and provides policy guidance in the implementation of the SDGs in the country. It is responsible for preparing reports to Cabinet, which is the supreme policy making body in the country. Zimbabwe has come up with the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2019-2023 to track the progress.

• Zimbabwe has integrated and mainstreamed the SDGs into the National Vision 2030, development and macroeconomic policies such as the National Budget.

The country's Vision 2030 is anchored on five strategic clusters namely: governance; macro-economic stability and re-engagement; inclusive growth; social/human capital development; and infrastructure and utilities. A key value underpinning the Vision 2030 is, 'broad based citizenry participation in national and socio-economic development programmes.' This is vital to ensure that no one is left behind.

To achieve this noble value, Government enacted the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) Act in 2019, as a social dialogue platform that brings together Government, business and labour to negotiate key socio-economic matters. Moreover, the National Budget has incorporated and internalised SDGs through increasing public expenditure and investments on agriculture, education, health, social protection and infrastructure. In particular, the 2020 National Budget provided fiscal incentives to promote employment creation as well as the uptake of alternative renewable sources of energy such as solar. Importantly, the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) (2021-2025) has clear poverty reduction and employment targets. There are however still challenges in terms of localising and integrating the SDGs at the sub-national/sectoral level.

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[1]An integrated approach in which government departments and agencies work together across departmental and portfolio boundaries to leverage synergies towards the achievement of sustainable development.

[2]An approach that acknowledges the important role played by all relevant stakeholders in support of national efforts towards sustainable development.

• Government has put a lot of emphasis on building partnerships with the private sector, civil society and development partners to ensure successful implementation of the SDGs.

For example, a strong partnership between Government and development partners has been established through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, formerly known as the Zimbabwe United Nations (UN) Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF). The onset of the implementation of the SDGs coincided with the first year of implementing the UN Sustainable Development Framework (2016 – 2020). The UN Sustainable Development Framework (2016-2020) is supporting national development efforts in six result areas that are fully aligned to the SDGs namely: Social Services and Protection; Poverty Reduction and Value Addition; Food and Nutrition; Gender Equality; HIV and AIDS; and Public Administration and Governance. The UN and Zimbabwe also jointly launched the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan. The Plan is targeting 5.6 million Zimbabweans with food assistance and support in the following sectors/areas: health; water, sanitation and hygiene; education; protection; and nutrition. The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan will play a key role in mitigating the combined impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

• Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are facilitating ownership of the SDGs through activities to enhance mutual accountability and collective responsibility.

A number of CSOs are contributing to the implementation of SDGs and proactively engaging with government to enhance accountability and transparency. For example, the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group was established in 2017 to create space for dialogue on the SDGs among CSOs. The Reference Group is constituted by ten (10) CSOs' apex bodies each representing a different sector including people with disabilities, children, youth, women, media, churches, and the elderly.

The Reference Group is actively facilitating consultations between the Government and CSOs as well as assisting to build awareness around the SDGs. In addition, youth-led initiatives are motivating and mobilising young people across the country to deliver on the SDGs. Youth organisations throughout Zimbabwe are leading in raising awareness about the SDGs and forming partnerships for action. A Zimbabwe National Youth SDGs Summit took place in September 2019 under the theme, 'Youth as Drivers of Sustainable Development.' The Summit was held under the auspices and joint coordination of the 2030 Youth Alliance, the African Youth SDGs Summit Secretariat and the Zion Christian Church Youth International (ZCCYI). The Summit represented an important milestone in mobilizing the active participation and effective coordination of youths in Zimbabwe at all levels to meaningfully participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

• The private sector is contributing to the SDGs in a number of ways including through sustainability practices and reporting, local economic development initiatives and community investment.

A number of businesses across all economic sectors are investing in renewable energy. To help mobilise resources for clean energy and social development projects, the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) has started the process of developing guiding principles for the issuance of Green and Social Bonds in Zimbabwe. To date, the ZSE has drafted a Green and Social Bonds Framework which is meant to act as a guide on the operational regulatory environment on Green and Social Bonds in Zimbabwe and the procedures for listing and trading of Green and Social Bonds.

The Government gazetted the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) Listing requirements under Statutory Instrument 134 of 2019 on 14 June 2019 in an effort to enhance transparency, disclosures and accountability in the governance of listed companies. Section 400 deals with sustainability reporting and makes the following mandatory provisions:
(1) 'the issuer must disclose its sustainability policy, including mitigation of risks, sustainability performance data and other material information which deepens stakeholders' understanding of corporate performance.'
(2) 'the issuer should provide a balanced and objective view of their performance by including both positive and negative impacts on environment and society, how it relates to its stakeholders and contribute to sustainable development.'
(3) 'the issuer is encouraged to apply internationally accepted reporting frameworks.'

Section 401 (1) specifically states that, 'The ZSE encourages the adoption of internation-ally reporting frameworks, such as the Global reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines or standards in disclosing the company's sustainability performance…'
Government also gazetted Statutory Instrument 135 of 2019 which relates to the Public Finance Management General Requirements aimed at strengthening public finance management in the country.

SDG 1: No Poverty:

Government has prioritised ending poverty. The country's poverty reduction strategy is anchored on the Vision 2030 which seeks to rebuild and transform Zimbabwe into an Upper-Middle Income Economy by 2030. Vision 2030 will be realised through five strategic clusters namely: governance; macro-economic stability and re-engagement; inclusive growth; social/human capital development; and infrastructure and utilities. The national Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) which is the successor to the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) (2016-2018) is actively targeting employment creation and poverty reduction. The trends on key indicators show that:

- The proportion of the population that was deemed poor, marginally dropped to 70.5% in 2017 from 72.3% in 2011/12. There are however regional as well as rural-urban disparities. Mashonaland Central Province has the highest individual poverty rate of 87.9%. The lowest individual poverty prevalence is in Bulawayo Province, 29.9%, followed by Harare Province with 37.3%. On the other hand, the individual prevalence of poverty in rural areas rose from 84.3% in 2011/12 to 86.0% in 2017, while in urban areas it rose from 30.4% in 2011/12 to 40.9% in 2017. This shows that poverty rose faster in urban than rural areas. The prevalence of poverty for people with disabilities is higher at 74.1% when compared with a prevalence of 69.5% for people without disabilities. Male-headed households are poorer than female-headed households. The prevalence of poverty among male-headed households is 61.6% when compared with 58.9% for female-headed households. Extreme poverty is also higher among male-headed households at 25.2% when compared to female-headed households of 21.2%.
- Extreme poverty among the population increased from 22.5% in 2011/12 to 29.3% in 2017 on account of the economic slowdown over the past few years. Extreme poverty levels among the rural population rose from 30.4% to 40.9% between 2011/12 and 2017 while extreme poverty rates among the urban population dropped from 5.6% to 4.4%.
- Social protection coverage remains limited and inadequate. According to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), about 249,000 persons, which is approximately 2% of the population, were receiving a monthly pension or any social security fund or both. With respect to medical insurance, about 984,000 persons, representing about 7% of the population, indicated they were members of a medical aid scheme.
- Zimbabwe's HDI value of 0.563 in 2018 lifts the country into the medium human development category, ranked at 150 out of 189 countries, which is an improvement from the rank of 153 in 2017.
- Government has also upscaled provision of food assistance, social cash transfers, health assistance, holistic education support including school feeding and provision of sanitary wear for female learners in schools. Over the period 2019-2020, the following milestones were achieved:

i. 126,000 households were supported through cash transfers;
ii. 1,248,950 have been assisted through food assistance;
iii. 1,406,875 orphans and vulnerable children were assisted with through educational support under the BEAM programme;
iv. 69,925 children were reached with care and protection- links with SDG 16 on prevention and response to trafficking of children.

SDG 2: End Hunger:

Zimbabwe has prioritised ending hunger within its overall development and policy thrust. The country has an elaborate and enabling institutional and policy framework underpinning the agriculture sector. Public spending in the agriculture sector has also been steadily increasing over the past few years. To improve agricultural productivity there is a need for greater and more effective direct participation of in-country partners, such as the private sector organisations, the farmers, civil society organisations, development partners in the development and implementation of agriculture and rural development investment programmes. In 2020 the Government launched the Agriculture Food Systems Transformation Strategy (AFSTS) to increase agriculture production and productivity; improve food and nutrition security; commercialisation of small holder agriculture and to achieve a US $8,2 billion agriculture economy by 2025. Some of the initiatives/ programmes prioritised within the AFSTS to foster agriculture recovery include: Pfumvudza/Intwasa Programme; Climate Proofed Presidential Input Programme; Command Agriculture; Blitz/Soil Liming Programme; Accelerated Extension Capacitation Programme; and Creation of Low-veld Maize Green Belt.

- There was a reduction in agricultural output across most major food crops. Agricultural productivity has also been sub-optimal. For instance, the average yield in maize, declined from 1.15 in 2017 to 0.99 tonne per hectare in 2019 against a potential of 5 – 25 tonnes depending on production system.
- The country has experienced an increase in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) score from 28.8 in 2016 to 34.4 in 2019. This is attributable to the erratic rainfall and drought which put a downward pressure on food and livestock production (drought induced poor harvests).
- The 2020 Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), launched on 2 April 2020, indicates that 7 million people in urban and rural areas are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance across Zimbabwe, compared to 5.5 million in August 2019.
- There has been a reduction in stunting in children under five from 27% in 2015 to 23.5% in 2019. Wasting rates have averaged about 3% over the period 2015-2019. The percentage of underweight children increased by about 21% from 8% in 2015 to 9.7% in 2019 while the percentage of overweight children under five declined from 6% in 2015 to 2.5% in 2019.
- In line with the African Union (AU) decision of January 2016, Zimbabwe is implementing the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in a phased approach, with all primary school pupils currently being covered. The final stage will be the incorporation of secondary school pupils.
- The 2020 National Budget availed resources to complete the Land Audit process to enable rectification of a number of anomalies that include multiple farm ownership as well as land under-utilisation by some beneficiaries of the Land Reform Programme which has been undermining efforts to enhance food security. In 2019, a total of ZWL$68 million was availed towards former farm owners and in the 2020 Budget, government has set aside ZWL$380 million for interim land compensation of former commercial farmers in line with the Constitution and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPAs), targeting vulnerable groups and the elderly.

- In July 2020, the Government and the former white farmers signed the Global Compensation Deed. This Deed seeks to compensate former white farmers whose land was expropriated under the land reform for improvements, biological assets and land clearing costs.
- In 2020, a total of 2.2 million vulnerable households benefitted from the input schemes (Presidential, Pfumvudza and Command Agriculture). Furthermore, under Pfumvudza, farmers are being trained by extension workers to adopt Conservation Agriculture (CA), which is a Climate Smart Agriculture Practice.

SDG 3: Healthy Lives and Well-being:

The Government has committed itself to ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Zimbabwe has a strong institutional and policy framework to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all. Zimbabwe launched its first ever Health Financing Policy and Strategy in June 2018, becoming the 17th country in the WHO AFRO Region to develop a health financing policy and strategy. The following is an analysis of the key trends in indicators:

- The country has made some progress in terms of reducing mortality. The maternal mortality ratio declined from 651 in 2015 to 525 in 2017 and then 462 in 2019. Adolescents and young women aged 15-24 constituted about 31% of the total maternal deaths in 2019. This achievement has been on account of a combination of targeted measures such as the removal user fees for pregnant women, free blood coupons for maternal cases, intensified trainings for health care workers and construction of waiting mothers' shelters.
- The under-5 mortality rate on the other hand decreased from 72.4 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 65 per 1,000 live births in 2019. The strategic collaboration between the country and development partners has helped improve health outcomes. Notwithstanding these milestones there is a need to close gaps in coverage and outcomes by eliminating huge income and urban/rural differentials in key health indicators. Outcomes in the area of newborn health have been a challenge, with Neonatal Mortality at 32 deaths per 1,000 live births and remaining largely unchanged over the past 15 years. This calls for greater investment in quality of care around the newborn.
- The proportion of births assisted by skilled health personnel increased from 80% in 2014 to 86% in 2019.
- The proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods has increased from 86% in 2016 to 89%t in 2019.
- Progress has been made with regards to HIV infection, with the number of new HIV infections reducing from 3.9 per 1,000 uninfected population in 2015 to 2.8 per 1,000 in 2019.The malaria incidence per 1,000 population has progressively declined from 29 in 2014; to 14 in 2016; 10 in 2017; and only 5 in 2018. The country in partnership with development partners has come up with policy frameworks to deal with malaria including: the National Malaria Control Programme (2001); the National Malaria Prevention and Control Policy (2010); National Malaria Strategic Plan (2016-2020); the Malaria Communication Strategy (2016-2020); and the Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan for Malaria Vectors in Zimbabwe (2016-2020).

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 4: Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education:

The country's Constitution provides and protects the right to education under Sections 27 and 75. The Education Amendment Act, 2020 which came into effect on 6 March 2020 aligns the Education Act (Chapter 25:04) with the Constitution. The Education Amendment Act provides for compulsory basic state funded education. The Act provides that no pupil shall be excluded from school for non-payment of school fees or on the basis of pregnancy. The Act also provides that pupils are not subject to any form of physical or psychological torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment at school, and prohibits corporal punishment. The Act guarantees the right of pupils with disabilities to be provided with suitable infrastructure. The Government has adopted the Inclusive Education Policy to ensure that no child including persons with disabilities are not left behind. This has also seen the introduction of Disability Management and Aging Issues as a compulsory subject. The salient trends and developments show:

- According to the 2019 MICS, the participation rate (net attendance ratio) in organized learning i.e., attending an early childhood education programme (one year before the official primary entry age) was 81.0% in 2019 up from 21.6% in 2014 (2014 MICS). The participation rate is higher for males at 82.0% when compared with females at 79.8%. The urban areas have a participation rate of 82.9% while its 80.3% in rural areas. Masvingo has the highest participation rate at 93.5% while Mashonaland Central has the lowest at 67.2%.
- The proportion of primary schools with electricity improved from 47.41% in 2017 to 54.96% in 2018. At secondary level, the proportion of schools with electricity improved from 68.9% in 2017 to 71.47% in 2018.
- The proportion of primary schools with access to a water source rose from 95.79% in 2017 to 98.58% in 2018 while the proportion of secondary schools with access to a water source improved from 95.8% in 2017 to 97.49% in 2018.
- With respect to access to computers for learners, 52.99% of all primary schools have access up from 24.5% in 2017, while 71.68% of all secondary schools have access up from 51.8% in 2017.
- Total university enrolment increased by 22.9 % from 90,909 in 2017 to 111,684 in 2019 on account of the expansion and establishment of new universities. Enrolment at polytechnics and industrial training colleges, increased by 40.2% from 23,570 in 2017 to 33,039 in 2020.
- The Government is also providing the youth with technical and vocational skills to economically empower and facilitate their participation in the mainstream economy. In 2020, 1,831 students comprising of 1,459 males and 372 females were enrolled in technical and vocational training courses. The number of youths trained in Vocational Training Centres increased from 12,871 in 2017 to 13,212 in 2018 and declined to 12,000 in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The 2020 National Budget, made a provision of US$22 million to support free education starting with Rural Primary Schools (P3) and Rural Secondary Schools (S3) and US$11.2 million for the provision of free sanitary wear with the programme expected to be expanded yearly on and incremental basis. Further, US$9.2 million was allocated for payment of subsidy for examination fees for children in public schools in order to cushion learners and ensure inclusivity on public examination despite one's economic background.

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[3] *Education Management Information System (EMIS).*

SDG 5: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment:

The Constitution of Zimbabwe provides a robust legal framework for the promotion of SDG 5. In particular, Section 3(g) clearly spells out gender equality as one of the founding and guiding values placed at par with values such as the rule of law and good governance. Women's access to resources, including land on the basis of equality with men is also guaranteed. The country has come up with a revised National Gender Policy (NGP) (2017) which seeks to achieve a gender just society where men and women enjoy equality and participate as equal partners in the development process of the country. On the 23rd of October 2019, Zimbabwe launched the National Gender Policy Implementation Strategy and Action Plan to increase stakeholders' commitment to achieving gender equality and women empowerment. In order to facilitate financial inclusion for women, Zimbabwe established and operationalised the Zimbabwe Women Micro Finance Bank in January 2017. Government has also established a Women Development Fund which is a platform that provides loans to women's projects at an interest rate of 10% per annum. Key trends in indicators reveal:

- According to the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), Zimbabwe has seen improvements in laws and policies concerning gender equality. In 2008, the country had a score of 1.5 on policies for social inclusion/equity which increased to 3.7 in 2018 (1 is the lowest and 6 the highest level).
- In 2018, Zimbabwe's score specific to gender equity was 4.0 which was above the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) average of 3.2. This indicates that the country has developed policies to promote gender equality in education, health, and political leadership.
- Representation of women in decision-making bodies has generally increased.

The Constitution provides for special quota system for women of 60 additional seats in the lower house of assembly and election to senate through proportional representation. The representation of women in the Senate increased from 23.2% in 2012 to 47.5% in 2017 before declining to 43.75% in 2019 and from 16% in 2012 to 31.85% in 2019 in the National Assembly.

- The proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 declined from 32.5% in 2015 to 21.6% in 2017, before rising to 33.7% in 2019.
- The proportion of women in managerial positions has improved from 27.6% in 2014 to 31% in 2017.
- The percentage of adolescent girls and women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15 was 39.4% in 2019 up from 35% in 2015. On the other hand, the percentage of adolescent girls and women age 15-49 who have ever experienced sexual violence was 11.6% in 2019 down from 14% in 2015.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities in the Country.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation:

Water and sanitation are essential for the realisation of other SDGs. Inadequate access to water and sanitation infrastructure is a major source of health challenges and disease outbreaks such as cholera and typhoid. The rights to water and sanitation are recognised and provided for in the Constitution. Cooperating partners have been complementing Government efforts to improve water and sanitation in the country. The Government, with support from UNICEF and other partners, has approved a gender-sensitive Sanitation and Hygiene Policy. The policy aims to create an open defecation free Zimbabwe by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. To achieve this, the demand-led Sanitation Focused Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (SafPHHE) has been adopted and is being implemented in the 45 UNICEF-supported rural districts. Key trends and developments under this SDG show:

In the context of rising COVID-19 induced poverty and inequalities, it is imperative and urgent to guarantee universal access to water and sanitation, because they are essential to achieving adequate hygiene to curb infections and combat the pandemic. It is important to significantly increase investments in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In particular, more resources should be targeted to areas of high vulnerability and low access such as rural areas in order to close the gaps and improve poor water and sanitation services. Moreover, there is need to put in place emergency safe drinking water and handwashing facilities in key locations in informal settlements and high-density public places. Ensuring availability of water in schools through drilling of boreholes and constructing hand washing facilities in the schools is also critical. It is vital to actively engage community leaders and CSOs to train community volunteers, set up and manage handwashing facilities and carry out sensitization and awareness campaigns, including disseminating COVID-related messages on handwashing.

- According to the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 77.1% of the households have access to improved sources of drinking water up from 76.1% in 2014. These figures however hide a wide disparity in access to safe drinking water between urban areas and rural areas and also even within urban areas. For instance, 97.3% of the urban household population has access to improved sources of drinking water as compared to 67.9% of the rural household population. Harare has the highest percentage of households with access to improved water sources at 96.6%, when compared with 64.8% in Matabeleland South.
- Meanwhile, 67.8% of households have access to improved not shared sanitation facility. Chronic water shortages are more pronounced in urban areas of Zimbabwe, and are being experienced in a context of increasing water consumption needs.
- The people practising open defecation (% of population) in Zimbabwe has progressively declined to 21.7% in 2019. There are however disparities between the urban and rural areas. People practising open defecation, urban (% of urban population) was improved to 0.7% in 2019, while people practising open defecation, rural (% of rural population) was 31.3% in 2019.

SDG 7: Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy:

Zimbabwe has come up with a National Renewable Energy Policy which seeks to increase access to clean and affordable energy. It sets overall targets for renewable energy in the country based on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as one of its primary objectives. These interventions align to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), demand-supply scenario, grid absorption capacity, and the ability of utilities to pay for renewable energy electricity. The National Renewable Energy Policy aims to achieve an installed renewable energy capacity of 1,100 MW (excluding large hydro) or 16.5% of total electricity supply, whichever is higher, by 2025 and 2,100 MW or 26.5% of total electricity supply, whichever is higher by 2030. The country has come up with fiscal incentives for solar powered vehicles, solar batteries and other related accessories. The following are the trends in key indicators:

- About 48% of households in Zimbabwe have access to electricity (86% in urban areas and 27.7% in rural areas), which is significant increase from about 34% in 2015.
- The renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption has declined from 41.5% in 2015 to 38% in 2016.
- The liberalisation of the electricity market has resulted in the Government granting power generation licences to a number of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in an effort to encourage new investments especially by private investors in the sector. As of 31 July 2019, the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) had issued more than 77 power generation licences with 42 being solar power projects. A number of IPPs (such as Nyangani Renewable Energy, Penhalonga Energy, Solar Energy Projects, and Centragrid) are already selling electricity to the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) and feeding into the national grid. Nyangani Renewable Energy has been selling about 32 megawatts (MWs) daily to ZETDC, while Centragrid has been selling 2.5 MWs[4] .

[4] *https://africa-energy-portal.org/news/zimbabwe-currency-chaos-chokes-zimbabwes-power-producers.*

SDG 8: Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work:

Employment creation has been clearly identified as a key objective in the National Development Strategy 1(NDS1) (2021-2025), with clear employment targets. Moreover, the 2020 National Budget, also identified employment creation as a key strategic objective alongside growth and productivity; competitiveness; and strong, sustainable and shared development. Government has come up with a Youth Employment Tax Incentive (YETI). This fiscal incentive is aimed at supporting employers who generate jobs for our young job seekers. Any additional job created will attract a percentage tax credit to the employer. This measure will reduce the employers' cost of hiring young people through a cost-sharing mechanism with Government. Government has allocated resources for labour intensive infrastructure development. Government enacted the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) Act in June 2019. The TNF is an institutionalised platform for social dialogue that brings together Government, business and labour to negotiate key socio-economic matters. The country faces a number of employment-oriented challenges occasioned by deindustrialisation and high levels of informality. The following are the key trends in terms of indicators:

- The country has recorded high rates of population growth averaging 2% per annum. Owing to the erratic economic growth, employment creation that is not expanding fast enough to keep up with the growing labour force.
- Real GDP growth rate increased from 4.7% (2017) to 5.5% (2018) in response to the TSP policy measures. In 2019 the real GDP contracted to -6% and in an effort to stabilize the economy, Government reintroduced the local currency along with other fiscal and monetary reforms which resulted in an improvement to -4.1% in 2020. The real GDP is expected to grow by 7.4% in 2021.
- The share of employment from the agricultural sector has increased slightly from 66.4% in 2012 to 67.5% in 2017. Industry's contribution to total employment declined from 8.3% in 2012 to 7.3% in 2017. Employment in the services sector has remained largely stagnant at 25.2% in 2017.
- The unemployment rate is estimated at 16.4% according to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS). Female unemployment is higher at 17.2% when compared with male unemployment rate of 15.7%. Matabeleland North has the highest unemployment rate at 30.0% while Harare has the least unemployment rate at 9.2%. The youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate is estimated at 27%, higher for females at 30% than males at 25%. Underemployment (at 41%) and informal economic activities are widespread, with large numbers of people involved in precarious and vulnerable employment. Most of the employment opportunities in the country are created in the informal economy, with 76% persons being informally employed. The informal sector tends to be low productivity work, with significantly high levels of decent work deficits. Moreover, low-productivity employment in the informal economy is highly correlated with inequality.
- In line with the employment creation, the education sector has strengthened the Guidance and Counselling Programme to eliminate school dropouts, keep boys and girls in school till completion and promote equitable exposure to the world of work for all pupils from as early an age as possible through cluster -based career exhibitions.

SDG 9: Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Industrialisation and Innovation:

The country is promoting sustainable industrialisation through the implementation of the Industrial Development Policy (2019-2023) adopted in May 2019. The objective is to increase the manufacturing sector's contribution to gross domestic product to 30% and its contribution to exports to 50%. Zimbabwe also ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) in May 2019. The Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) Act was signed into law in February 2020. The Act provides for a one-stop investment centre.

- The economy has undergone wrenching structural changes characterised by deindustrialisation and rising informality. The informal economy is estimated to contribute as much as 60% of GDP.
- The manufacturing valued added (MVA) to GDP declined from 8.2% in 2016 to 7.3% in 2019 .
- The Dutch auction rate system introduced in June 2020 stabilised the exchange rate. Exchange rate stability and increased access to foreign exchange stimulated industry recovery which saw capacity utilization increasing from 36.4% in 2019 to 47% in 2020 albeit dampened by effects of the COVID-19 lockdown measures. The global restrictions on travel and international distribution of goods resulted in a boost in locally produced goods which saw a 40% increase in the occupation of the shelf space by local products in supermarkets.
- Significant progress has been made in ICT infrastructure which is the bedrock for digital services rollout. Digital technologies have become the cornerstone and key enabler for Government operations, businesses and access to basic services by individuals. In 2017, fixed broadband (fiber) and mobile broadband stood at 8,765 km and 3,74 mobile broadband base stations respectively. At the end of 2020, approximately 9,500km fiber and 4,012 mobile broadband base stations had been deployed. Subsequently, there has been an increase in active mobile penetration rates of 94.2% and the internet penetration rate, which stood at 60.9%, as at the end of 2020 having increased from 50.8% in 2017.
- There has been an improvement in budgetary allocation towards capital expenditure in the 2020 National Budget. There is need to leverage greater private sector investment in infrastructure through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

5 UNIDO database.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:

Inequality is multi-dimensional, with a number of drivers and sources that include: earnings, differences in gender participation in the labour force, natural resources of the economy and income-related human capital indicators such as education and health. The COVID-19 pandemic as well as the rising levels of informality in the country have exacerbated inequality in the country.

- According to the 2017 Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey (PICES), the Gini coefficient was 0.435 in 2017 up from 0.4231 in 2011/12. This suggests growing welfare inequality in Zimbabwe over the recent years and an increase in the gap between the rich and the poor. Inequality varies by place of residence and was slightly higher in urban areas (0.398) compared to rural areas (0.361). The national
Gini coefficient was much higher than the one for rural and urban areas separately which is indicative of the large gap in median consumption expenditures between rural and urban areas.
- The market labour share for Zimbabwe has been fairly stable averaging about 36.0% over the period 2014-2018. The labour income share (or labour share) is the part of national income allocated to labour compensation, while the capital share is the part of national income going to capital.
- Financial sector indicators have improved quite significantly. For instance, the non-performing loans ration (%) improved from 7.87% as at December 2016 to 0.31% as at December 2020. The liquidity ratio increased from 61.91% as at December 2016 to 73.06% as at December 2020 and the return on assets (%) went up from 2.26% as at December 2016 to 13.55%as at December 2020.
- The number of accounts opened by women and MSMEs increased from less than 800,000 and 80,000 in 2016 to over 2.5 million and almost 140,000 in 2020, respectively, largely as a result of increased gender and MSMEs initiatives by the Bank and other stakeholders. Lending to target segments such as women, the youth and MSMEs also increased, largely due to a number of targeted financial inclusion interventions.

SDG 13: Climate Action:

The impacts of climate change and variability are becoming more evident with increased incidences of droughts, cyclones, floods, hail-storms and heat waves. Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing the global economy. Zimbabwe is particularly more vulnerable due to their low adaptive capacities, limited climate knowledge and over-reliance on climate sensitive sectors like Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Some of the trends in implementing Goal 13 are as follows:

- Putting in place a proper institutional framework to manage climate change in the country: In 2013, the Government created the Climate Change Management Department under the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry which has a mandate to climate-proof all socio-economic sectors of Zimbabwe through effective climate change management.
- Enabling Policy Environment in Place: The Government developed a National Climate Change Response Strategy with sector-specific climate response actions and a National Climate Policy to drive the country towards climate resilience and carbon neutral Zimbabwe.
- Resource Mobilisation for Climate Change Projects: The country mobilised resources from the Green Climate Fund (with co-financing from government and development partners) to the tune of US$ 57.8 million to build climate resilience of vulnerable livelihoods. In addition, the country accessed readiness funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (US$ 3 million for National Adaptation Planning Readiness and US$ 0.3 million for GCF Readiness). More resources are being mobilised from different international finance mechanisms among them Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility and Adaptation Fund.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals:

Government has also put a lot of emphasis on building partnerships with the private sector, civil society and development partners to ensure successful implementation of the SDGs. In particular, a strong partnership between government and development partners has been established through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

- The country has made some progress in terms of the doing business reforms. For instance, Zimbabwe has just recently been listed among top 20 'improvers' according to a list by the World Bank on top 20 economies that have improved the most on ease of doing business. Zimbabwe is joined by four other African countries in the top 20 namely: Togo, Kenya, Nigeria and Djibouti.
- In terms of budget transparency, the country has been ranked third in Africa (after South Africa with a score of 81 out of 100 and Namibia with a score of 51 out of 100) in terms of budget transparency by the Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2019 with a transparency score of 49 out of 100 in 2019 up from 23 out of 100 in 2017.
- Fiscal space remains severely constrained because of the poor performance of domestic revenue inflows against the background of rising recurrent expenditures. The country is in an unsustainable fiscal position with the bulk of the fiscal revenues financing recurrent expenditure.
- Diaspora remittances amounted to US$1.0 billion, a 58% increase from previous year of US$635.7 million. The increase in diaspora remittances is mainly due to liberalisation of the use of free funds in the country and improved channelling of remittances through formal channels.
- There is scope for the country to leverage greater diaspora remittances inflows for sustainable development by increasing incentives, reducing the cost of remittances services and improving the overall investment climate. Successful reengagement of the international community is crucial to improving the country's creditworthiness and enhance access to global capital markets. This will help to unlock greater development finance and investment inflows. The country can also enhance fiscal space by tackling illicit financial leakages and reforming state-owned enterprises.

Challenges

The country is facing several challenges in terms of implementation of the SDGs. These include:

- An underperforming macroeconomy with the economy shrinking by an -6.0% in 2019 and an estimated -4.1% in 2020 presents a huge challenge. Even during those years that the economy has been growing, that economic growth has not been fast and inclusive enough to have a significant poverty-reduction effect. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is necessary to attain sustainable development.
- The country continues to suffer from limited fiscal space on account of negative economic growth over the past 2 years, sub-optimal investment levels as well as high levels of informality. The limited fiscal space coupled with the unsustainably high levels of public indebtedness have exacerbated the huge financing gap.

- Lack of adequate and critical infrastructure (energy, transport, water and sanitation, ICT) has inhibited private sector investments in the country.
- Rapid urbanisation, deindustrialisation and rising informality which have resulted in: rising incidence of urban poverty; inadequate provision of services; growing incidence of informal settlements; and environmental degradation among others.
- Climate change has exposed the country to natural disasters with adverse effects on impacts on agriculture, food security and health.
- With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic the food crisis worsened. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for February–June 2020 showed people across the entire country were food insecure, with 45% of the rural population (4.3 million people) and 2.4 million people living in urban areas facing acute food insecurity. According to ZIMSTAT and World Bank (2020), food insecurity in the country has worsened since 2019. About 31% of rural and 18% of urban households faced severe food insecurity, while 75% of rural households and 65% of urban households faced moderate food insecurity in July.
- While the prevalence of poverty has declined, it still remains unsustainably high especially when compared with other countries in the region. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to push many into extreme poverty in view of the limited safety nets. According to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), about 249,000 persons, which is approximately 2% of the population, were receiving a monthly pension or any social security fund or both. With respect to medical insurance, about 984,000 persons, representing about 7% of the population, indicated they were members of a medical aid scheme.
- Insufficient timely and disaggregated data for most indicators, making it difficult to track and monitor progress especially at local level.
- Limited internet coverage especially in the rural areas. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the huge digital gap between the few who are connected and the many who still remain unconnected.

Opportunities

- According to the 2019 LFCLS, Zimbabwe has a relatively young population. Out of the estimated population of 14,215,810, 43% are below age 15. The country's demographic profile is dominated by the productive age group (15-64) which accounts for 51.4% of the total population. This demographic composition provides an opportunity to the Zimbabwe economy as this young population implies a potential large labour force that can generate and accelerate economic growth and sustainable development. For this potential to be actualised it is important to increase public investments in health, education, social protection, water and sanitation and infrastructure.
- The huge rural and informal economy in the country represents a largely untapped reservoir of wealth and economic opportunities. Zimbabwe's rural population is estimated at 67% (2019 LFCLS), while the informal economy accounts for about 60% of the total economy, the second largest after Bolivia[6]. These opportunities can be realised through greater investments in social and physical capital as well the implementation of policies that facilitate transition from informality to formality. Integrating informal enterprises into the formal economic fabric is particularly vital for effective domestic resource mobilisation as it expands the tax base. Moreover, most formal businesses have strong linkages with informal enterprises which can be leveraged.

6 Medina, L. and F. Schneider (2018). Shadow Economies Around the World: What Did We Learn Over the Last 20 Years? IMF Working Papers, WP/18/17.

7 IOM Policy Brief on Reaping the Zimbabwe Diaspora Dividend, 2019.

8 The Highlife Foundation, a philanthropic foundation is funding the Higherlife Foundation Medical Doctors Fellowship.

- The Zimbabwean Diaspora, estimated at more than 3 million[7], has emerged as a significant opportunity and an important variable in the country's vision of becoming an upper middle-income status country by 2030. Some of the channels through which the Zimbabwe diaspora can contribute to sustainable development include through: remittances, philanthropy[8], skills transfers, investments, tourism and advocacy. In particular, diaspora remittances can help to improve macroeconomic stability, reduce poverty, facilitate human capital formation as well as support investments.
- The country's huge and largely untapped natural resources and renewable energy capacity presents opportunities for greater participation by individuals and the private sector in the economy. This calls for further streamlining of the doing business environment among others to create a conducive investment environment. There are significant opportunities to scale up public-private partnerships (PPPs) especially in the area of infrastructure investments given the right regulatory framework as well as incentives.
- Zimbabwe has set up a number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country. These SEZs present significant opportunities for export-led and labour-intensive industrialisation provided deliberate attention and emphasis is placed on creating and strengthening linkages, value chains and systems between the local MSMEs and the Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) operating in the SEZs. This will help to ensure that the spill overs from SEZs are pro-poor, inclusive and broad-based.
- Zimbabwe has put in place a good policy and institutional framework to underpin sustainable development. There is however a huge implementation gap which needs to be bridged. One way of addressing this challenge is by strengthening the effective participation of key stakeholders such as civil society organisations CSOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) in policy formulation and decision-making around sustainable development issues. Enhancing the implementation gap also requires boosting public sector productivity/efficiency. Importantly, alternative public service delivery channels through effective use of ICTs (embracing e-government) can go a long way in enhancing public sector efficiency.
- There are also myriad opportunities for civil society organisations (CSOs) to complement government sustainable development efforts with community-based assistance based on evidence and innovation. CSOs can be effective partners in 'responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative governance and decision making.' CSOs can assist in the identification of local needs and priorities so that policies are based existing needs, opportunities and capacities. CSOs can also contribute towards localising the SDGs as well monitoring and reporting progress at the local level. This is particularly important in view of the data gaps.
- The digital economy offers immense opportunities for the country to enhance productivity and competitiveness, enhance public sector efficiency, as well as to reduce the cost of doing business. It is important to invest strategically and systematically in developing the requisite digital infrastructure, services, skills and entrepreneurship.
- Tackling illicit financial flows (IFFs) offers opportunities to create the fiscal space necessary to finance sustainable development in the country.

Lessons Learnt and Next Steps

- Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership and collaboration of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure that no one is left behind. The country has adopted the 'whole of government' as well as the 'whole of society' approaches. Having the Chief Secretary to the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) to chair the Steering Committee has helped to ensure high level political support to mobilise and coordinate the 'whole of government' as well as to ensure an integrated approach to the implementation of SDGs in the country.
- There is need for decentralization of the SDGs implementation at all levels (national, provincial, district, community, household) of governance to ensure maximum impact. In particular, improving the involvement of local authorities is necessary to create a critical mass around sustainable development. There is need to ensure that the SDGs are translated into local policies and actions. There is need to ensure that local authorities are represented in the SDGs institutional framework for coordination and implementation.
- Ensuring greater private sector participation and involvement is critical to bridge the huge financing gap that exists in terms of the SDGs financing.
- It is important to urgently address structural barriers to disability inclusion, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to enhance their participation in the sustainable development process.
- It is also important to adopt a national disability strategy and plan of action with clear priorities and measurable, setting out the specific actions to improve the well-being of people with disabilities.
- It is important to have a clear national and sub-national monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track and evaluate progress towards the SDGs based on country-set milestones and targets.
- Capacitating the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) is necessary to effectively address the data requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There is need to continuously improve collection, analysis and dissemination of high quality, reliable and timely data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, disability, region and other relevant variables. Effective local action requires disaggregated data collection and management at various local levels.
- Increasing public awareness, knowledge and perceptions of SDGs is necessary to empower especially local communities and citizens to take action in their own locality.
- As part of the localisation of the SDGs, it is vital to broaden the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to cover as many local authorities as possible. To date, VLRs have been undertaken in Harare and Victoria Falls. The VLRs are important in ensuring that the SDGs are integrated and mainstreamed into the local authorities' development plans and strategies
- The COVID-19 has highlighted the need to make the economy more sustainable, resilient, diverse and innovative. This can be achieved by strengthening health systems and expanding social protection coverage. Comprehensive social protection systems and universal health coverage can help to lessen the fallout from crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important it is to keep resources in reserve for times of crises. For example, a number of countries have been drawing down on their sovereign wealth reserves to sustainably finance their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The

country must set up the sovereign wealth fund in line with the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Zimbabwe Act, 2014. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of transforming to a digital economy. For this to happen, there is need to upscale investments in digital infrastructure.

- The consolidation of local and foreign resources is critical for effective financing of sustainable development in the country. In this regard, it is critical to ensure that development partners channel all assistance through Central Government in order to ensure traceability and accountability.

Methodology

The methodology for this progress review entailed a painstaking and rigorous desk review, empirical analysis, stakeholder interviews and consultations. A detailed desk review of the relevant literature and current situation (including the relevant official policy documents, as well as reports by UN agencies). The desk review also included case studies to identify good practices in terms of the implementation of SDGs. A meta-analysis was used to weigh and compare and to identify emerging patterns and relationships. An empirical analysis of the key development, macroeconomic and social data and indicators where data was available was undertaken to identify key trends, patterns and statistical associations. This empirical analysis was critical to review the progress made against the agreed upon SDG targets and indicators and the baselines.

Community consultative meetings and interviews were undertaken in Harare; Bulawayo; Gweru; Mutare; Matabeleland South (Plumtree); Matabeleland North (Victoria Falls, Hwange); and Mashonaland West (Kariba, Chinhoyi). These consultations helped to elicit information on the progress being made in the implementation of SDGs, challenges being encountered and opportunities that exist to upscale and optimise the implementation of policies and strategies for greater impact. The consultations also helped to inculcate an inclusive and participatory approach to secure the buy-in of all relevant actors, which is key to advancing sustainable development efforts. Furthermore, the draft progress report was presented at validation meetings held in Mutare, Bulawayo, and Harare, were further comments and inputs were received.

Introduction: Background and Context

The Zimbabwean Government attaches great importance to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is evidenced by the fact that the principles of sustainable development are a core constitutional and developmental imperative. Sustainable development is consistent with the nation's development vision of attaining upper middle-income status by 2030 and is at the core of the nation's development priorities. The implementation of SDGs in Zimbabwe has been through Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) (2013-2018), the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP) 2016-2018, the Transitional Stabilization Programme (TSP) (2018-2020), the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) (2021-2025), and the National Budget. Moreover, the 2016-2020 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF), now known as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is fully aligned with the 17 SDGs and national development priorities. Even though the country has committed itself to implementing all the SDGs, there is a particular emphasis on the following SDGs (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 17). The prioritisation exercise was guided by the country's vision, the need to focus on enabling SDGs, resource availability and unfinished business in the MDGs.

The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires an integrated approach, partnerships and participation through inclusive political processes and responsive, effective, accountable institutions. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is building on some of the successes, lessons learnt, and unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Zimbabwe. To this end, Zimbabwe has established a clear policy and institutional framework to guide and underpin the implementation and coordination of the 2030 Agenda. Coordination of the 2030 Agenda in the country is being led by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare under the guidance and supervision of the Office of the President and Cabinet. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare chairs the Technical Committee that spearheads the implementation and coordination of SDGs in the country. The Technical Committee has representation from SDG focal persons drawn from line ministries and representatives from UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, civil society and the Office of the President and Cabinet. The country has created a Steering Committee that is chaired by the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet and represented by all line ministry Permanent Secretaries and the heads of the UN agencies to provide overall guidance and strategic leadership.

The country has been following 'whole of society' approach, entailing close collaboration across and among societal sectors, in carrying out the task of SDGs implementation by involving various stakeholders including civil society organisations and the private sector. Parliament of Zimbabwe has created a thematic committee on SDGs. This thematic committee supports and monitors SDGs implementation in the country. This helps to ensure accountability for the effective implementation of SDGs. Civil society has also been proactively involved in SDGs in Zimbabwe following the formation of a Zimbabwe CSOs-SDGs Reference Group. The Reference Group coordinates the involvement of civil society on

SDGs and to monitor the implementation of SDGs in the country. On 20 September 2019, a number of Zimbabwean youth organisations in partnership with 2030 Youth Alliance and the African Youth SDGs Summit Secretariat jointly organised the Zimbabwean Youth SDGs Summit. The Summit was organised under the theme, 'Youth as Drivers of Sustainable Development.' The aim of the summit was to mobilize the youth in Zimbabwe at all levels to meaningfully participate in the implementation of the SDGs.

In 2017, Zimbabwe was among 43 other countries that volunteered to undertake a national review of SDGs. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) sought to facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also sought to strengthen policies and mobilize support and partnerships for the SDGs. The country has now completed more than three years of implementation of SDGs. The next step therefore is to have a full-fledged review of the progress on SDGs implementation. This progress review will provide a comprehensive analysis and audit of the related progress, challenges, opportunities and successes. The country also successfully hosted the 6th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) which was held in the resort town of Victoria Falls from 24-27 February, 2020.

Zimbabwe has come up with the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2019-2023. This Framework will be used to track the progress of implementation and achievement of SDGs in the country. The Framework provides baseline data for each indicator for which data are available. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) undertook an assessment of the current status of data in the country. The assessment has revealed that there is an overall 44% data gap. The assessment further reveals that the country can report on, that is, has baseline data for 62% of social goals; 62% of economic goals; 25% of environmental goals; and 39% of peace and security goals.

The SDGs are being implemented within the context of a very challenging socio-economic environment. According to the 2020 National Budget statement, the economy weakened by an estimated -6.0% in 2019 on account of sharp contractions in the key sectors such as agriculture, mining, electricity and water. The economy is also expected to contract in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the successive droughts. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the Zimbabwean economy through a number of channels which include: supply chain disruptions; disruptions in trade which have affected the capacity of the country to import raw materials; decline in tourist arrivals; decline in commodity prices; decline in foreign direct investment inflows (FDI) and remittances as well as diversion of government resources to fight the outbreak which will reduce funds available for key development priorities.

Following the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic as a national disaster on 19 March 2020, Government launched the US$26 million Zimbabwe National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 aimed at building an integrated and coordinated strategy to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate its effects. A National COVID-19 Response Task Force and an Inter-Ministerial Committee were also established to spearhead the national response and plan of action. The UN and Zimbabwe have also jointly launched the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan with an appeal for US$715 million being made. The Plan is targeting 5.6 million Zimbabweans with food assistance and support in the following sectors/areas: food security; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; education; protection; and nutrition. The Humanitarian Response Plan will play a key role in mitigating the combined impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

Notwithstanding the above challenges, the global SDG Index and Dashboards Report of 2019, ranks Zimbabwe 121 (out of 195 countries) in terms of progress towards the implementation of SDGs with a score of 59.7. Zimbabwe ranks below Mauritius (63.6), South Africa (61.5), Namibia (59.9) and Botswana (59.8) but ahead of Zambia (52.6), Mozambique (53.0), Malawi (51.4) and Rwanda (56.0). This progress report provides a fresh impetus and stimulant for enhancing the implementation of the SDGs in the country.

Scope of the Progress Review

The year 2019 closed the first four-year cycle since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. If the country is to fully reap the dividends of the Agenda 2030, there is need to track progress in implementing them to ensure that no one is left behind. This is the first comprehensive report on the implementation progress of SDGs in the country. This progress review appraises the progress made by the country towards implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This includes highlighting the milestones achieved under the country's macroeconomic policies and development strategies, towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Achievements recorded through the efforts of the institutional framework put in place by the Government to guide the implementation of the SDGs are also highlighted. The review assesses the means of implementation as well as evaluating policies and strategies of implementation. The progress report highlights areas that need urgent attention including the gaps and challenges encountered to date.

The progress report also audits and takes stock of ongoing trends and challenges based on available evidence and data. Trend analyses of the indicators (such as proportion of people living below national poverty line; proportion of government resources allocated to poverty reduction; prevalence of undernourishment; maternal mortality ratio; annual growth rate of real GDP per capita; proportion of informal employment) are undertaken to identify key trends and developments. The progress review addresses a number of critical areas and issues necessary to ensure effective implementation and attainment of SDGs in the country. This Review was coordinated by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. The Review draws on a range of contributions from across different sectors in Zimbabwe, demonstrating the role everyone has to play: Government (local, provincial, district and community), civil society, the private sector, academia, communities and citizens.

Objectives of the Progress Review

The specific objectives of the progress review are:

- To assess the country's progress towards the SDGs and the gaps which must be closed for them to be achieved by 2030. This assessment was conducted through key trends analysis and stakeholder interviews as noted above;

- To review the country's macroeconomic, sectoral and development policy framework to gauge their effectiveness in terms of contributing towards the attainment of SDGs;
- To identify gaps at both policy and institutional level militating against the attainment of SDGs;
- To contribute to the strengthening of the governance, policy and institutional framework underpinning the implementation of SDGs in the country;
- To provide evidence on local, regional and global best practices in terms of implementation of SDGs;
- To proffer policy suggestions to close the gaps, overcome obstacles and deal with emerging challenges;
- To provide a knowledge base upon which various policies, programmes and partnerships can be established at national, provincial and local levels; and
- To help to galvanise and mobilise strategic action towards the attainment of SDGs.

Demographic Profile of Zimbabwe

According to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), Zimbabwe has an estimated population of 14,215,809 up by 4.3% from the 2017 Inter-Censal Demography Survey (ICDS) estimate of 13,572, 560, which was up by 3.9% from the 13,061,239 recorded in 2012 (2012 National Census). The proportion of male and female population is 47.3% and 52.7% respectively. The population in the country is mostly rural with 66.9% of the total found in rural areas with the majority in the communal and resettlement areas. All provinces in the country have an urban area, and the urban population constitutes 33.1% of total population.

The country's demographic profile is dominated by the productive age group (15-64) which accounts for 51.4% of the total population. This demographic composition provides an opportunity to the Zimbabwe economy as this young population implies a potential large labour force that can generate and accelerate economic growth and sustainable development. Table 1.1 shows the age composition of the population for 2012 and 2017. According to the 'Updated 2012 Population Census Projections Report' produced by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) with support of the United Nations Population Fund, the country's population is growing at an estimated annual rate of 2.4%. Zimbabwe's population is projected to reach 21.4 million by 2032 from about 13 million in 2012. Key to the population growth is the rise in the number of people in the productive age group of 15 to 64 years, which is expected to jump to 58.5% of the overall population by 2032 from 55% in 2012.

Table 1.1: Age composition (%), 2012, 2017 and 2019

Age	2012	2017	2019
Under 15 years	41	40	43
15-64 years	55	54	51
65+ years	4	6	6

Source: *2012 Population Census; 2017 ICDS; and 2019 LFCLS.*

The population distribution by province and sex is shown in Table 1.2. Comparison of population by province shows that Harare had the highest contribution of about 22% followed by Manicaland with about 13%. Sixty-seven percent of the population was resident in rural areas and 33% in urban areas. in urban areas.

Table 1.2: Population Distribution by Province, Area, Sex and Sex Ratio

	Male		Female		Total		Sex
Province	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Population**	**Percent**	**Ratio**
Manicaland	46	819,141	54	961,310	1,780,450	13	85
Mashonaland Central	48.7	567,858	51.3	597,098	1,164,956	8	95
Mashonaland East	45.9	625,552	54.1	737,129	1,362,681	10	85
Mashonaland West	48.6	741,596	51.4	783,244	1,524,840	11	95
Matabeleland North	46.4	350,161	53.6	404,012	754,174	5	87
Matabeleland South	47	327,858	53	369,457	697,315	5	89
Midlands	47.5	776,937	52.5	857,252	1,634,189	12	91
Masvingo	45.8	693,651	54.2	819,948	1,513,600	11	85
Harare	48.7	1,521,135	51.3	1,599,781	3,120,917	22	95
Bulawayo	45.8	303,435	54.2	359,254	662,688	5	85
Area							
Urban	47.9	2,254,194	52.1	2,455,199	4,709,392	33	92
Rural	47.1	4,473,132	52.9	5,033,286	9,506,417	67	89
Total	**47.3**	**6,727,326**	**52.7**	**7,488,286**	**14,215,809**	**100**	**90**

Source: *2019 LFCLS*

According to the 2017 ICDS, the country's disability prevalence is 9% and it is higher among females (10%) as compared to males (8%). Manicaland and Mashonaland Central provinces have the highest prevalence of 13% while Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South have the lowest rates (4%). The prevalence of disability also increases with age. People with disabilities are at a greater disadvantage with respect to sustainable development. The Constitution of Zimbabwe explicitly recognises the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) among the founding values and principles. The Constitution also provides for political representation of PWDs.

Review of the Goals

SDG 1: End Poverty

Introduction

The country's poverty reduction strategy is anchored on the Vision 2030 which seeks to rebuild and transform Zimbabwe into an Upper-Middle Income Economy by 2030. Vision 2030 will be realised through five strategic clusters namely: governance; macro-economic stability and re-engagement; inclusive growth; social/human capital development; and infrastructure and utilities. In this regard, the Government has adopted a number of policies and programmes to deal with the multi-dimensional and complex nature of poverty in the country. Government launched the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP:2016-18) policy on 26 September 2016. The IPRSP was anchored on seven pillars namely: Agriculture Productivity, Growth and Rural Food Security; Social Sectors; Private Sector; Infrastructure and Climate Change; Environment and Climate Change; Gender Women and Youth Empowerment; and, Strengthening Governance and Institutional Capacity.

Government adopted the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP-October 2018 to December 2020). The TSP has managed to bring some measure of macroeconomic stability through the elimination of both the fiscal and current account deficits. This should provide a solid basis for sustainable economic growth. The Government has launched the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) as the successor to the TSP. The NDS 1 will run from 2021-2025. The NDS1 has 14 priorities which include: Economic Growth and Stability; Food and Nutrition Security; Governance; Moving the Economy up the Value Chain & Structural Transformation; Human Capital Development; Environmental Protection, Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management; Housing Delivery; Digital Economy; Health and Well-being; Infrastructure & Utilities; Image Building and International Engagement and Re-engagement; Social Protection; Youth, Sport and Culture; and Devolution. These priorities have been aligned to the 2030 Agenda as well as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. The NDS1 is targeting to reduce the share of people in extreme poverty to 10.1% in 2025 from 38.9% in 2020.

Social protection has also been a key part of the country's development policy framework. The country's core social protection programmes include: the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM); Children in difficult circumstances; the Strategic Grain Reserve; the Health Assistance; Support to the elderly; the Food Deficit Mitigation

Programme; Harmonised Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) programme and the Food for work programme. Under the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) which was introduced in 2000, the Government gives assistance to vulnerable children in the form of school fees, tuition, levies and examination fees. It covers all schools both primary and secondary as well as special schools for children with disabilities. BEAM was wholly funded by central government since its inception till the end of 2008. However, with the advent of hyperinflation (2007-2008), BEAM resources became negligible and failed to reach its intended objective of supporting access to education by the poor and most vulnerable. Following the 2008 economic crisis the Government with the UN mobilised the donor community to support the revitalization of BEAM.

The Harmonised Social Cash Transfer which provides social assistance to vulnerable households is also being scaled up from the current 23 districts to 33 in an effort to cushion vulnerable communities. Districts not yet targeted for Harmonised Social Cash Transfer will continue to be assisted under the traditionally means tested Public Assistance programme. The Food Deficit Mitigation Programme is targeted at food insecure households. These households are identified through Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) and Crop and Livestock Assessment Reports.

Under the NDS1, Government seeks to achieve the following key milestones:

• Reduce the percentage of people in extreme poverty from about 40% in 2020 to 10.1% in 2025, and 9.3% by 2029;
• Increase the number of people (men, women, older persons, youth, persons with disabilities, and children of all ages) receiving social assistance across all the social protection interventions from 65% in 2020 to 85% by 2025;
• Increase proportion of population with access to social care and support services from 15% in 2020 to 75% by 2025;
• Increase social insurance coverage to 67% by 2025; and
• Increase Livelihoods support from 3% to 17% by 2025.

Government is also targeting to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve their production capabilities with a view to reduce poverty and increase incomes, both in rural and urban areas of the country. Under financial inclusion strategy government envisages to avail opportunities to the traditionally unbanked, thus lifting households out of abject poverty thereby promoting transformative and inclusive growth. Improving financial inclusion will entail increasing the percentage of financially included persons from 77% to 90% by 2025.

Progress and Challenges

According to the Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey (PICES) 2017 by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), the proportion of the population that was deemed poor dropped to 70.5% in 2017 from 72.3% in 2011/12 (see Table 1.3). There are however regional disparities. For instance, the prevalence of poverty is more widespread in rural areas, with the rural individual poverty increasing from 84.3% in 2011/12 to 86.0% in 2017. Extreme poverty among the population increased from 22.5% in 2011/12 to 29.3% in 2017 on account of the economic slowdown over the past few years. Extreme poverty levels among the rural population rose from 30.4% to 40.9% between 2011/12 and 2017 while extreme poverty rates among the urban population actually dropped from 5.6% to 4.4%.

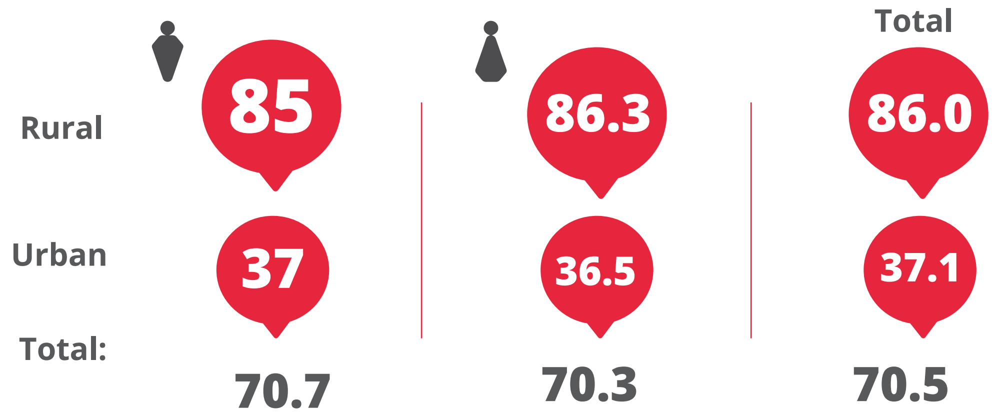
Table 1.3: Household and Individual Prevalence of Poverty-1995, 2001, 2011 and 2017 (%)

	Household		Individual	
	Poverty	Extreme Poverty	Poverty	Extreme Poverty
PICES 2017				
Rural	76.9	31.9	86.0	40.9
Urban	30.4	3.3	37.0	4.4
Zimbabwe	60.6	21.9	70.5	29.3
PICES 2011/12				
Rural	76.0	22.9	84.3	30.4
Urban	38.2	4.0	46.5	5.6
Zimbabwe	62.6	16.2	72.3	22.5
ICES 2001				
Rural	73.0	42.3	82.4	52.4
Urban	33.8	10.5	42.3	14.5
Zimbabwe	60.6	32.2	70.9	41.5
ICES 1995				
Rural	76.2	50.4	86.4	62.8
Urban	41.1	10.2	53.4	15.0
Zimbabwe	63.3	35.7	75.6	47.2

Source: *PICES 2017, PICES 2011, ICES 2001 and ICES 1995.*

As presented in Figure 1.1, the individual national poverty rate for females stood at 70.3%, slightly slower than the individual national poverty rate for males at 70.7%. The females living in the rural areas have the highest individual poverty rate of 86.3%, while their female counterparts in the urban areas have the lowest individual poverty rate of 36.5%.

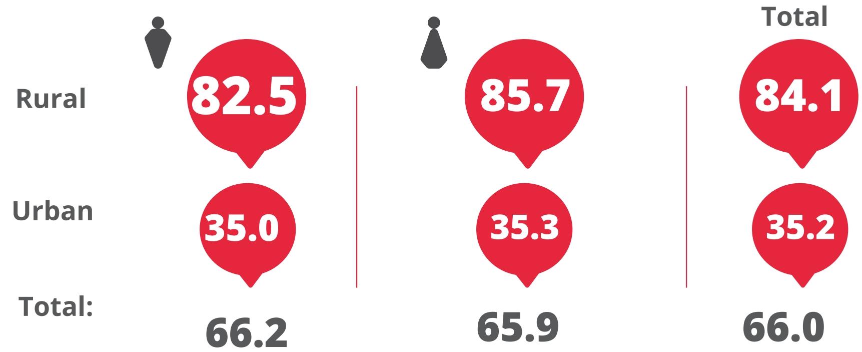
Figure 1.1: Poverty Prevalence (Percent) for people, Males and Females, Rural and Urban Areas



Source: *PICES 2017*

The prevalence of poverty among the youths aged 15-35 years is much lower than prevalence of poverty at the national level as shown in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2: Poverty Prevalence (Percent) for People Males and Females Youths (15-35 Years)



Source: *PICES 2017*

The prevalence of household poverty ranges from 22.3% in Bulawayo Province to 81.6% in Mashonaland Central Province as shown in Table 1.4 Manicaland Province has the highest proportion of poor households (16% of all poor households live here), while Bulawayo (2.1%) has the least proportion of poor households. Poor households in Zimbabwe were characterised by large families, high dependency ratios, and, on average, older heads of households. Male-headed households were poorer (61.6% is poor) than female-headed households (58.9%). Extreme poverty was also slightly higher for the male-headed households with 25.2% compared to the prevalence of extreme poverty in the female-headed households with 21.2%.

When it comes to individual poverty, Manicaland Province has the highest proportion of the poor (16.4%), while Bulawayo has the least proportion of the poor at 2.2%. Mashonaland Central Province has the highest individual poverty rate of 87.9% and the lowest individual poverty prevalence was in Bulawayo Province, 29.9%. Extreme individual poverty is highest in Mashonaland Central Province with 49.5% of the population below the food poverty line followed by Matabeleland North province with 45.1% while the lowest is found in Bulawayo Province (1.3%).

Table 1.4: Household and Individual Poverty Indices by Province

Province	Percent poor households	Poor households	Extremely poor households	Percent poor people	Poor people	Very poor people
Manicaland	16.5	71	27.9	16.4	80.7	36.9
Mashonaland Central	12.5	81.6	41.2	12	87.9	49.5
Mashonaland East	12.6	65.6	22.2	12.2	75.8	29.9
Mashonaland West	12.8	71.1	31.6	12.6	78.7	38.7
Matabeleland North	6.1	74.3	33.3	6.5	85.3	45.1
Matabeleland South	5.3	62.8	17.8	5.7	76.9	27.3
Midlands	11.4	63	21.8	11.8	73.8	30.2
Masvingo	12.8	64.8	20.7	13.3	75	27.9
Bulawayo	2.1	22.3	0.9	2.2	29.9	1.3
Harare	7.9	31.1	3.8	7.3	37.3	5.2
All Zimbabwe	100	60.6	21.9	100	70.5	29.3

***Source:** PICES 2017*

The prevalence of poverty for people with disabilities is higher at 74.1% when compared with a prevalence of 69.5% for people without disabilities. Male-headed households are poorer than female-headed households. The prevalence of poverty among male-headed households is 61.6% when compared with 58.9% for female-headed households. Extreme poverty is also higher among male-headed households at 25.2% when compared to the prevalence of extreme poverty in the female-headed households of 21.2%.

Table 1.5 presents the sectoral spending performance of Zimbabwe based on the 2019 and 2020 National Budget estimates. There has been an increase in spending towards social protection from an estimated 0.26% of GDP in 2019 to an estimated 0.7% of GDP in 2020. Similarly, public health spending has increased from an estimated 7% of total public spending in 2019 to an estimated 10.1% in 2020, albeit still below the 15% Abuja Declaration benchmark. There has been a notable increase in agriculture spending from an estimated 12.7% in 2019 to an estimated 17.5% in 2020. Infrastructure spending has however declined from 8% of GDP in 2019 to an estimated 7.2% in 2020. This reflects the weak fiscal environment constraining government spending in general.

Table 1.5: Sectoral spending targets and performance for Zimbabwe based on 2019-20 estimates

Sector	Agreement	Target	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Social protection	Social Policy for Africa (2008)	**4.5%** GDP	**0.26%**	**0.7%**
Health	Abuja Declaration (2001)	**15%** government expenditure	**7%**	**10.1%**
Education	Education for All Initiative (2000)	**20%** government expenditure	**14.6%**	**13.3%**
Water & Sanitation	eThekwini Declaration (2008) Sharm El-Sheik Commitment (2008)	**1.5%** GDP	**0.7%**	**0.7%**
Agriculture	Maputo Agreement (2003)	**10%** government expenditure	**12.7%**	**17.5%**
Infrastructure	African Union Declaration (2009)	**9.6%** GDP	**8%**	**7.2%**

Source: *Calculations based on the National Budget statements.*

Table 1.6 traces Zimbabwe's HDI trends for the period 1990-2018. During this period, the country's HDI value initially decreased from 0.498 in 1990 to 0.425 in 2005, before increasing to 0.563 in 2018. While the improvements in all the components of the HDI are observed since 2010, it is the spectacular increase in life expectancy from a low of 43.2 years in 2005 to 61.2 years by 2018 that is noteworthy. Zimbabwe's HDI value of 0.563 in 2018 lifts the country into the medium human development category, ranked at 150 out of 189 countries, which is an improvement from the rank of 153 in 2017. The 2018 female HDI value for Zimbabwe is 0.540 compared to 0.584 for males, which results in a Gender Development Index (GDI) value of 0.925. However, when the HDI value is adjusted for inequality, Zimbabwe losses 22.8% of its value to stand at 0.435. This compares favourably with the average SSA country that lost 30.5% of the HDI value due to inequality, and the 25.9% lost by medium HDI countries in 2018.

Table 1.6: Zimbabwe's HDI Trends, 1990-2018

	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (2011 PPP$)	HDI rank
1990	58.1	9.8	4.5	2,693	0.498
1995	50.5	9.8	5.5	2,574	0.472
2000	44.6	9.8	6.5	2,747	0.452
2005	43.2	9.5	6.8	1,853	0.425
2010	50.6	10.1	7.3	1,689	0.472
2015	59.5	10.3	8.3	2,226	0.543
2016	60.3	10.4	8.3	2,246	0.549
2017	60.8	10.5	8.3	2,318	0.553
2018	61.2	10.5	8.3	2,661	0.563

Source: *Human Development Report 2019: Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century, Briefing note for countries on the 2019 Human Development Report, Zimbabwe. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ZWE.pdf*

However, Zimbabwe's 2018 HDI of 0.563 is below the average of 0.634 for countries in the medium human development group and above the average of 0.541 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Table 1.7: Zimbabwe's HDI and component indicators for 2018 relative to selected countries and groups

	HDI value	HDI rank	Life expectancy @ birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (2011 PPP US$)
Zimbabwe	0.563	150	61.2	10.5	8.3	2,661
Kenya	0.579	147	66.3	11.1	6.6	3,052
Lesotho	0.518	164	53.7	10.7	6.3	3,244
SSA	0.541	-	61.2	10.0	5.7	3,443
Medium HDI	0.634	-	69.3	11.7	6.4	6,240

Source: *HDR 2019 Zimbabwe*

Zimbabwe's poverty headcount ratio at US$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population) for 2011 stood at 21.4 percent and increased to 33.9 percent by 2017. During this period, i.e. 2011 and 2017, Zimbabwe performed much better than Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia which had higher poverty headcount ratios.

Another important vulnerability relates to the limited social protection coverage. BEAM only has a coverage of about 530,000 out of the about 1,300,000 million children in need, while the HSCT programme, which is implemented by Government and supported by the UN, only covers about 55,509 very poor and labour-constrained households in 20 districts[9]. Another social protection programme, the public works programme provides employment

to only 3 per cent of the unemployed. According to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), about 249,000 persons, which is approximately 2% of the population, were receiving a monthly pension or any social security fund or both. With respect to medical insurance, about 984,000 persons, representing about 7% of the population, indicated they were members of a medical aid scheme.
Government has also upscaled provision of food assistance, social cash transfers, health assistance, holistic education support including school feeding and provision of sanitary wear for female learners in schools. Over the period 2019-2020, the following milestones were achieved:

- 126,000 households were supported through cash transfers;
- 1,248,950 have been assisted through food assistance;
- 1,406,875 orphans and vulnerable children were assisted with through educational support under the BEAM programme;
- 69,925 children were reached with care and protection- links with SDG 16 on prevention and response to trafficking of children.

Conclusion and Next steps

Economic growth remains a vital means to end poverty. However, economic growth has not been fast and inclusive enough to have a significant impact on poverty. There is need to ensure that more resources are directed towards the productive sectors of the economy such as health, education, social protection, water and sanitation, agriculture and physical infrastructure (to ensure economic growth is inclusive. Importantly, investments in these sectors have a positive effect on the accumulation of human and physical capital as well as total factor productivity, which are critical in harnessing the demographic dividend.

In view of the higher prevalence of poverty in rural areas, more emphasis needs to be placed on rural development. Investments in rural infrastructure including irrigation as well as rural health and education are critical ingredients in ensuring sustainable rural development. In particular, infrastructure such as rural feeder roads, electricity, and irrigation, are increasingly important to make land productive and to allow the rural poor to connect to markets for their goods and for the inputs to their own production. Moreover, the implementation of the industrialisation strategy and strengthening inter-sectoral linkages between rural and non-rural sectors is expected to result in the transformation of productive activities from low to high productivity and to diversify away from the production and export of a few primary commodities to the manufacture and export of finished products. Ensuring gender equality and women empowerment is a vital ingredient to ending poverty.

9 ZUNDAF 2016 – 2020 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework Supporting Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Development.

2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG 2: End Hunger

Introduction

Zimbabwe has prioritised ending hunger within its overall development and policy thrust. Zimbabwe has an elaborate and enabling institutional and policy framework underpinning the agriculture sector. The country has come up with the 'Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy, 5-year Agriculture Gross Value Projections: Towards Vision 2030.' The strategy seeks to, 'To develop a robust agriculture sector that will turnaround the economy and achieve food and nutrition security in the face of increasing population and climate change through creation of an enabling policy environment and implementation of innovative productivity-enhancing investment initiatives.' The strategy is expected to achieve the following objectives by 2023:

i. To improve crop and livestock productivity and raise the gross agriculture production value to US$8.2 billion;
ii. To achieve self-sufficiency for local human and industry consumption in all strategic agriculture commodities and generate surplus for exports;
iii. To treble agriculture trade through improved market access and competitiveness of agriculture commodities on the domestic and export markets through quality produce and value addition;
iv. To raise per capita income for farmers to the upper middle-income level of US$4,000 – 12,000;
v. To ensure that existing agricultural resource base is maintained and improved, including restoration of soil health, and achieve sustainable agriculture intensification.

The Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy is underpinned by three pillars namely:

a. Enabling Agriculture Policy and Regulatory Environment to Facilitate the Flow of Investment into the Agriculture Sector:

- National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) (2019 – 2020);
- National Land Policy;
- Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Policy and Strategy;
- National Livestock Development Policy and Strategy;

- National Horticulture Development and Export Policy and Strategy;
- Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy;
- Climate Smart Agriculture Policy and Strategy; and
- Agriculture Digitisation Policy and Strategy.

b. Appropriate Agriculture Investment for Productivity, Food Security and Resilience guided by a National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP):
- Input manufacture and supply;
- Water and Irrigation Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Development;
- Agriculture Mechanisation and Development;
- Green Houses and Cold Chain System;
- Livestock Production Facilities; and
- Domestic and Export Marketing infrastructure.

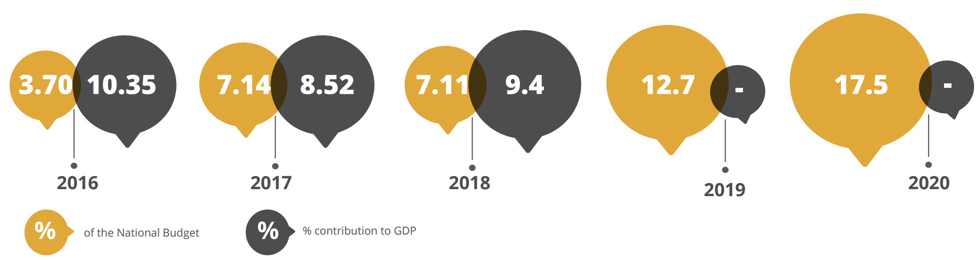
c. Efficient Agricultural Knowledge, Technology Innovation System:
- Paradigm shift for farmers to practise farming as a business;
- Allocation of at least 1% of the agricultural GDP to research and development;
- Public and Private Partnerships in research and development, flexible funding mechanisms;
- Practising climate smart and precision agriculture;
- Efficient Agricultural and Technical Support Systems; and
- Digital and Labour-Saving Technologies.

In July 2020, the Government and the former white farmers signed the Global Compensation Deed. This Deed seeks to compensate former white farmers whose land was expropriated under the land reform for improvements, biological assets and land clearing costs.

Progress and Challenges

The agricultural sector continues to face a myriad of challenges relating to low production and productivity, limited number of, and access to existing markets, and limited access to finance among others. The decline in agricultural investment has negatively affected agricultural productivity and overall production. Notwithstanding, public expenditure towards the agriculture sector has progressively increased over the period 2018 to 2020 as shown in Figure 2.1, testifying to the growing recognition of the agricultural sector to sustainable development in the country. This needs to be sustained and complemented through greater private sector involvement.

Figure 2.1: Agriculture budgetary allocation and contribution to GDP



***Source:** Agricultural Statistical Bulletin, 2019.*

The agriculture sector has also been affected by climate induced disasters. Zimbabwe experienced climate change-induced droughts in the 2015-16 and 2018-19 agricultural seasons negatively affecting agricultural production across selected crops as shown in Table 2.1. The reduction in agricultural output has had severe systemic effects on the economy. Agricultural productivity has also been sub-optimal. For instance, the average yield in maize declined from 1.15 in 2017 to 0.99 tonne per hectare in 2019 against a potential of 5 – 25 tonnes depending on production system. This is on account of a number of factors that include among others: limited farmers' knowledge and skills; a weak research, extension and farmer training support; shortages of inputs and equipment; low levels of irrigation and mechanisation development resulting in an over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture[10] against increased incidences and intensity of climate shocks such as El Niño and droughts; limited access to market information and marketing facilities; limited access to finance; pest and disease attacks; security of tenure issues; and low capacity to manage post-harvest losses.

Table 2.1: Selected Crop Production, 2009-2016

		2016	2017	2018	2019
Maize	**Production (mt)**	511,816	2,155,526	1,708,702	776,635
	Area (Ha)	1,161,997	1,875,297	1,893,772	1,722,718
	Yield (t/ha)	0.44	1.15	0.99	0.99
Wheat	**Production (mt)**	61,715	158,515	136,000	-
	Area (Ha)	14,220	43,200	34,000	-
	Yield (t/ha)	4,340	3,669	4.0	-
Sorghum	**Production (mt)**	36,305	182,012	154,177	77,514
	Area (Ha)	190,398	321,490	154,177	180,625
	Yield (t/ha)	0.17	0.57	0.43	0.43
Soya beans	**Production (mt)**	47,832	35,744	59,772	59,772
	Area (Ha)	39,935	21,561	41,925	40,474
	Yield (kg/ha)	1.2	1.66	1.48	1.48
Groundnuts	**Production (mt)**	73,709	139,503	127,202	321,662
	Area (Ha)	185,850	241,687	241,687	294,601
	Yield (kg/ha)	0.40	0.58	0.43	0.43
Sunflower	**Production (mt)**	3,259	10,389	3,796	10,971
	Area (Ha)	8,428	16,322	16,322	19,674
	Yield (kg/ha)	0.39	0.64	0.43	0.51

Source: *Agricultural Statistical Bulletin, 2019.*

The cattle herd which declined by 0.7% between 2016 and 2017, has been on the rise from 2017 onwards reaching 5,775,000 herd by 2019. Similarly, the dairy herd has also been on an upward trajectory increasing from 16,987 to 17,325 in 2018, then 17,968 in 2018 and 18,214 in 2019. Consequently, the dairy milk production increased from 65.4 million litres in 2016 to 66.4 million litres in 2017 and 75.4 million litres in 2018. The country has benefitted from strategic cooperation and partnership with the EU under the Zimbabwe Agricultural

10 Access to water and irrigation is a major determinant of agricultural land productivity and the stability of yields. Irrigated land productivity is more than double that of rainfed land. However, in Zimbabwe less than 10% of the area in production is under irrigation, compared with 39% in South Asia.

Growth Programme (ZAGP) which seeks to address challenges in the livestock sector in the country. Under this programme the EU has provided US$45 million targeted at building key livestock value chains such as the beef and poultry value chains.

Table 2.2: Cattle herd, dairy herd cows and daily milk production

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cattle herd ('000)	5,528	5,490	5,578	5,775
Dairy herd cows	16,987	17,325	17,968	18,214
Dairy milk production (million litres)	65.4	66.4	75.4	-

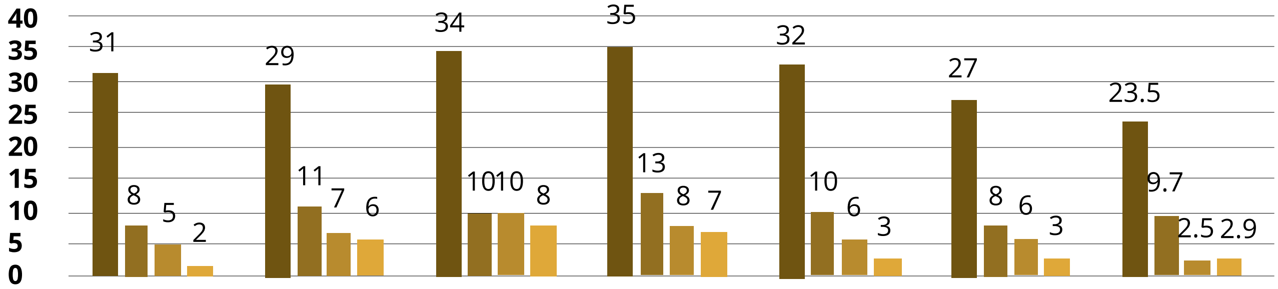
Source: *Agricultural Statistical Bulletin, 2019.*

Generally, Zimbabwe has made significant progress in reducing malnutrition in children under five. Figure 2.2 presents indicators for stunting, underweight, wasting and overweight. There has been a reduction in stunting from 27% in 2015 to 23.5% in 2019. Stunting in male children is higher at 26.7% when compared with the female children figure of 20.4%. Stunting is also higher in rural areas at 25.6% when compared with 18.5% in urban areas. Harare has the lowest percentage of stunting at 18.8% while Manicaland has the highest at 30.6%. Wasting rates have averaged about 3% over the period 2010-2019. Male children have a higher wasting percentage at 3.0% when compared with female children at 2.8%. However, urban areas have a higher percentage of wasting at 3.0% when compared with rural areas at 2.8%. Mashonaland Central has the lowest percentage of wasting at 1.8% while Matabeleland North has the highest wasting percentage at 4.2%.

The percentage of children who are underweight increased by about 21% from 8% in 2015 to 9.7% in 2019. The percentage of underweight male children was 10.3% when compared with 9.0% for female children. There are more underweight children in rural areas at 10.5% when compared with 7.7% in urban areas. Bulawayo has the lowest underweight children at 5.8%, while Matabeleland has the highest percentage of underweight children at 12.6%. The percentage of children under the age of five who are overweight has declined from 6% in 2015 to 2.5% in 2019. There are more male children who are overweight at 2.9% when compared with female children at 2.2%. There are more overweight children in rural areas at 2.6% when compared with 2.4% in urban areas. Harare has the lowest percentage of overweight children at 1.2% and Bulawayo has the highest percentage of overweight children at 4.4%. Zimbabwe has already met the Malabo Declaration target for wasting with wasting already well below the targeted 5% by 2025. Increased efforts are need if Zimbabwe is to meet the Malabo Declaration target of reducing stunting to 10% by 2025.

In line with the African Union (AU) decision of January 2016, Zimbabwe is implementing the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in a phased approach with current coverage including all primary school pupils. The final stage will be the incorporation of secondary school pupils.

Figure 2.2: Malnutrition indicators, children under five



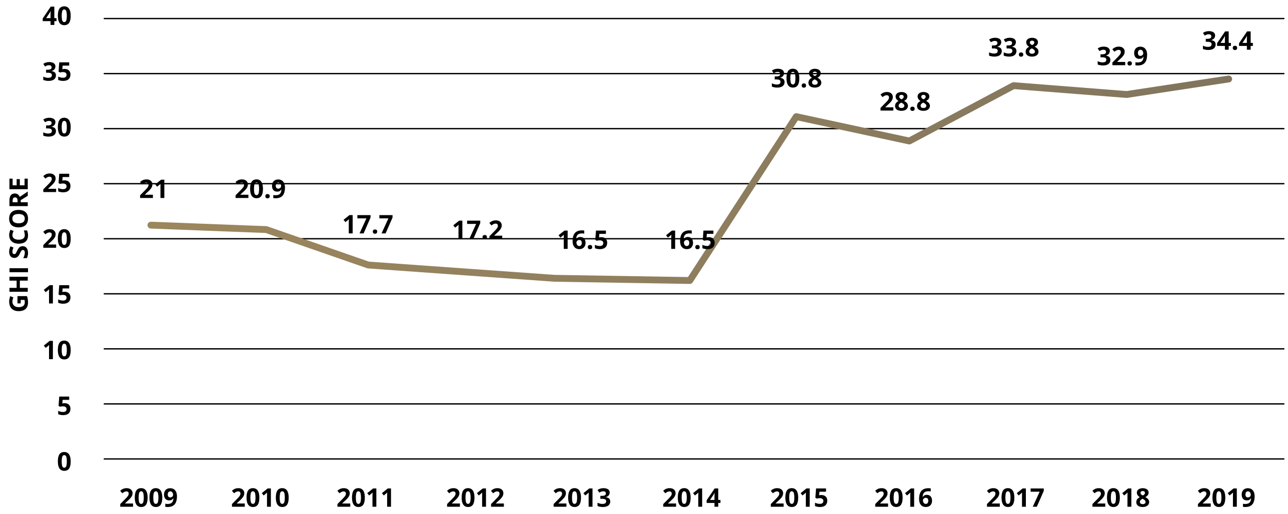
	1988	1994	1999	2005-2006	2010-2011	2015	2019
STUNTING	31	29	34	35	32	27	23.5
UNDERWEIGHT	8	11	10	13	10	8	9.7
OVERWEIGHT	5	7	10	8	6	6	2.5
WASTING	3	6	8	7	3	3	2.9

***Source:** 2019 MICS, 2015 ZHDS.*

The drought of 2018-2019, which continues into 2020, has led to a rapid rise in the number of Zimbabweans who are food insecure. The 2020 Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) of April 2020, highlights that 7 million people in urban and rural areas are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, compared to 5.5 million in August 2019. More than 4.3 million people are severely food insecure in rural areas in Zimbabwe, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, undertaken in February 2020. Moreover, 2.2. million people in urban areas, are 'cereal food insecure', according to the most recent Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) analysis. The chronic high inflation continues to erode real incomes negatively impacting affordability of food and other essential goods. Nutritional needs remain high with over 1.1 million children and women requiring nutrition assistance.

The country has experienced an increase in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) score from 28.8 in 2016 to 34.4 in 2019. This is attributable to the erratic rainfall and drought which put a downward pressure on food and livestock production (drought induced poor harvests). The GHI is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally, regionally and by country published annually by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Figure 2.3 shows the trends in the GHI for Zimbabwe over the period 2009 to 2019.

Figure 2.3: Global Hunger Index (GHI)



Source: *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Global Food Policy Reports (various)*

Irrigation plays an important role in agriculture because it reduces farmers' vulnerability to weather and climate shocks and risks. Zimbabwe has potential to irrigate more than 2 million Ha of land and yet, less than 206,000 Ha are currently under irrigation. The utilisation of existing water bodies, underground water and transboundary water bodies such as Zambezi River and Limpopo River can make a significant contribution to food security and agricultural growth in the country, especially in drought periods. However, the available water bodies are currently under-utilised, mainly due to lack of investment in irrigation development, rehabilitation and modernisation. This underutilisation is made worse by having inappropriate technologies that do not take into cognizance different farm sizes and other special considerations such as the sex, physical abilities, and age of the users[11].

In 2020, a total of 2.2 million vulnerable households will benefit from the input schemes (Presidential, Pfumvudza and Command Agriculture). Furthermore, under Pfumvudza, farmers are being trained by extension workers to adopt Conservation Agriculture (CA), which is a Climate Smart Agriculture Practice.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Approximately 70% of the rural population's livelihoods are dependent on rain fed agriculture making them highly vulnerable to climate change induced weather extremes, variability and climate change impacts. This makes climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector a national priority, demanding policy direction at the highest level. At the same time, the agricultural sector also provides opportunities for climate change mitigation through initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and sustainable agro-forest-based adaptation and management practices.

The country has embraced Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) which harmonises agriculture development with environment protection and reduction in vulnerabilities to climate change. In line with this thrust, emphasis is being put on better planning, shared financing burden between government and private players through public private partnerships.

11 *National Agriculture Policy Framework (2018-2030).*

The 2020 Budget, is particularly targeting irrigation development in order to guarantee food security in the country. In 2017, government developed 11,400 hectares of low-cost irrigation schemes under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) in a bid to improve agricultural productivity. The country currently has 150,000 hectares of irrigable land and it is targeting a total of 300,000 hectares by 2022. The 200 hectare per district irrigation rehabilitation programme has so far been rolled out in more than 7 districts. The Sakunda Rehabilitation programme is an example of PPP and is targeting A2 farmers with 43 farmers having received support to date in the form of irrigation equipment. Investment in irrigation is especially vital for enhancing smallholder farmers' productivity. Irrigation enables farmers to farm throughout the year thereby increasing their incomes.

A number of smallholder farmers across the country are embracing climate smart agriculture. The Tshongokwe Irrigation Scheme in Lupane district is a good case. This irrigation scheme comprises 24 hectares of land shared among 63 farmers. Each farmer here has about 0.4 hectares of land. The area covered by the irrigation was divided into small pieces to accommodate everyone and the farmers rotate crops. The scheme has two solar-powered boreholes that store water in two 10,000-litre tanks. The water flows from the tanks and goes through underground pipes onto the drip lines to irrigate the farmers' crops. The farmers have migrated from flood irrigation to drip irrigation which saves nutrients and water in the wake of recurrent droughts.

The Tshongokwe Irrigation Scheme has benefited from the Sizimele-Action for Resilience Building in Zimbabwe, a three-year consortium project aimed at boosting diversified agricultural production for more than 30,000 at-risk households in the districts of Matobo, Insiza and Lupane. The consortium brings together the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural resettlement, the UNDP and a number of NGOs. The Tshongokwe Irrigation Scheme has benefitted from a weather station that provides early warning and in-weather season forecasts and also records surface and underground temperatures, as well as wind speed.

The station has a manual rain gauge used by the farmers daily at 8 am and an automated rain gauge that sends data to the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe which then issues early warning messages if needed. Along with weather monitoring and the usage of water-efficient drip irrigation systems, the participants at the Tshongokwe scheme have adapted to the challenging climate conditions by growing drought-tolerant crops that not only grow fast but also have high yields.

A woman who is part of the Tshongokwe Irrigation Scheme practises drip irrigation in Lupane district.
***Source:** https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/zimbabwe-farmers-turn-smart-solutions-fight-climate-change-200322092102791.html*

As drought continue to ravage most parts of Zimbabwe, smallholder farmers are relying on solar-powered boreholes for irrigation.
***Source:** https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/zimbabwe-farmers-turn-smart-solutions-fight-climate-change-200322092102791.html*

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 3: Healthy Lives and Well-being

Introduction

Good health is essential for a productive and fulfilling life and is critical to spurring sustainable development. Healthier nations are wealthier and more productive nations. A healthy population (and workforce) is a necessary ingredient for the successful attainment of the country's Vision 2030, 'Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030.' The Government has committed itself to ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Zimbabwe has a strong institutional and policy framework to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all. Health is recognised as a fundamental right in the Constitution. The country has developed the National Health Strategy for Zimbabwe 2016-2020 which seeks to achieve 'Equity and Quality in Health: Leaving no one behind'. Government has come up with a Free User-Fee Policy for pregnant women, children 5 years and also adults aged 65 years and above.

The Ministry of Health and Child Care has developed a health sector strategic response to end Tuberculosis (TB) in Zimbabwe by the year 2030. The goal of the strategy is to reduce death rates by 80%, incidence by 90% and eliminate catastrophic costs to patients. Zimbabwe launched its first ever Health Financing Policy and Health Financing Strategy in June 2018 becoming the 17th country in the WHO AFRO Region to have developed such a health financing policy and health financing strategy. The Health Financing Policy and Health Financing Strategy are strongly informed by WHO guidelines on health financing. WHO's approach to health financing is embedded in the health systems framework, recognising health financing as one of the Health Systems Strengthening building blocks. The goal of the Health Financing Policy is to guide Zimbabwe's health system to move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), by achieving financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all by 2030. The Health Financing Strategy underscores the need to mobilise sufficient resources in an efficient and equitable manner to provide essential health services.

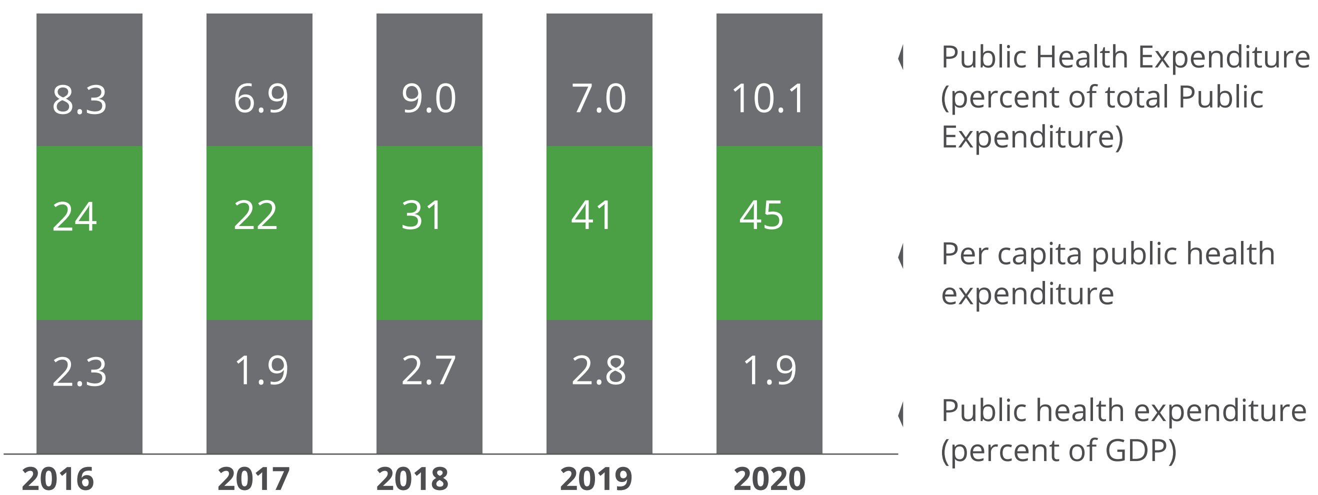
At the continental level, the country has committed itself to the Abuja Declaration of 2001, the Addis Ababa Declaration of 2006 on community health, the 2008 Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa and the 2012 Tunis Declaration on Value for Money, Sustainability and Accountability in the Health Sector. However, there is an urgent need to translate these noble commitments into actions through adequately and efficiently allocating resources to the health sector.

In June 2018, the Zimbabwe School Health Policy (ZSHP) was officially launched by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care. The ZSHP emanates from the recognition of the inseparable relationship between education and health and the fact that many ailments can be prevented through appropriate interventions at the earliest stages of human life. The ZSHP provides a broad frame of reference to guide the implementation of a number of health related issues relating to the welfare of learners in the school system, such as health and nutrition, education services, water, sanitation and hygiene, needs of learners with disabilities, mental health, sexual and reproductive health concerns, and the care and support provisions as well as guidance and counselling needs of all learners.

Progress and Challenges

Government allocation on health and child care as a percentage of total public expenditure, rose to 10.1% in 2020 up from 7% in 2019. However, the Abuja target still remains an elusive target for the country as shown in Figure 3.1. The country also spends a relatively small share of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health care projected at 1.9% in 2020 down from an estimated 2.8% in 2019. The inadequate public financing of health has resulted in an overreliance on out-of-pocket and external financing which is highly unsustainable and risky. The UN has supported the health sector through the Health Development Fund (HDF) (2016-2020) with an estimated overall budget of US$681,920,000 of which to date about US$324,243,681.45 has been disbursed by HDF donors (DFID, EU, Sweden, GAVI, Ireland). The HDF seeks to contribute to reducing maternal mortality (by 50%) and under 5 mortality (by 50%) by ensuring equitable access to quality health services for women and children by 2020; and contribute to the reduction of the unmet need for family planning to 6.5%, halving the prevalence of stunting in children under-5 and eliminating mother to child transmission (MTCT) by 2020, combating HIV and AIDs, malaria and other prevalent diseases.

Figure 3.1: Trends in Public Health Expenditure, 2016-2020



Source: *Calculations based on Ministry of Finance figures.*

The country faces a critical shortage of healthcare staff with the number, quality and capability of health care workers as a ratio of the population being critically low. Zimbabwe has 30,697 health care workers in post out of an establishment of 37,602, translating to a vacancy rate of 18% based on the current staffing norms . The depleted health personnel are also highly demotivated owing to dwindling real incomes, poor working conditions and underequipped health institutions. High drop-out rates in public sector health care posts have resulted in vacancy rates of over 50% for doctors, midwives, laboratory, and environmental health staff .

The country has made some progress in terms of reducing the maternal mortality ratio and child mortality rates. Table 3.2 shows the evolution of the maternal mortality ratio and child mortality rates over the period 2011 to 2019. The maternal mortality ratio declined from 960 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2011, to 651 in 2015, and then 462 in 2019. This achievement has been on account of a combination of targeted measures such as the removal user fees for pregnant women, free blood coupons for maternal cases, intensified trainings for health care workers and construction of waiting mothers' shelters. The under-5 mortality rate on the other hand progressively declined from 84 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2011 to 65 in 2019. The neonatal mortality rate has however remained unchanged for the past 15 years, and even slightly increased to 32 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2019, from 29 in 2015. The strategic collaboration between the country and development partners has contributed to the general improvement in health outcomes in Zimbabwe. Notwithstanding these milestones, there is a need to close gaps in coverage and outcomes by eliminating huge income and urban/rural differentials in key health indicators.

Table 3.1: Mortality Rates

	2011	2014	2015	2017	2019
Maternal Mortality Ratio	960	614	651	525	462
Under-5 Mortality Rate	84	75	69	72	65
Infant Mortality Rate	65	55	50	52	47
Neonatal Mortality Rate	31	29	29	-	32

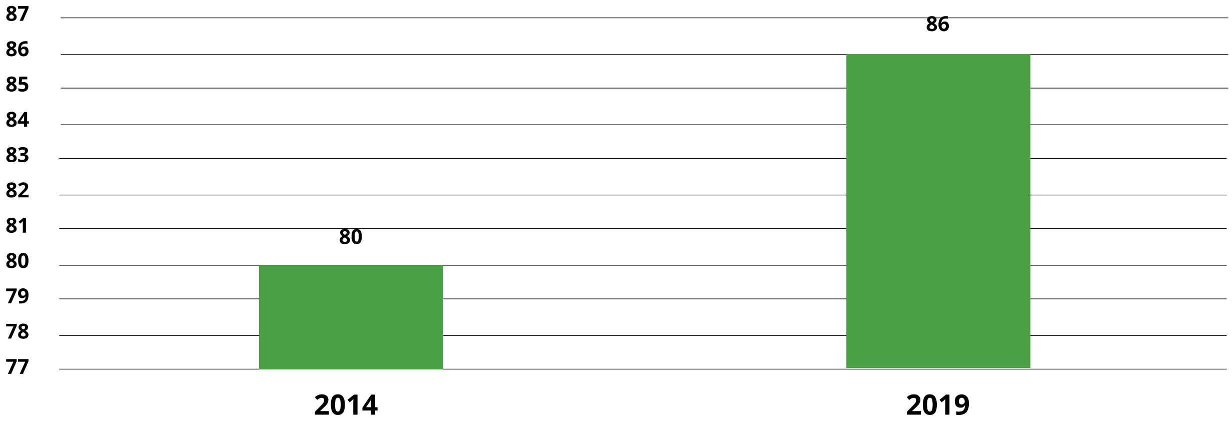
Source: *2019 MICS, 2017 ICDS, 2015 ZHDS, 2014 MICS, 2010-11 ZHDS.*

12 National Tuberculosis Program –Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

13 National Health Strategy for Zimbabwe 2009-2013.

In terms of the share of women with a live birth in the last 2 years whose most recent live birth was attended by skilled health personnel, there was an improvement from 80% in 2014 to 86% in 2019 as shown in Table 3.1. Skilled birth attendance during delivery is vital in the reduction of maternal and neonatal deaths.

Figure 3.2: Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years whose most recent live birth was attended by skilled health personnel



Source: *2019 MICS; 2014 MICS.*

With respect to ante natal coverage, the percentage of women who during their most recent live birth in the last 2 years were attended at least once by skilled health personnel slightly declined from 93.7% in 2014 to 93.3% in 2019 as shown in Figure 3.2. However, the percentage of women attended at least four times by any provider slightly rose from 70.1% in 2014 to 71.5% in 2019

Figure 3.3: Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who during the pregnancy of the most recent live birth were attended

	2014	2019
At least once by skilled health personnel	93.7	93.3
At least four times by any provider	70.1	71.5
At least eight times times by any provider		10.2

At least once by skilled health personnel

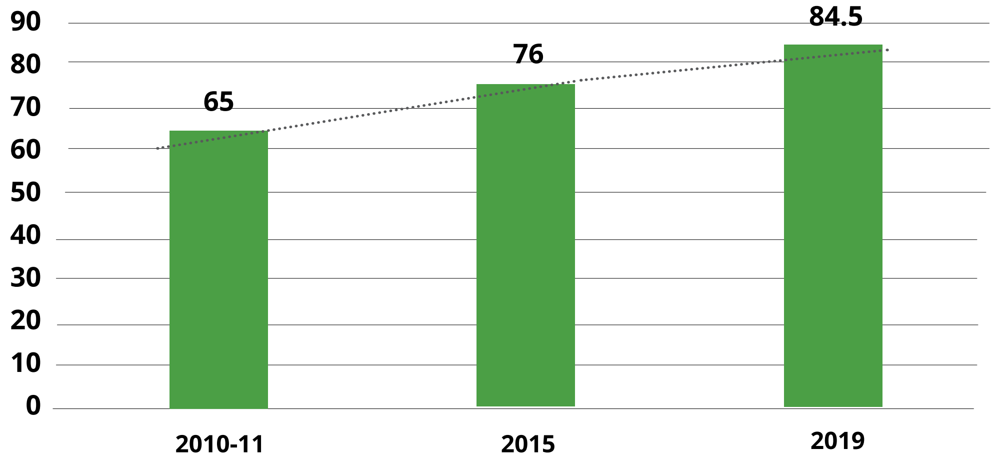
At least eight times times by any provider

At least four times by any provider

Source: *2019 MICS; 2014 MICS.*

There has been an improvement in childhood vaccinations as shown in Figure 3.4.

Figure 3.4: Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received all basic vaccinations at any time before the survey



Source: *2019 MICS, ZDHS 2015.*

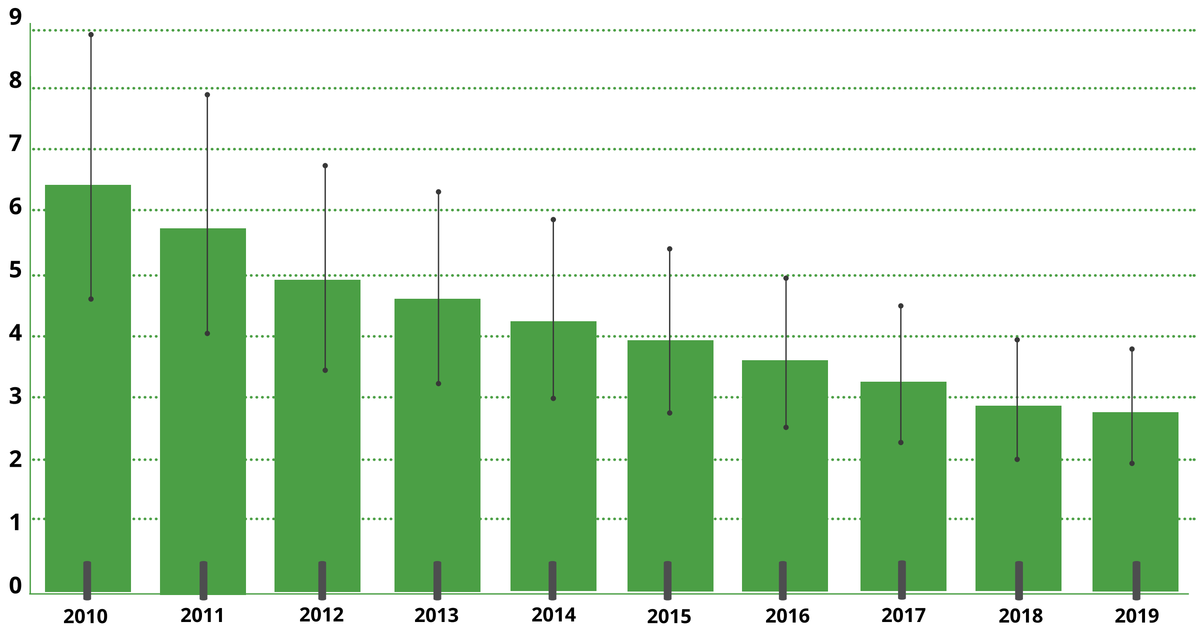
Zimbabwe benefitted from the 5 year US$25 million-Challenge Tuberculosis (TB) grant which came to an end at the end of 2019. The Challenge TB (CTB) was funded under USAID's TB strategy. The country registered commendable strides in the fight against TB. The Challenge TB supported 46 one-stop-shop high volume facilities across the country, to offer integrated TB-HIV services. In addition, diabetes mellitus screening, an important risk factor for TB, was layered within the integrated service package. Zimbabwe is now among the few countries in the region that has started rolling out a shorter and less toxic, all oral regimen for the treatment of drug resistant TB. Success has been recorded in terms of penetrating hard to reach communities through a programme known as the Targeted Screening for Active TB among high-risk groups, funded jointly by the Global Fund and USAID. The Ministry of Health and Child Care has been rolling out the Catalysing Paediatric TB Innovation (CAP TB) project to improve treatment of paediatric TB through the roll-out and scale-up of improved diagnostics and treatments. One of the innovations is the use of stool for testing TB in children.

Challenge TB also funded a TB Drug Resistance survey, that ascertained the real burden of drug resistant TB in the country, and the first ever nationwide survey to determine catastrophic costs (diagnostic and treatment) incurred by households of TB patients. The estimated TB treatment coverage now stands at 83%, up from 70% in 2014. TB incidence has climbed down to 210 per 100,000 population in 2018, from 278 per 100,000 population in 2014. The incidence and mortality rate among TB patients declined by 25% and 49% respectively in 2018 from the 2014 baseline. HIV prevalence among TB patients declined from 68% in 2014 to 62% in 2018. Despite these gains, deaths from TB still remain unacceptably high, at 15% among notified TB clients, likely attributed to late treatment seeking behaviour and important comorbidities such as HIV and Diabetes.

The Global Fund has allocated US$ 500 million to Zimbabwe for HIV and AIDS, TB as well as Malaria programmes that will run between 2020 and 2023. The U.S. President's

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has approved US$ 230 million to Zimbabwe for HIV and AIDS for the one-year period beginning on October 1, 2020 and ending on September 30, 2021. According to the UNAIDS 2019 Annual Report, Zimbabwe recorded a decrease in new HIV infections from 45,000 in 2015 to 38,000 in 2018, a development that should lead to a decline in prevalence. The incidence of HIV has reduced from 3.9 per thousand uninfected population in 2015 to 2.8 per thousand in 2019 (see Figure 3.5). Zimbabwe has also managed to halve the number of Aids-related deaths from 54,000 in 2010 to 22,000 in 2018. Zimbabwe has the fifth highest HIV prevalence in the region.

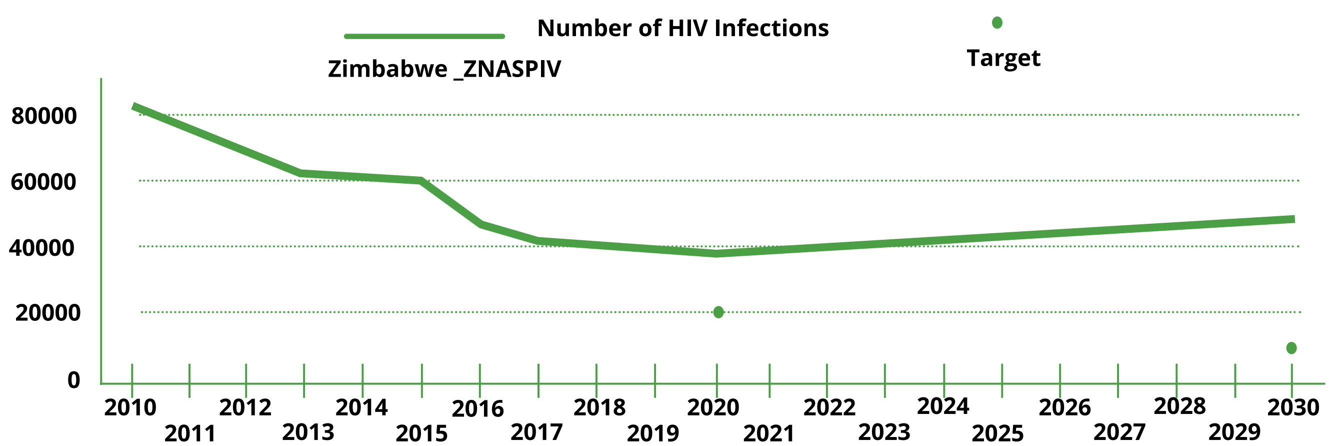
Figure 3.5: Trend in incidence per 1,000 uninfected population



Source: *GAM Zimbabwe Country report. Reporting Period: January 2019 - December 2019*

National HIV estimates and projections predict a continued decline in HIV incidence based on current epidemic patterns and program coverage but not a sufficient decline to reach global 2020 and 2030 targets as shown by the Figure 3.6.

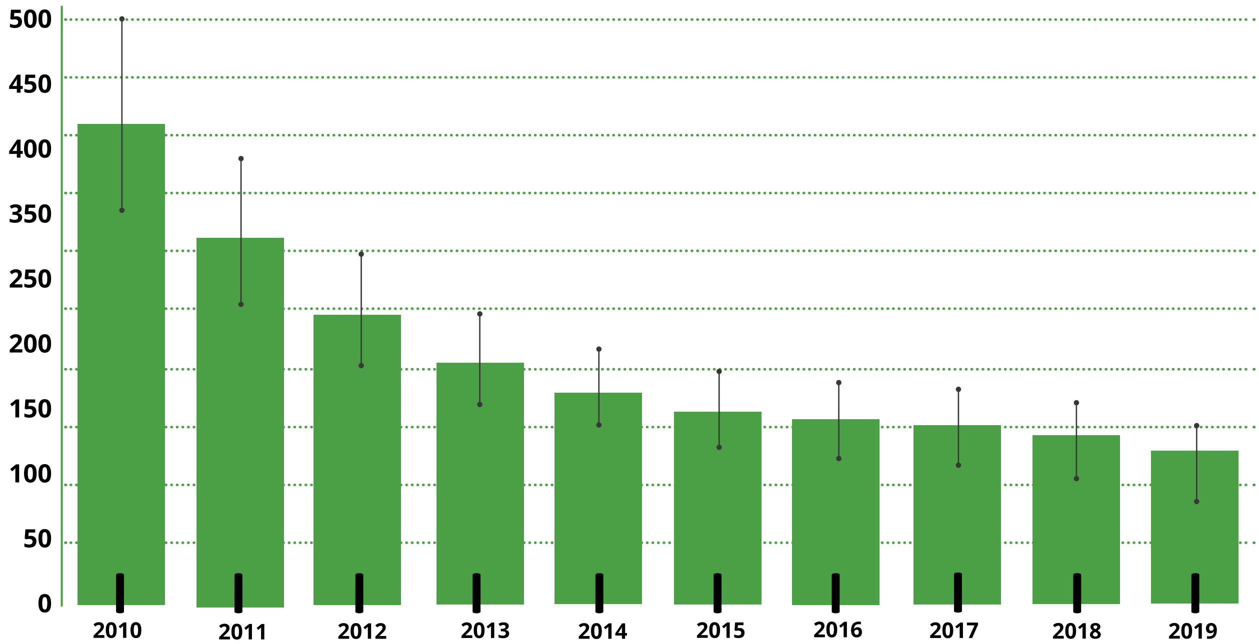
Figure 3.6: Projected trends in New HIV Infections



Source: *GAM Zimbabwe Country report. Reporting Period: January 2019 - December 2019*

The total number of people who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100,000 population continued to decline as shown in Figure 3.7.

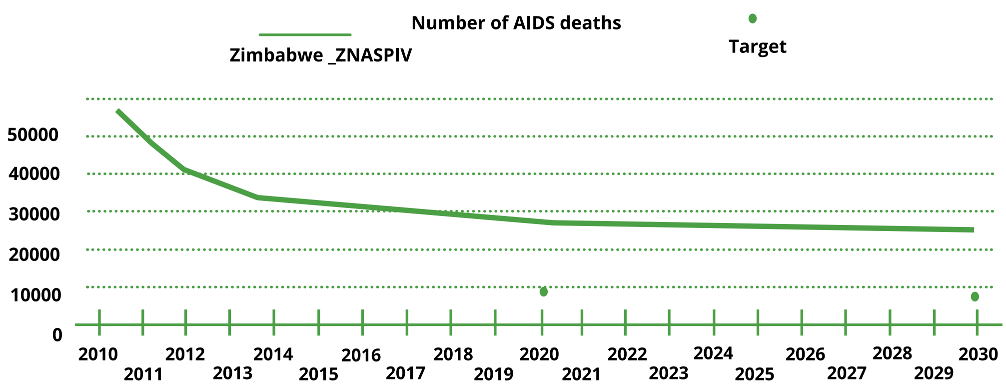
Figure 3.7: Trend in AIDS Mortality per 100,000



Source: *GAM Zimbabwe Country report. Reporting Period: January 2019 - December 2019*

AIDS mortality significantly declined by 69% from 409.4 per 100,000 in 2010 to 126.7 in 2019 per 100,000. National HIV estimates and projections predict a continued decline in AIDS mortality based on current epidemic patterns and program coverage but there will be a near miss of the 2020 global target and a significant miss of the 2030 target as shown in Figure 3.8.

Figure 3.8: Projected trends in AIDS deaths

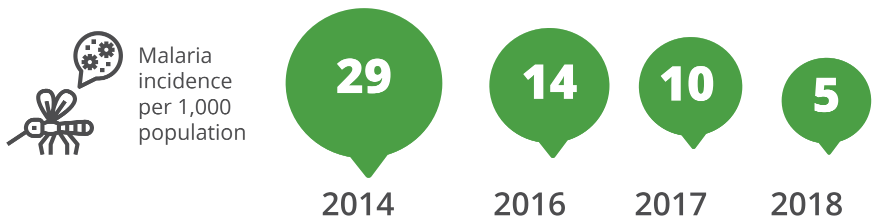


Source: *GAM Zimbabwe Country report. Reporting Period: January 2019 - December 2019*

There are still discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV (PLHIV) as 20% of respondents reported experiences of HIV-related discrimination in health-care settings according to the Key Populations PLHIV Stigma Index Study of 2019.

The malaria incidence has also been on a general downward spiral. Figure 3.9 shows that the malaria incidence per 1,000 population has progressively declined from 29 in 2014; then 14 in 2016; 10 in 2017; and only 5 in 2018. The country in partnership with development partners has come up with a policy framework to deal with malaria including: the National Malaria Control Programme (2001); the National Malaria Prevention and Control Policy (2010); National Malaria Strategic Plan (2016-2020); the Malaria Communication Strategy (2016-2020); and the Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan for Malaria Vectors in Zimbabwe (2016-2020).

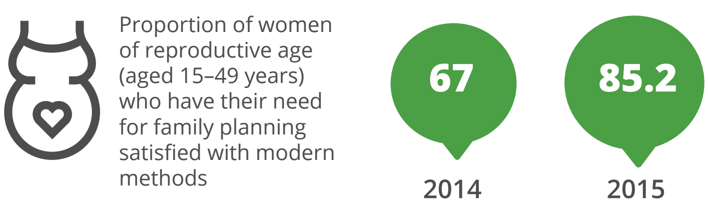
Figure 3.9: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population



Source: *ZIMSTAT*

The proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods rose from 67% in 2014 to 85.2% in 2015.

Figure 3.10: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods



Source: *ZIMSTAT*

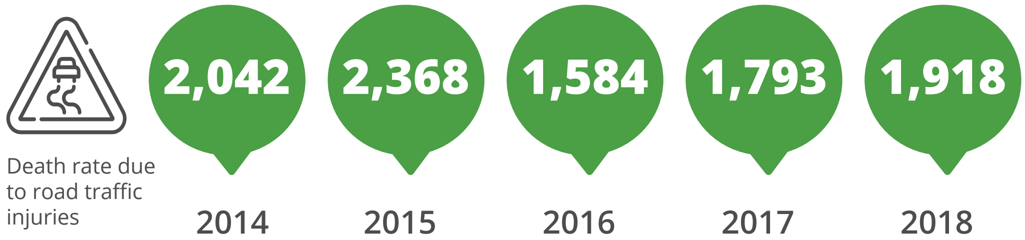
The adolescent birth rate (aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women declined by about 3% from 110 in 2015 to 107 in 2019. This is shown in Figure 3.11.

Figure 3.11: Adolescent birth rate (aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in the age group

Source: *2015 ZDHS, 2014 MICS*

The death rate due to road traffic injuries (reported deaths) rose by 21% from 1,584 in 2016 to 1,918 in 2018 as shown in Figure 3.12. The poor condition of a large part of our road network has had direct and indirect impacts on the road transport safety. The average number of accidents per year between 2010 and 2017 was 36,105 and the average number of people dying as a result of road accidents was 1,836. In 2016, the total number of accidents were 38,620 increasing to 42,430 in 2017.

Figure 3.12: Death rate due to road traffic injuries (reported deaths)



Source: *Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP).*

TThe health system has also been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As at 31 December 2020, Zimbabwe had 13,867 confirmed cases, including 11,250 recoveries and 363 deaths. The country reported its first imported case of COVID-19 on 21 March 2020 with local transmission starting on 24 March. With the rapid spread of COVID-19 across Zimbabwe, the ability of the country to address and respond to NCDs has been impacted. The virus has caused disruptions to health services while at the same time drawing attention to the country NCD burden, as those living with NCDs are at increased risk of becoming severely ill with the virus. Several examples show how the disruption of NCD services has directly affected people. For example, screening, case identification, and referral systems for cancer have all been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in a substantial decrease in cancer diagnoses.

Addressing the burden of non-communicable disease constitutes an integral part of achieving SDG 3, "Good Health and Well-Being". The target set out in SDG 3 is to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, through prevention and treatment, by one-third by 2030. Zimbabwe is making progress to reduce the morbidity and mortality due to hypertension and diabetes by introducing WHO Package of Essential NCD Services (PEN) at the primary care level. WHO PEN is being introduced in two provinces, with additional provinces to be included later. This will see capacity building of healthcare workers, task-shifting, introduction of standardized treatment guidelines and medicines and strengthening the referral pathways.

Meeting the SDG 3 targets in Zimbabwe will require analysis of unmet commitments made in the outcome documents of the 2011 and 2014 UN Higher Level Meetings on NCDs, as well as examination of fiscal measures and the use of price and taxation as effective public health policies. Other NCDs such as renal, oral and eye diseases, as addressed in the Report of the WHO High-level Commission on NCDs, must be monitored as well.

SDG target 3.8 establishes the need for universal access to healthcare and medicines, and of course NCDs are a prominent concern for advocates of universal coverage. WHO PEN, together with other interventions to be introduced by the Ministry of Health and Child Care will help to increase access to NCD services.

The poor condition of a large part of our road network has had direct and indirect impacts on the road transport safety. The average number of accidents per year between 2010 and 2017 was 36,105 and the average number of people dying as a result of road accidents was 1,836. In 2016, the total number of accidents were 38,620 increasing to 42,430 in 2017. Similarly, the number of fatal accidents also increased from 2016 to 1,358 in 2017.

Conclusion and Next steps

Economic growth is vital to sustaining health care financing and realising the right to health care. It is not just the quantum/pace of economic growth that is vital but also the quality/ pattern of that growth. Erratic economic growth has contributed to limited domestic resources being channelled to health. A dwindling taxable formal sector has also contributed to limited domestic resource revenue raising capacity and constrained public sector health financing in the country. The high public debt has crowded out public resources from health care. Government is working on the following:

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of strengthening the public health system and ensuring universal health coverage (UHC). No country can make significant progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) without relying on dominant share of public funds. Public funds are essential for UHC. The current health financing model remains unsustainable as it heavily relies on external financing as well as Out of Pocket (OOP) financing. In line with regional and global best practices, Government is exploring a number of options and strategies for innovative mobilisation of resources. The WHO has been advocating for a sugar tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to fight the scourge of non-communicable diseases. The sugar tax, apart from reducing consumption of sugary drinks, also raises additional revenue for the treasury. As a move towards health financing, Zimbabwe is currently implementing the Health Levy Fund, where 5 cents for every dollar of airtime and mobile data goes to health, under the theme, 'Talk-Surf and Save a Life.' The Ministry of Health and Child Care is ring-fencing the financial resources mobilised through this levy for the purchase of drugs and equipment for public hospitals and clinics.

Although there is private sector participation in health, there is room for improvement in this collaboration. It is important to ensure that the private sector is more involved in both supply of health services and demand for health services. The participation of the private sector in the health sector will help to bridge the huge resource deficit and provide state-of-the-art equipment at public health institutions. Chitungwiza Hospital is a good case study of an institution that has adopted the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) strategy as a way of raising capital and ensuring state-of-the-art equipment. This has resulted in a significant improvement in service delivery. Consequently, Chitungwiza Hospital became the first public hospital in Southern Africa to achieve ISO certification. There is however need for a strong regulatory and governance framework governing PPPS in the health sector.

Public health infrastructure is considered as 'the nerve centre and building blocks of the public health system.' Priority must be on strengthening the referral, district and community health centres to promote preventive health care. Currently there is a bias towards curative interventions and this is not sustainable and must be corrected through greater investments in preventive care. A significantly larger share of the budget should go to the district level. Funding for mobile outreach services so that communities in remote areas and newly resettled areas can access primary health care also needs to be increased. Investing in district and community health systems should be a priority that can contribute towards universal health coverage and the achievement of the SDGs. Basic public health infrastructure in urban, informal, resettlement and rural areas needs to be prioritised.

There is a need to review the staff establishment to reflect the current environment. There is a need for the absorption of all the produced graduates by removing the moratorium on public health posts. As part of the process of expanding coverage to a larger proportion, it is imperative that Human Resources for Health (HRH) planning takes into account demographic trends and developments. Appropriate incentives must be designed to ensure equitable distribution across urban and rural areas ensuring access to health services for underserved populations.

Addressing the essential drugs shortages must also be prioritised. This requires building the capacity of local drugs manufacturers such as the National Pharmaceutical Company and CAPS through import substitution industrialisation. Zimbabwe has a comparative advantage in the pharmaceuticals which must be harnessed through government support. The country should use the opportunity presented by COVID-19 crises to implement the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Africa so as to progressively reduce over-reliance on external suppliers for drugs and medicines.

SDG 4: Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education

Introduction

The country's Constitution provides and protects the right to education under Sections 27 and 75. The country has come up with an Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) which covers the period 2016-2020. The strategic plan provides clear goals for the education sector, and describes the processes for regular monitoring of progress. The ESSP commits to:

- Review the 2006 Education Act in the light of the new constitution and the policy development with preparation of legal and regulatory amendments needed;
- Prepare and implement policy on: a) School level financing; b) ICT for the education sector; c) School feeding; d) Inclusive Education; e) Assessment for the infant years and review/ develop the assessment framework for new areas such as the Life Skills Orientation Programme; f) policy and/regulatory framework for Teacher Professional Standards; and, g) Infant/Early Childhood policy;
- Finalize the School Health Policy Implementation Strategy and Costed 5-year implementation plan;
- Review: a) the 2013 guidelines on School functionality standards to allow for variations and flexibility for local solutions; and, b) Statutory Instrument 87 of 1992 in order to rationalize School Development Committees and School Development Associations into a single entity and align to the Education Amendment Act of 2020.

The ESSP has the following core programmes: the introduction, monitoring and adjustment of the new curriculum from ECD A through to 'A' level; infrastructure; teacher quality improvement programme; institutional change and capacity development programme; and education research and development.

The Education Amendment Act, 2020 which came into effect on 6 March 2020 aligns the Education Act (Chapter 25:04) with the Constitution. The Education Amendment Act provides for compulsory basic state funded education. The Act provides that no pupil shall be excluded from school for non-payment of school fees or on the basis of pregnancy. The Act also provides that pupils are not subject to any form of physical or psychological torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment at school, and prohibits corporal punishment. The Act guarantees the right of pupils with disabilities to be provided with suitable infrastructure. with suitable infrastructure.

Government has established a National Steering Committee on SDG 4 bringing together the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education; Education Coalition of Zimbabwe; Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Recreation; Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Regional Office for Southern Africa. The role of the Committee is to produce the SDG 4 National Action Plan. A Draft National Action Plan (NAP) has been produced by an inter-ministerial, inter-agency team.

The Government, through the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development in collaboration with UNESCO undertook a situational analysis of TVET Zimbabwe and produced a report which is currently under review. The situational analysis will pave way for the development of the National TVET Policy.

The UN has supported the Educations sector through the School Improvement Grant (SIG), aimed at providing financially constrained schools with resources to address their most basic needs and meet a set of school functionality standards. The programme prioritizes funding to the schools serving the poorest communities and with the poorest levels of resource. Between 2016 – 2019, SIG disbursed about USD34,195,000 to disadvantaged school benefiting over 3741,347 disadvantaged leaners cumulatively including children with disabilities and over 50% girls

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education is implementing School Infrastructure Programme through Joint Venture Partnerships and other Public Private Partnership arrangements, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development (OFID) government loan facility and multi-stakeholder contributions for the construction of new schools, expansion of existing ones as well as rehabilitation of dilapidated school infrastructure. The School Infrastructure Programme also includes school connectivity and e-learning and e-administration/governance and school WASH. OFID funds amounted to US$20 million while government allocated US$2 million as counterpart funding. Under this OFID facility, the construction of 17 new schools, distributed across the country, was initiated in 2018.

Progress and Challenges

The Government has adopted the Inclusive Education Policy to ensure that no child including persons with disabilities are not left behind. This has also seen the introduction of Disability Management and Aging Issues as a compulsory subject. Tables 4.1-4.3, show enrolment figures in Teachers Colleges; Universities; Polytechnics and Industrial Training Colleges over the period 2017 to 2020 respectively. The total number of students enrolled in Universities continued to increase due to expansion and establishment of new Universities.

Table 4.1: Teachers Colleges Enrolment

Year	Males	Females	Total
2017	9,088	19,522	28,610
2019	3,359	8,809	12,168
2020	4,859	17,461	22,320

Source: *Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development*

Table 4.2: Total University Enrolment

Year	Males	Females	Total
2017	43,273	47,646	90,909
2018	43,432	50,699	94,131
2019	51,535	60,149	111,684

Source: *Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development*

Table 4.3: Total Polytechnics and Industrial Training Colleges Enrolment

Year	Males	Females	Total
2017	14,966	8,604	23,570
2018	15,026	9,337	24,363
2019	18,123	13,903	32,026
2020	18,708	14,331	33,039

Source: *Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development*

The Government is also providing the youth with technical and vocational skills to economically empower and facilitate their participation in the mainstream economy. In 2020, 1,831 students comprising of 1,459 males and 372 females were enrolled in technical and vocational training courses. The number of youths trained in Vocational Training Centres increased from 12,871 in 2017 to 13,212 in 2018 and declined to 12,000 in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Table 4.4 shows the number of youths trained in various vocational training centres.

Table 4.4: Vocational Training & Courses Undertaken

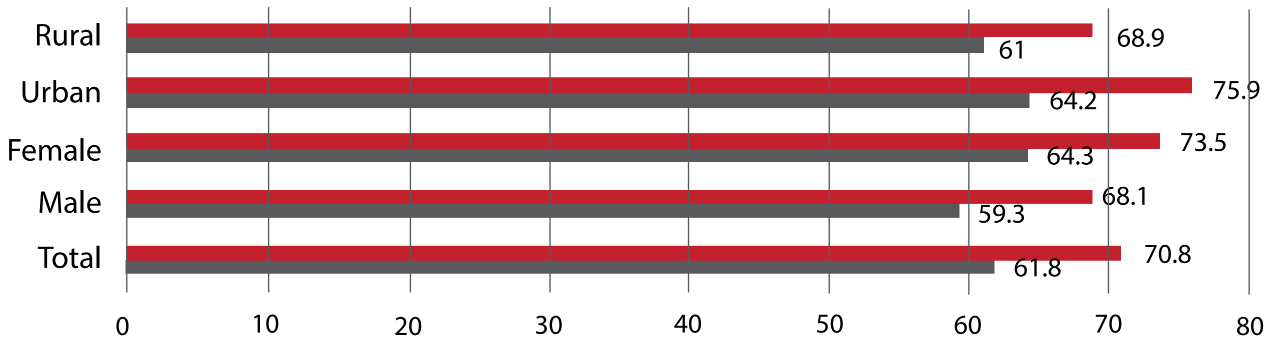
Year	Number of Youth Trained	Courses Undertaken
2017	12 871	Carpentry and joinery, Agriculture, Building, Clothing Tech, Metal Fab, Leather Tech, Automobile, Tourism & Hospitality Mgt, Mining, Plumbing, Cosmetology, Electrical Eng.
2018	13 212	Carpentry and joinery, Agriculture, Building, Clothing Tech, Metal Fab, Leather Tech, Automobile, Tourism & Hospitality Mgt, Mining, Plumbing, Cosmetology, Electrical Eng
2019	10 950	Carpentry and joinery, Agriculture, Building, Clothing Tech, Metal Fab, Leather Tech, Automobile, Tourism & Hospitality Mgt, Mining, Plumbing, Cosmetology, Electrical Eng
2020	12 000	Carpentry and joinery, Agriculture, Building, Clothing Tech, Metal Fab, Leather Tech, Automobile, Tourism & Hospitality Mgt, Mining, Plumbing, Cosmetology, Electrical Eng

***Source:** Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development*

To be able to fully implement the new Competence Based Curriculum a school must have access to Information Communication Technology (ICT). This is going to be more important in the future due to COVID-19. The prerequisite of ICT access is electricity. The use of ICT gadgets and connectivity to the Internet is largely affected by the availability of power sources. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) report (2019) states 40.07% of primary schools and 26.64% of secondary schools do not have access to electricity. This presents a challenge to the use and access to online teaching and learning materials for these schools. Further, 26.25% of primary schools and 42.76% of secondary schools have access to the Internet. A total of 920 primary schools, and 691 have no access to the Internet. Progress milestones include the draft ICT policy as well as school digitisation programme and increased budget support for the procurement of ICT equipment for disadvantaged schools.

The country has made good progress in terms of early child development index (%) as shown in Figure 4.1with the total early child development index rising from 61.8% in 2014 to 70.8% in 2019

Figure 4.1: Early Child Development Index (%)



	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
2019	70.8	68.1	73.5	75.9	68.9
2014	61.8	59.3	64.3	64.2	61

Source: *2019 MICS, 2014 MICS*

According to the 2019 MICS, the participation rate (net attendance ratio) in organized learning i.e. attending an early childhood education programme (one year before the official primary entry age) was 81.0% in 2019 up from 21.6% in 2014 (2014 MICS). The participation rate is higher for males at 82.0% when compared with females at 79.8%. The urban areas have a participation rate of 82.9% while its 80.3% in rural areas. Masvingo has the highest participation rate at 93.5% while Mashonaland Central has the lowest at 67.2%.

Generally, the completion rate[15] decreases, with the level of education as presented in Table 4.1. For instance, at ECD level the completion rate was 92.3% in 2018 up from 75.4% in 2014, with near gender parity and has generally increased, with the same trend for both females and males. At primary school level the completion rate was 77.6% in 2018, with gender parity in favour of females. The primary school completion rate has remained generally stable over the period 2014-2018. At lower secondary level the completion rate was 63.1% in 2018 down from 67.4% in 2017, with gender parity in favour of males. The completion rate at the upper secondary level was 14.9% in 2018 up from 11.0% in 2014, with gender parity in favour of males.

14 Percentage of children age 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning

15 The completion rate indicates how many persons in a given age group have completed primary, lower secondary, or upper secondary education. It indicates how many children and adolescents enter school on time and progress through the education system without excessive delays.

Table 4.1: Completion rates (%), 2014-2018

Completion Rate (%)												
Year	ECD			Primary			Lower Secondary Secondary			Upper		
	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

Source: *2018 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report*

The proportion of primary schools with electricity improved from 47.4% in 2017 to 55.0% in 2018 (see Table 4.2). At secondary level, the proportion of schools with electricity declined from 68.9% in 2017 to 59.4% in 2018. The main sources of electricity used by schools are gas turbine, generator, grid and solar. As at 2018, most schools use grid as their main source of electricity at 46.5% and 58.5% for primary and secondary schools respectively.

Table 4.2: Access to electricity, 2016-2018

	Primary		Secondary	
	Schools with electricity (%)	Schools without electricity (%)	Schools with electricity (%)	Schools without electricity (%)
2016	53.33	46.67	59.40	40.60
2017	47.41	52.59	68.90	31.10
2018	54.96	45.04	59.40	28.53

Source: *2018 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report*

The proportion of primary schools with access to a water source rose from 95.8% in 2017 to 98.6% in 2018 while the proportion of secondary schools with access to a water source improved from 95.8% in 2017 to 97.5% in 2018 (see Table 4.3). As at 2018, the proportion of schools getting water from safe sources namely: boreholes, piped water and protected wells is 86.6% for primary and 89.6% for secondary schools. Both primary and secondary schools, mostly get water from boreholes, followed by piped water, and protected wells. The proportions of schools getting water from unsafe sources such as streams/rivers, unprotected wells, dams and abstraction springs are 11.9% for primary and 9.4% for secondary schools.

Table 4.3: Access to basic water, 2016-2018

	Primary		Secondary	
	Schools with water source (%)	Schools without water source (%)	Schools with water source (%)	Schools without water source (%)
2016	98.16	1.84	98.34	1.66
2017	95.79	4.21	95.80	4.20
2018	98.58	1.42	97.49	2.51

Source: *2018 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report*

With respect to access to computers for learners (see Table 4.4), 53.0% of all primary schools have access up from 24.5% in 2017, while 71.7% of all secondary schools have access up from 51.8% in 2017.

Table 4.4: Access to computers, 2016-2018

	Primary		Secondary	
	Schools with computers for learners (%)	Schools without computers for learners (%)	Schools with computers for learners (%)	Schools without computers for learners (%)
2016	18.54	81.46	49.69	50.31
2017	24.5	75.5	51.8	48.2
2018	52.99	47.01	71.68	28.32

Source: *2018 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report*

Overall, 20.02% of the primary schools have internet connectivity in 2018, with a higher percentage of 39.67% for secondary schools as presented in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Access to internet

	Primary		Secondary	
	Schools with internet (%)	Schools without internet (%)	Schools with internet (%)	Schools without internet (%)
2018	20.02	79.98	39.67	60.33

Source: *2018 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report*

The share of both women and men who have carried out at least one of nine specific computer related activities[16] during the last 3 months has also been on an upward trajectory as shown in Figure 4.2, even though there are gender gaps.

16 These activities include: copied or moved a file or folder; used a copy and paste tool to duplicate or move information within a document; sent e-mail with attached file, such as a document, picture or video; used a basic arithmetic formula in a spreadsheet; connected and installed a new device, such as a modem, camera or printer; found, downloaded, installed and configured software; created an electronic presentation with presentation software, including text, images, sound, video or charts; transferred a file between a computer and other device; wrote a computer program in any programming language.

Figure 4.2: Percentage of women and men who have carried out at least one of nine specific computer related activities during the last 3 months

	15-24 years	15-49 years
Women	14.7	13.1
Men	21.6	22.3

Source: *2019 MICS*

Table 4.6 presents the proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; and (c) secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country. The proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training at pre-primary level rose from 32.7% in 2014 to 58.5% by 2018, while for primary level it rose from 89.2% to 97.4% in 2017 before slightly declining to 97.1%. At secondary level, the proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training increased from 74.2% in 2014 to 85.5% in 2018.

Table 4.6: Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training

Level/ sub-group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pre-primary	32.7	39.9	50.5	52.9	58.5
Primary	89.2	93.9	97.2	97.4	97.1
Secondary	74.2	76.1	80.1	83.7	85.5

Source: *ZIMSTAT SDGs database.*

Table 4.7 presents percentages of children age 7-14 years who correctly answered foundational reading tasks and numeracy skills, respectively, by age. More work still needs to be done to reach at least 50% of the children.

Table 4.7: Children with foundational reading and number skills

Age	Percentage of children who successfully completed three foundational reading skills	Percentage of children who successfully completed four foundational number tasks
Age 7-14	44.4	24.6
Age for grade 2/3	21.6	6.2
Attendance grade 2/3	19.6	5.1

Source: *2019 MICS*

Table 4.8 shows the education parity indices by gender, wealth, and area. Generally, when an index value falls between 0.97 and 1.03, it is regarded as parity between two groups. The further from 1.00 that a parity index lies, the greater the disparity between groups. There is parity at the level of organised learning (one year younger than the official primary school entry age) and near parity at the primary school level. The upper secondary school level only shows parity with respect to gender.

Table 4.8: Education Parity Indices by Gender, Wealth, and Area

	Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for girls divided by net attendance ratio (adjusted) for boys	Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for the poorest quintile divided by net attendance ratio (adjusted) for the richest quintile	Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for rural residents divided by net attendance ratio (adjusted) for urban residents
Organised learning (one year younger than the official primary school entry age)	1.0	1.1	1.1
Primary school	1.02	0.88	0.95
Lower secondary school	1.19	0.43	0.67
Upper secondary school	1.00	0.01	0.14

Source: *2019 MICS*

The country continues to face a serious challenge with the high levels of school dropouts. There were 20,400 dropouts at primary school level (including ECD) and 37,081 at the secondary school level as at 2018. The main reasons for dropping out of primary school are absconding (45.1%) and financial reasons (32.9%). A total of 231 learners drooped out of school for marriage reasons and 180 for pregnancy ones, most of them being females. At secondary level 3 836 learners (female 3,558: males 278) dropped out of school for marriage reasons and 2 912 (females 2,861: males 51) for pregnancy ones. Similarly, the main reasons for dropping out of secondary school are financial reasons (46.6%) and absconding (27.8%). More males than females dropped out of secondary school because of financial reasons, absconding, death and expulsion. In times of economic hardships, older boys may be dropping out of school to supplement household incomes. This is contrary to the general belief that people have sceptical attitudes towards the benefits of educating girls.

The 2020 National Budget, made a provision of US$22 million to support free education starting with Rural Primary Schools (P3) and Rural Secondary Schools (S3) and US$11.2 million for the provision of free sanitary wear with the programme expected to be expanded yearly on and incremental basis. Further, US$9.2 million was allocated for payment of subsidy for examination fees for children in public schools in order to cushion learners and ensure inclusivity on public examination despite one's economic background.

Conclusion and Next steps

There is need to reorient the system from the past focus on public examination results towards a holistic competence-based approach to measuring learning outcomes that include both the formative and summative indicators at all levels in the education system. Prioritising the education and training of young girls and women in the STEM fields will help to bridge the gender gap, together with appropriate interventions for boys at risk of drop out and poor learning outcomes. More public resources need to be invested to address the inadequate school infrastructure including Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities, improved disability access features and provisions, science laboratories, libraries, electricity, computers, water and sanitation among others.

Investing in school infrastructure especially in the rural areas is vital to improving overall learning outcomes. It has been demonstrated that good school infrastructure enhances pedagogy, improves student outcomes, enable schools and learners to realise the full potential of technology, as well as contributing towards the reduction of drop outs. While urban schools are better equipped than the rural schools, there is the challenge of overcrowding in many urban schools with a number of schools having to resort to hot sitting (operating shifts) to accommodate the many students.

The COVID-19 pandemic widened the gap between the have and have nots in both rural and urban, and access to education for the most vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities. Rural leaners faced more acute challenges to access to online alternatives platforms particularly the radio lessons and e-learning platforms. This was due to the cost internet bundles, lack of gadgets and reach of local broadcasting bandwidth coverage as well as institutional capacity for inclusive for delivery of lessons to learners from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The COVID19 pandemic also impacted on educational access as evidenced by pattern of school dropout by gender and school level. Among the reason are financial constraints were the highest, pregnancies, child labour and abscondment .

It is necessary to ensure that adequate budgetary resources are allocated to ensure the implementation of the Education Amendment Act.

SDG 5: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Introduction

The Constitution provides a robust legal framework for the promotion of SDG 5. In particular, Section 3(g) of the Constitution clearly spells out gender equality as one of the founding and guiding values placed on a par with values such as the rule of law and good governance. Section 56 (2) of the Constitution clearly states that 'Women and men have the right to equal treatment including to the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.' Section 56 (3) states that 'Every person has the right not to be treated in an unfairly discriminatory manner on such grounds as custom, culture sex gender, marital status, age, pregnancy, disability among other grounds.' Section 17 calls upon Government to ensure full gender balance and to take measures to promote the full participation of women in all spheres on the basis of equality with men. This includes equal representation in all institutions, agencies of government, commissions and other elective bodies at all levels. Women's access to resources, including land on the basis of equality with men is also guaranteed. Furthermore, Section 124(1) (b) provides for seats reserved for women. The reservation of seats is aimed at promoting female participation in the political sphere.

The country has come up with a revised National Gender Policy (NGP) (2017) which seeks to achieve a gender just society where men and women enjoy equality and participate as equal partners in the development process. The goal of the revised NGP is 'to eradicate gender discrimination and inequalities in all spheres of life and development.' The thematic areas of the revised NGP have been aligned to the SDGs. On the 23rd of October 2019 Zimbabwe launched the National Gender Policy Implementation Strategy and Action Plan to increase stakeholders' commitment to achieving gender equality and women empowerment. In 2019, Zimbabwe also launched the National Action Plan and Communication Strategy on Ending Child

The country has also developed a National Gender Based Violence Strategy and a National Programme on GBV Prevention and Response (2016-2020).

In order to facilitate financial inclusion for women, Zimbabwe established and operationalised the Zimbabwe Women Micro Finance Bank in January 2017. The Bank is benefitting women including women in rural areas through providing financial assistance at low interest rates and flexible collateral terms which includes goats and cows; the collateral most ordinary women have. Government through the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises has established a Women Development Fund which is a platform that provides loans to women's projects at an interest rate of 10% per annum. The Fund provides financial assistance to women in all the key economic sectors which include mining, tourism, trade, manufacturing and agriculture. The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises has also set up the Zimbabwe Community Development Fund (ZCDF) to provide technical and financial support to community projects in agriculture and value addition thus contributing to the achievement of SDG 2 on Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Progress and Challenges

According to the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), Zimbabwe has seen improvements in laws and policies concerning gender equality. In 2008, the country had a score of 1.5 on policies for social inclusion/equity which increased to 3.7 in 2018 (1 is the lowest and 6 the highest level). In 2018, Zimbabwe's score specific to gender equity was 4.0 which was above the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) average of 3.2. This indicates that the country has developed policies to promote gender equality in education, health, and political leadership.

In 2013, Zimbabwe adopted a new Constitution that provides for equal rights for women, including for inheritance and property. In practice, however, existing laws continue to apply only to widows in officially registered marriages. Indications show that most marriages in Zimbabwe are conducted under customary law and are not registered.

In order to facilitate for increased representation of women in decision making positions in politics, the public and private sectors, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises developed a National Strategy for women in decision making. There is also a special quota in the Constitution for 60 additional seats in the lower house of assembly and election to senate through proportional representation. Table 5.1 shows the participation of women and men in selected public decision-making positions as at 2019. Women constituted about 44% of members of the Upper House of Parliament and 32% in the Lower House. However, women constituted 50% of the Provincial Ministers and 30% of Cabinet Ministers. There are no women Vice Chancellors of State Universities, while women constitute 18.2% of Ambassadors.

Table 5.1: Participation of Women and Men in Selected Public Decision-Making Positions, 2019

Institution/Area	Women	Men	Total	% Share of Women
Parliament-Lower House	85	185	270	31.5
Parliament-Upper House	35	45	80	43.8
Cabinet Ministers	6	14	20	30
Provincial Ministers	5	5	10	50
Vice Chancellors of State Universities	0	11	11	0
Ambassadors	4	18	22	18.2

Source: *Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) Understanding Gender Equality in Zimbabwe: 2019 Women and Men Report.*

Representation of women in decision-making bodies has generally increased as shown in Figures 5.1 and 5.2. The representation of women in the Senate increased from 23.2 percent in 2012 to 47.5 percent in 2017 before declining to 43.8 percent in 2019 and from 16 percent in 2012 to 31.9 percent in 2019 in the National Assembly. Even though women constitute the majority of voters, there was a decline in the women elected in the National Assembly during the 2018 elections with only about 12 percent women being elected in the National Assembly outside the women's quota system.

Table 5.2 shows the distribution of women and men occupying senior positions in the public sector for the period 2018-19. There has been an improvement in the share of women in the top positions in the public service over the period. For example, the share of women Permanent Secretaries significantly improved from 31.8% in 2018 to 57.1% in 2019, while the share of women Chief Directors marginally rose from 23.7% in 2018 to 24.6% in 2019. The share of women Directors increased from 27.5% in 2018 to 29.6% in 2019, while the share of women Deputy Directors also increased from 25.5% in 2018 to 28.9% in 2019.

Table 5.2: Share of Women in the Top Positions in the Public Service, 2018 and 2019

Designation	2018			2019		
	Women	Men	% Share of Women	Women	Men	% Share of Women
Permanent Secretaries	7	15	31.8	8	14	57.1
Chief Directors	13	42	23.7	14	43	24.6
Directors	72	190	27.5	79	188	29.6
Deputy Directors	151	442	25.5	174	429	28.9

Source: *Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) Understanding Gender Equality in Zimbabwe: 2019 Women and Men Report.*

Table 5.3 shows the distribution of personnel working in the Judicial Service Commission for the period 2016 to 2019. Women were highly represented in Labour Court. In 2018 and 2019, women outnumber men at the Magistrates Court.

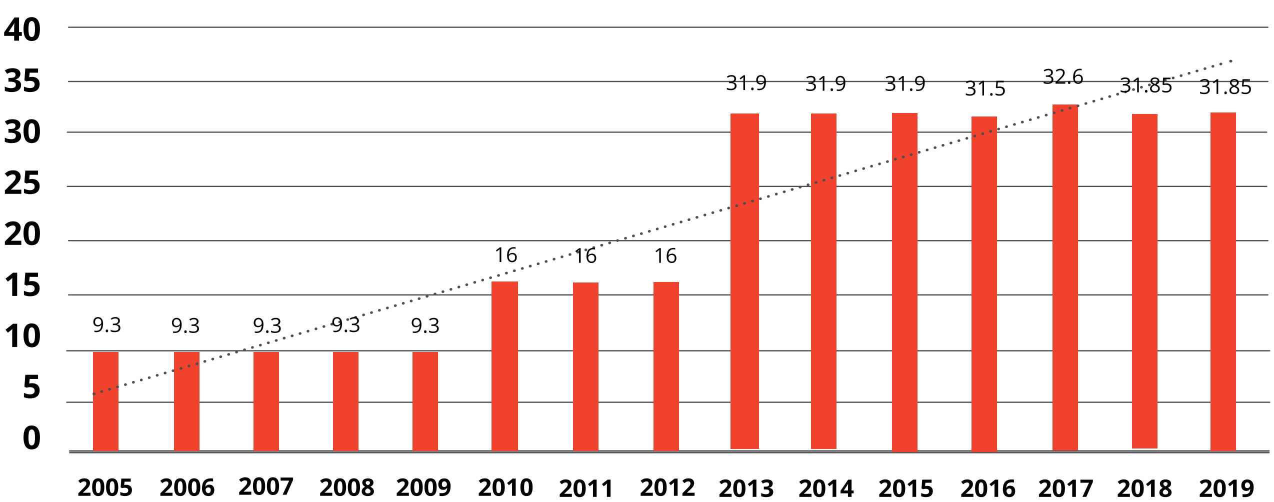
Table 5.3: Distribution of Positions in the Judiciary by Sex, 2016-2019

	2016		2017		2018		2019	
Constitutional and Supreme Court	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Chief Justice	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Deputy Chief Justice	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Judges	5	5	6	4	6	6	5	6
High Court								
Judge President	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Judges	13	18	13	16	14	21	14	21
Labour Court								
Senior Judge	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Judges	10	4	10	4	9	4	9	4
Magistrates Court								
Magistrates	94	108	90	101	116	108	118	104

Source: *Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) Understanding Gender Equality in Zimbabwe: 2019 Women and Men Report.*

Representation of women in decision-making bodies has generally increased as shown in Figures 5.1 and 5.2. The representation of women in the Senate increased from 23.2% in 2012 to 47.5% in 2017 before declining to 43.8% in 2019 and from 16% in 2012 to 31.9% in 2019 in the National Assembly. Even though women constitute the majority of voters, there was a decline in the women elected in the National Assembly during the 2018 elections with only about 12% women being elected in the National Assembly outside the women's quota system.

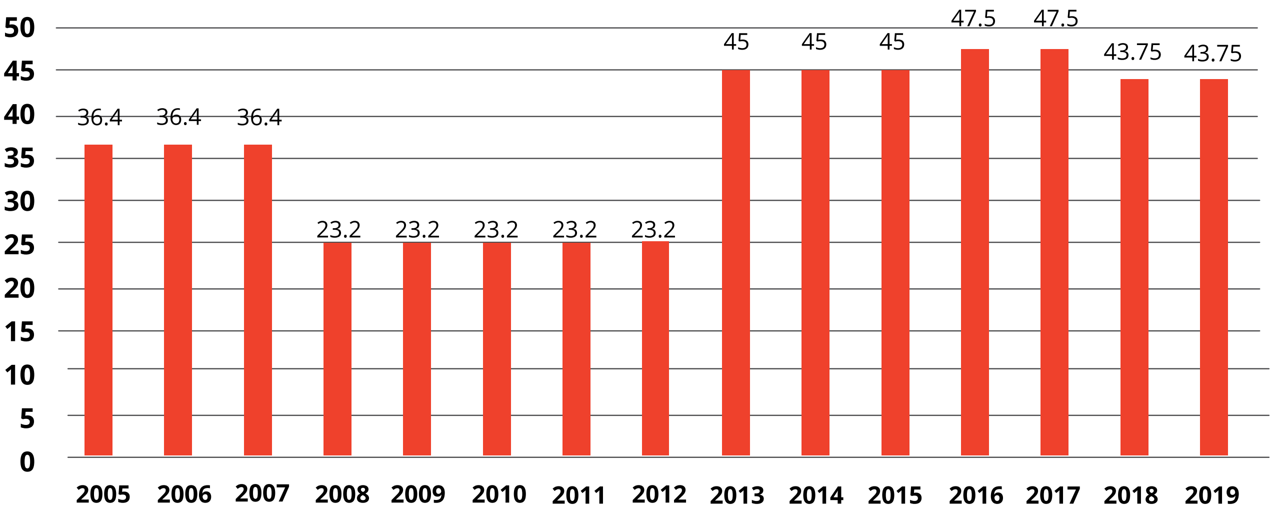
Figure 5.1: Proportion of women in the National Assembly (%)



Source: *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) PARLINE database.*

There is near gender parity in terms of mobile phone ownership in both the urban and rural areas as presented in Figure 5.3. Mobile phone ownership helps to improve communication, social exclusion and productivity.

Figure 5.2: Proportion of women in the senate (%)



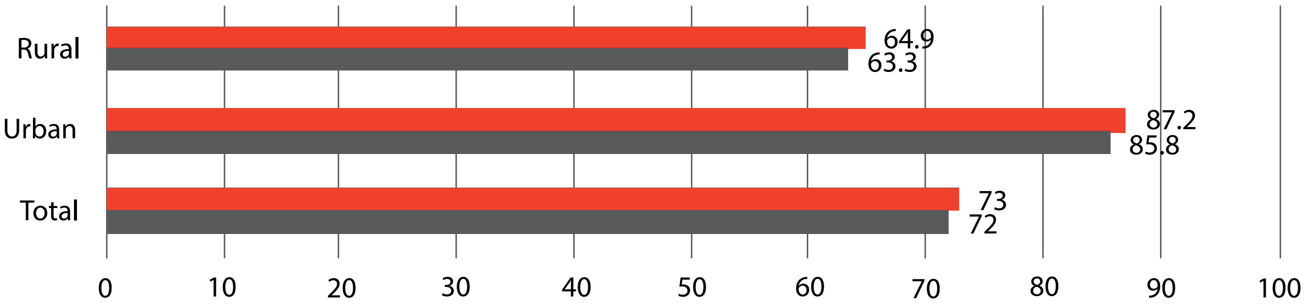
Source: *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) PARLINE database.*

Table 5.4 shows the composition of State University Councils/Boards by sex as at 2020, with women constituting 50.3% of the total positions.

Table 5:4. Composition of State Universities Councils/Boards by Sex, 2020

STATE UNIVERSITIES COUNCILS/BOARDS			
APPOINTMENTS BY GENDER			
INSTITUTION	**MALE**	**FEMALE**	**TOTAL**
Bindura University of Science Education	5	5	10
Chinhoyi University of Technology	7	7	14
Great Zimbabwe University	5	8	13
Gwanda State University	6	7	13
Harare Institute of Technology	4	4	8
Lupane State University	11	5	16
Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences	6	7	13
Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology	6	6	12
Midlands State University	3	5	8
National University of Science and Technology	6	5	11
University of Zimbabwe	7	10	17
Zimbabwe Open University	6	6	12
Zimbabwe Council For Higher Education	9	7	16
Grand Total	81	82	163

Figure 5.3: Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who own a mobile phone

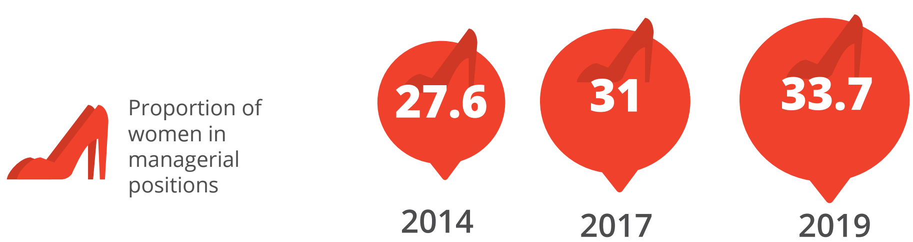


	Total	Urban	Rural
Men	73	87.2	64.9
Women	72	85.8	63.3

Source: *2019 MICS*

Women are still hugely under-represented in senior management and leadership positions as shown in Figure 5.4 and Figure 5.5. It has been proven that female representation in top management brings informational and social diversity advantages and benefits to the executive team as well as enhancing organisational performance. Some of the barriers to female organisational upward mobility that need to addressed include: societal attitudes, expectations and stereotypes regarding the role of women in the family exacerbated by the fact the majority of the burden of child rearing is on mothers. There are still inherent organisational structures, policies and corporate cultures that make it difficult for women to break the glass ceiling in the corporate and organisational world.

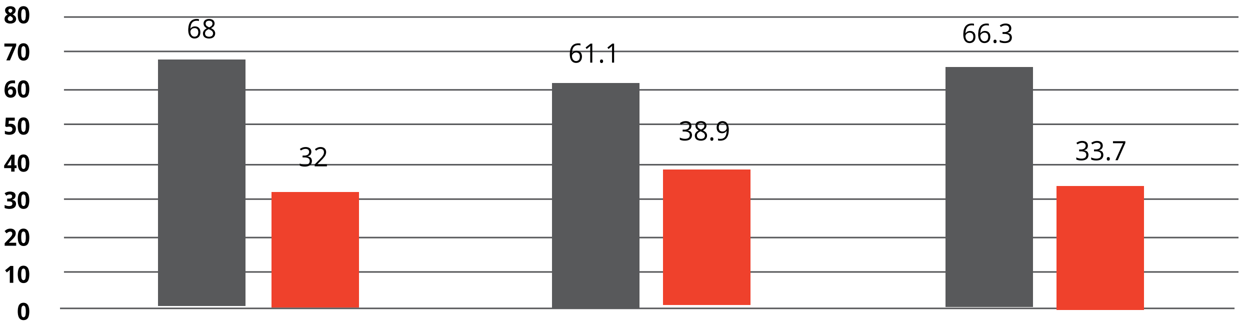
Figure 5.4: Proportion of women in managerial positions



Source: *2019 LFCLS, 2017 ICDS, 2014 LFCLS*

The proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 declined from 32.5 percent in 2015 to 21.6 percent in 2017 and 33.7 percent in 2019 as presented in Table 5.4. The implementation of the National Action Plan and Communication Strategy on Ending Child marriage (2019-2021) is expected to result in a further reduction in child marriages.

Figure 5.5: Share of Women in Middle and Senior Management by Area and Sex



	Urban	Rural	Total
Men	68	61.1	66.3
Women	32	38.9	33.7

Source: *2015 ZDHS, 2017 ICDS, 2019 MICS.*

The 2018 female Human Development Index (HDI) value for Zimbabwe is 0.540 in contrast with 0.584 for males, resulting in a Gender Development Index (GDI) value of 0.925, placing it into Group 4 (see Table 5.5). In comparison, GDI values for Kenya and Lesotho are 0.933 and 1.026 respectively.

Table 5.5: Zimbabwe's GDI for 2018 relative to selected countries and groups

	Life expectancy at birth		Expected years of schooling		Mean years of schooling		GNI per capita		HDI values		F-M ratio
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	GDI value
Zimbabwe	62.6	59.5	10.3	10.6	7.6	9.0	2,280	3,080	0.540	0.584	0.925
Kenya	68.7	64.0	10.3	10.9	6.0	7.2	2,619	3,490	0.553	0.593	0.933
Lesotho	57.0	50.6	11.1	10.3	7.0	5.5	2,641	3,864	0.522	0.509	1.026
SSA	62.9	59.4	9.3	10.4	4.8	6.6	2,752	4,133	0.507	0.569	0.891
Medium HDI	70.9	67.8	11.9	11.5	5.0	7.8	2,787	9,528	0.571	0.676	0.845

Source: *UNDP 2019 Human Development Report*

Achieving sustainable development is being undermined by inadequate investment in the care economy. Women and girls are providing many hours of unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) and yet that work is under-recognized, undervalued and under-invested in. In the rural areas of Zimbabwe, women spend more than four times as many hours per day than men on unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW). Furthermore, limited access to sexual and reproductive health services imply that most rural women cannot choose if and when to have children[17]. This can increase women's care load and exacerbate existing inequalities in caregiving as well as the incidence of gender-based violence.

Table 5.4: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18

	2014	2015	2017	2019
Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18	33.5	32.5	21.6	33.7
Proportion of men aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18	2.1	-	-	1.9

shown that improved access to health services, electricity as well as an improved water source is associated with a reduction in the time women spend on UCDW, and the time girls spend in school.

Table 5.8 shows the number of bank accounts opened by women and loans disbursed through the Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank (ZWMB).
Table 5:8: Number of savings accounts opened by women and loans disbursed through the ZWMB

Province	Savings Accounts opened as at 30 November 2019	Loans disbursed to women from August 2018 – 30 November 2019
Harare	8,591	1,274
Bulawayo	5,386	353
Mashonaland West	9,114	1,663
Mashonaland East	8,662	374
Mashonaland Central	6,643	1,137
Midlands	12,287	7,601
Manicaland	8,304	953
Matabeleland North	3,631	228
Matabeleland South	4,155	138
Masvingo	8,678	3,678
Mobile Platform Loan Facility		29,480
Total	75,451	46,879

Source: Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development

A total of 2,279 women's groups were funded through the Women's Development Fund with a total loan amount of ZW$4 281 107.00. The Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA) also spear headed programmes like the international open data day on 7th March 2020, to educate the girl child on the importance of open data. Free and accessible information will benefit the girl child especially those in rural areas who are often deprived of their rights through early marriages, rape, forced marriages and domestic violence. Achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls with requisite information and data is in line with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLAI).

COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities in the country. Zimbabwe experienced an increase in gender-based violence. According UNOCHA (2021a), a total of 8,563 GBV cases were reported through the National GBV hotline in 2020, this represents a 175% increase compared with 4,876 GBV cases reported through the hotline in 2019. Furthermore, according to UNOCHA (2021b), the national GBV Hotline (Musasa) has recorded a total of 6,832 GBV calls from the beginning of the lockdown on 30 March until the end of December (1,312 in April, 915 in May 2020, 779 in June, 753 in July, 766 in August, 629 in September, 546 in October, and 567 in November and 565 in December), with an overall average increase of over 40% compared to the pre-lockdown trends. About 94% of the calls are from women. Psychological violence remains the most frequent form (55% of total cases) followed by physical violence (22% of total cases), economic violence (15%) and sexual violence (8%). About 90% of cases are intimate partner violence. The stress, loss of jobs and incomes as well as the stay-at-home orders associated with the lockdowns exacerbate the risk of violence against women.

Promoting Rural Women Entrepreneurship: The case of ZIMPLATS[18]

ZIMPLATS embarked on the local enterprises development (LED) programme in 2013 which refers to the development of indigenous suppliers who are geographically located around ZIMPLATS' mining and processing operations. ZIMPLATS effectively partners with these suppliers by procuring goods and services from them through a structured LED programme. The programme identifies business talent and develops these businesses thereby enhancing economic activities for the benefit of both the communities and the country. In FY2018, a decision was made to migrate the LED programme from a provincial level to national focus. FY2018 recorded a total of 20 LED programmes up from 11 in the previous year. About 60% of these are women owned enterprises. Payments to LED programmes increased steadily through the year. ZIMPLATS provided a secure market for the 20 enterprises leading to US$42,918,089 revenue generation for the LED. This revenue stream enabled the companies to stabilise their operations and, in some cases, develop new business lines. ZIMPLATS assisted the LED initiatives with various forms of training to ensure that they are able to provide competitive goods and services. Additional support provided to LED included procurement chain support; safety and compliance audits; improvement in lines of business. Telstone Trading is a success story of a woman owned enterprise that has been capacitated by ZIMPLATS. The enterprise is based in Kadoma and specialises in safety clothing in Kadoma. The enterprise is employing 10 employees and supplies all safety wear for ZIMPLATS and industries all over Zimbabwe.

ZIMPLATS has also invested in a major community health project where it refurbished Kadoma General Hospital in order to improve healthcare delivery at one of the major referral hospitals in the country. Kadoma General Hospital, built in the pre-independence era, is located in the Mashonaland West Province. The hospital delivers healthcare services to patients in Kadoma urban, Mhondoro and Sanyati rural districts. The hospital has a bed capacity of 200 and an average admissions rate of 150 patients per day. The general hospital had been unable to implement basic asset maintenance over the years thereby compromising its ability to deliver its mandate of providing quality healthcare to its patients. There was no access to potable water and ablution facilities for patients were no longer working.

Furthermore, the Mhondoro Ngezi Community Share Ownership Trust (CSOT) continues to function effectively and continues to carve a discernible footprint within the community through the establishment of a number of infrastructural development projects which have contributed to the improvement of local livelihoods. To date, the Trust has completed 162 projects in health and education and drilled more than 20 boreholes enhancing community access to potable water. They have also purchased road maintenance equipment to assist the districts in providing access to decent roads. The CSOT has purchased a 33% shareholding in a poultry company and, in addition to dividends, the Trust also generates income from producer contracts for poultry and eggs. Surrounding communities participate as out growers and suppliers to the poultry company. Management has been engaging the CSOT on implementation of equity participation in the operating subsidiary by the Trust in a manner similar to the Employee Share Ownership Trust (ESOT). Processing of the 10% equity is underway.

In rural areas of Zimbabwe, women spend more than four times as many hours per day than men on unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW). The mental and physical demands of UCDW leave many women exhausted. Moreover, more than a third of rural women reported injury or illness owing to unpaid care, with over half of these women saying the harm was long-lasting and resulted in lost days of work. Furthermore, limited access to sexual and reproductive health services imply that most rural women cannot choose if and when to have children. This can increase women's care load and exacerbate existing inequalities in caregiving. It has been shown that improved access to health services, electricity as well as an improved water source is associated with a reduction in the time women spend on UCDW, and with girls spending studying .

Conclusion and Next Steps

Although Zimbabwe has made significant strides, there are still a number of gender related challenges in the political, economic and social sectors which are militating against the exercise and enjoyment of women's rights. These include:

• Weak programming not backed by gender statistics: Programming still needs to be strengthened through the use of available gender statistics and a gender analysis to make gender mainstreaming more effective.
• Laws and policies have been enacted for an enabling legal environment against gender-based violence, however there is need for strengthened support for the enforcement of laws and policies.
• Socio-cultural practices and attitudes continue to perpetuate the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, which negatively affects their abilities to exercise many of their socio-economic rights.
• The majority of women are concentrated in vulnerable employment in the informal sector. Women, who are in the formal economy, remain largely excluded from financial services and products that cater for both their business and household needs.

Public investment in health, renewable energy, public transport, improved water sources and labour-saving technologies and practices especially in agriculture, are critical for reducing the disproportionate burden of UCDW on women and girls which is critical in reducing poverty and inequality.

Weak institutions to deal with SGBV and lack of coordinated mechanisms for reporting and information management also exacerbate the problems. Strengthening institutional mechanisms dealing with SGBV prevention and response including systems for data management need to be prioritised. Programmes such as one stop centres have been effective in providing integrated support services and holistic SGBV services (health, security, legal and psychosocial support) to women and girls. This also accounts for higher rates of SGBV reporting which in turn has reduced the time and costs incurred by women and girls in accessing the required services.

17 Unlocking Sustainable Development in Africa by Addressing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, Oxfam Policy Brief February 2020.

18 Various ZIMPLATS Annual Reports

19 Unlocking Sustainable Development in Africa by Addressing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, Oxfam Policy Brief February 2020.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Introduction

Water and sanitation are at the heart of sustainable development and therefore key in the attainment of the other goals. Poor and inadequate water and sanitation is a leading cause of poverty, morbidity and mortality in a number of countries. Providing water and sanitation in schools is key to keeping girls and children in school. The occurrence of drought and low rainfall patterns result in reduced availability of safe drinking water. Children, particularly girls, are then forced to walk long distances to fetch water in some cases from unprotected sources often affecting their ability to go to school.

The rights to water and sanitation are recognised and provided for in the Constitution. The country has a National Water Policy (2013) that provides a guideline on management and development of water resources. Government established the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) to manage the country's water resources. The country also has decentralized urban water supply and sanitation services to local councils. The Government, with support from UNICEF and other partners, has approved a Sanitation and Hygiene Policy. The policy aims to create an open defecation free Zimbabwe by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cooperating partners have been complementing government efforts to improve water and sanitation in the country. During 2018, UNICEF continued to increase access to water by drilling new boreholes and rehabilitating defunct pipe water schemes and boreholes in rural focus districts with a strong focus on solar power. The urban WASH programme also saw a two-fold increase in water production across 14 small towns alongside rehabilitation of sewer systems also. To achieve this, the demand-led Sanitation Focused Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (SafPHHE) has been adopted and is being implemented in the 45 UNICEF-supported rural districts.

Progress and Challenges

Access to safe water and sanitation remains a major challenge particularly in rural areas. The increase in population has put a lot of pressure on the national water resources. The country has also experienced a rise in informal settlements where water supply and sanitation services are virtually non-existent and waterborne diseases are prevalent.

Results from the 2019 LFCLS, show that 77.1% of households have access to improved sources of drinking water down from 78.4% (Table 6.1). These figures however hide a wide disparity in access to safe drinking water between urban areas and rural areas and also even within urban areas. For instance, 97.3% of the urban household population has access to improved sources of drinking water as compared to 67.9% of the rural household population (see Figure 6.1). Harare has the highest percentage of households with access to improved water sources at 96.6%, when compared with 64.8% in Matabeleland South.

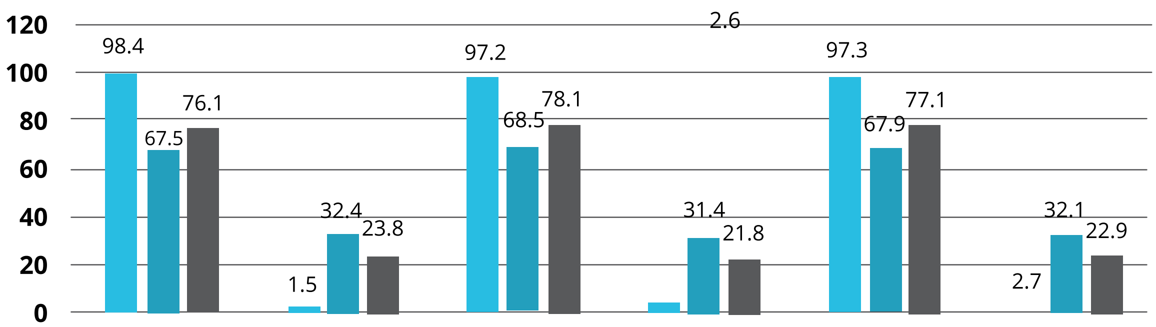
Meanwhile, 68.8% of households have access to improved not shared sanitation facility as at 2019 up by 1% from the 2017 figure. Chronic water shortages are more pronounced in urban areas, and are being experienced in the context of increasing water consumption needs.

Table 6.1: Access to improved water and sanitation among households

Indicator	2005/06	2010/11	2014	2015	2017	2019
Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	75.8	76.7	76.1	78	78.3	77.1
Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	42.0	37.3	62	37	67.8	68.8

Source: *2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS); 2015 ZDHS; 2017 ICDS; 2019 MICS..*

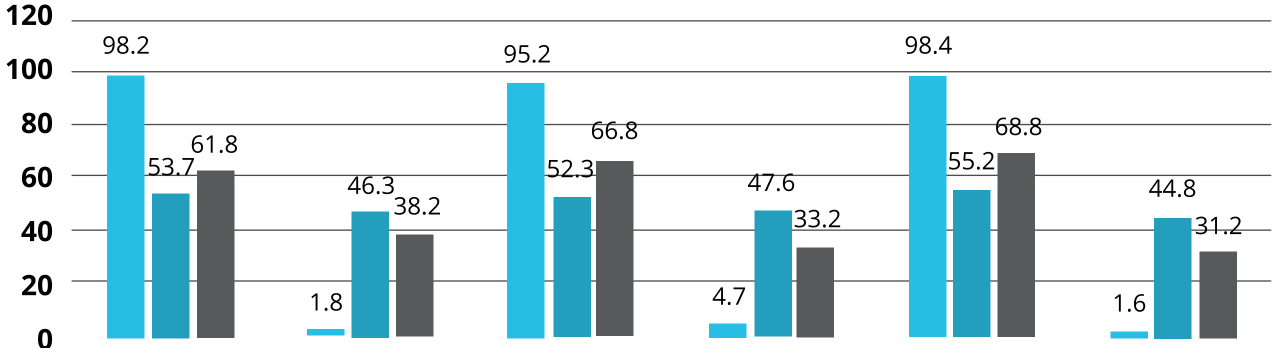
Figure 6.1: Distribution of households by source of drinking water, 2014-2019



	Improved Sources	Unimproved Sources	Improved Sources	Unimproved Sources	Improved Sources	Unimproved Sources
	2014 (MICS)		2015 (ZDHS)		2019 (MICS)	
Urban	98.4	1.5	97.2	2.6	97.3	2.7
Rural	67.5	32.4	68.5	31.4	67.9	32.1
Total	76.1	23.8	78.1	21.8	77.1	22.9

Source: *2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS); 2015 ZDHS.*

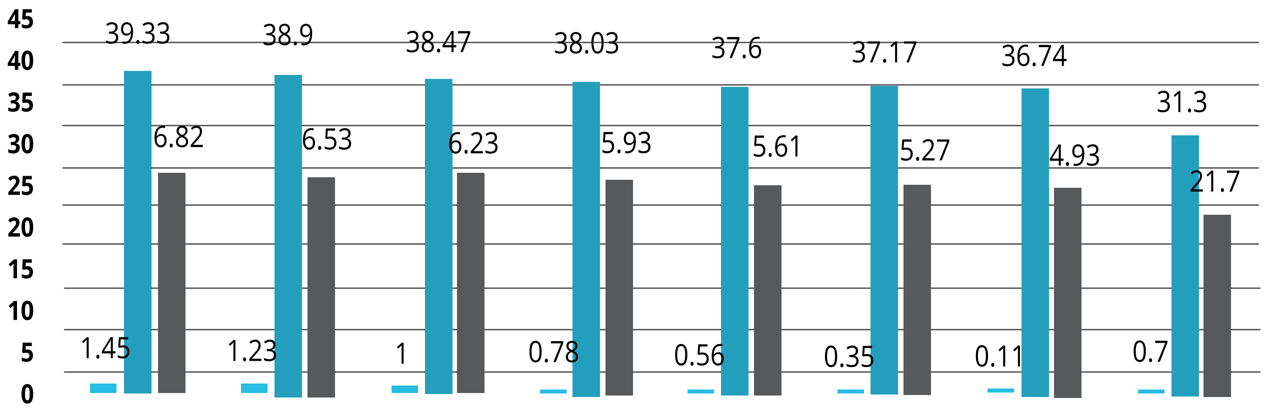
Figure 6.2: Distribution of households by sanitation facilities, 2014-2019



	2014 (MICS)		2015 (ZDHS)		2019 (MICS)	
Urban	98.2	1.8	95.2	4.7	98.4	1.6
Rural	53.7	46.3	52.3	47.6	55.2	44.8
Total	61.8	38.2	66.8	33.2	68.8	31.2

Source: 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS); 2015 ZDHS.

Figure 6.3: People practising open defecation (% of population)



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019
Urban	1.45	1.23	1	0.78	0.56	0.33	0.11	0.7
Rural	39.33	38.9	38.47	38.03	37.6	37.17	36.74	31.3
Total	26.82	26.53	26.23	25.93	25.61	25.27	24.93	21.7

***Source:** WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation (http://www.wssinfo.org/). The 2019 figures are from the 2019 MICS.*

People practising open defecation (% of population) in Zimbabwe has progressively declined to 21.7 percent in 2019 (as shown in Figure 6.3). There are however disparities between the urban and rural areas. People practicing open defecation, urban (% of urban population) in Zimbabwe was 0.7 percent in 2019, while people practicing open defecation, rural (% of rural population) in Zimbabwe was 31.3 percent in 2019. People practicing open defecation refers to the percentage of the population defecating in the open, such as in fields, forest, bushes, open bodies of water, on beaches, in other open spaces or disposed of with solid waste.

Conclusion and Next steps

Achieving SDG 6 requires the country to significantly increase investments in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In particular, more resources should be targeted to areas of high vulnerability and low access such as rural areas in order to close the gaps and improve poor water and sanitation services.

There is need to expedite the harmonisation of key legislation within the sector namely the ZINWA Act and Water Act with Section 77(a) of the Constitution. This is expected to help improve access to water and sanitation in the country.

SDG 7: Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy

Introduction

In March 2020, the country launched the National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP) and the Biofuels Policy of Zimbabwe (BPZ) to guide the investment and production of clean energy alternatives in the country. The policies emanate from the National Energy policy of 2012 and seek to achieve a 33% reduction in greenhouse carbon emissions by 2030. All renewable energy projects will be given National Project Status[20] while incentives in the forms of tax holidays of 5% for the initial five years and 15% thereafter will be awarded. A net metering-billing mechanism[21] that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid will be put in place. The Renewable Energy Policy seeks to increase the share of investment in renewable energy from 6% (2017) to 27% by 2030. This will enable alignment with SDG 7 in providing clean, sustainable energy and improving access to affordable energy. The policy aims to achieve installed renewable energy capacity of 1,100MW (excluding large hydro), or 16.5% of the total electricity supply by the year 2025 and 2,100MW (26.5%) of total electricity supply by year 2030.

The policy also seeks to ease the regulation of power production to allow for independent power producers to participate in small hydro power plants, biogas and solar, who will sell electricity to the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA). The policy is in line with guidelines set by the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UFCCC) and seeks to respond to the demand-supply ratio, grid absorption capacity and the ability of utilities to pay for renewable electricity. The country currently relies mostly on non-renewable fossil fuels like wood, coal and petroleum which are globally condemned for their high emission of greenhouse gasses that severely damage the environment.

The Biofuels policy is focusing on import substitution of petrol by promoting production of liquid biofuels. The target is to improve the country's ethanol blending ratio to 20% by 2030. The biofuel policy also seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 33%. Adoption of bio-fuels could: reduce the country's dependence on imported petroleum products; significantly reduce import bill; stabilize fuel prices; ensure energy security especially in the transport sector; promote rural development and

20 Awarding national project status to all renewable power projects will exempt them from customs and excise regulations. This would, in turn, allow developers to import certain renewable energy systems used in power generation plants at competitive rates.

21 Netmetering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid. For example, if a residential customer has a PV system on their rooftop, it may generate more electricity than it uses during daylight hours. Local communities in which these producers operate will receive 1% of total revenue for community development. This will be complemented by the fact that all producers will have to employ a minimum of 40% of their workforce from the local community.

create employment. Zimbabwe is one of the few countries who have adopted the Biofuels policy and are currently implementing it through blending of fuel with mandatory blending of up to 20%. The adoption of these policies is part of the country's drive towards the 4Ds of Decentralisation, Decarbonisation, Digitisation and Democratisation of the energy industry.

In order to increase the rural electrification rate which currently stands at 13%, government has come up with the Rural Energy Master Plan (REMP) which seeks to broaden modern energy access through the development of Grid Connected Solar and mini hydropower plants, installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) micro-grids, Solar Home Systems (SHS), Solar Water Pumping Systems and Biogas Digester Plants.

In the 2020 National Budget, the country unveiled fiscal incentives for solar powered vehicles, solar batteries and other related accessories. These incentives include the removal of customs duty on Solar Home Lighting Kits (Solar Home Systems) and also expanding the list of energy saving products that are exempt from duty to include, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Lamps and Solar Street Lights. This is over and above the incentives that government has been offering over the years which include: the duty-free importation of solar panels, inverters, regulators, geysers and energy saving bulbs, as well as, inputs used in the production of some solar related products.

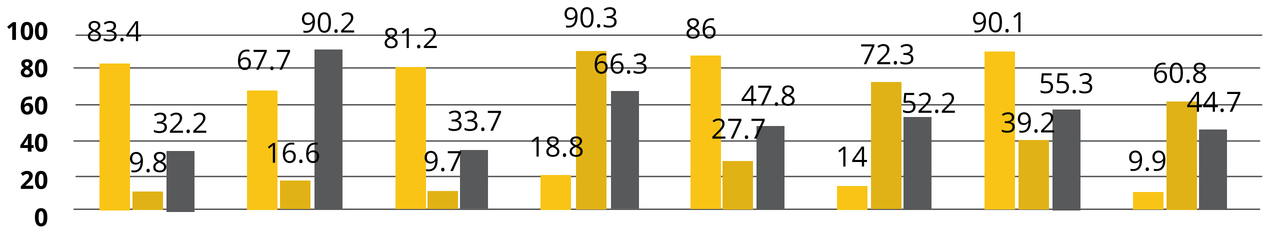
Progress and Challenges

Local generation capacity falls far short of requirements. Consequently, the country is forced to import from Mozambique and South Africa. The country's huge energy deficit provides an opportunity for greater investments in renewable energy.

The drought experienced in much of Southern Africa during the 2018-2019 season resulted in low inflows into the Kariba Dam, which has an installed capacity of 1,050 MW. This led to a significant reduction of the water available for power generation leading to dwindling power generation. Moreover, the independent hydro power plants in the Eastern Highlands have been equally affected by the drought.

The proportion of households in Zimbabwe that have access to electricity rose from 47.8% in 2017 to 55.3% in 2019 as shown in Figure 7.1. However, there are rural urban disparities, with the proportion of urban households with access to electricity pegged at 90.1% in 2019 up from 86% in 2017, while the proportion of rural households with access to electricity was 39.2% in 2019 up from 27.7% in 2017.

Figure 7.1: Distribution of households by access to electricity, 2014-2019



	Electricity	No Electricity	Electricity	No Electricity	Electricity	No Electricity	Electricity	No Electricity
	2014 (MICS)		2015 (ZDHS)		2017 (ICDS)		2019 (MICS)	
Urban	83.4	67.7	81.2	18.8	86	14	90.1	9.9
Rural	9.8	16.6	9.7	90.3	27.7	72.3	39.2	60.8
Total	32.2	90.2	33.7	66.3	47.8	52.2	55.3	44.7

Source: *2014 MICS; 2015 ZDHS; 2017 ICDS; 2019 MICS*

As at 2019, 33.7% of the households in Zimbabwe had access to clean energy for cooking up from 25.9% in 2014 as shown in Table 7.1. Households that use clean fuels and technologies for cooking are those mainly using electric stove, solar cooker, LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)/cooking gas stove, biogas stove, or a liquid fuel stove burning ethanol/alcohol only.

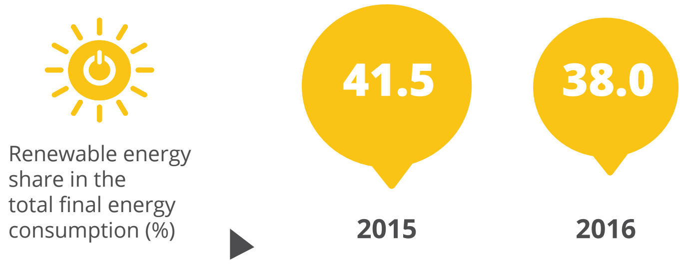
Table 7.1: Energy use for cooking

	2019			2014		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Clean fuels and technologies	33.7	83.2	7.7	25.9	82.8	4.1
Other fuels	65.9	16.4	92	73.9	17	95.8
No cooking done in the household, missing, and other	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1

Source: *2019 MICS; 2014 MICS.*

Figure 7.2 shows that the renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption has declined from 41.5% in 2015 to 38% in 2016.

Figure 7.2: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption



Source: *ZIMSTAT SDGs database*

The liberalisation of the electricity market has resulted in the Government granting power generation licences to a number of independent power producers (IPPs) in an effort to encourage new investments especially by private investors in the sector. As of 31 July 2019, the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) had issued more than 77 power generation licences with 42 being solar power projects.

Econet Wireless, Schweppes, Kefalos and Surrey go green

Leading companies in the country namely: Econet Wireless, Schweppes, Kefalos and Surrey have partnered with Distributed Power Africa (DPA), a Pan-African renewable energy solutions company to switch over to solar energy through a power lease financing arrangement. A total of 2.2 MW of electricity will be collectively generated by these plants, for self-consumption. Econet Wireless, launched the country's first industrial solar power plant at its Willowvale Complex in Harare. The solar power plant has 1,435 panels, a generation capacity of 466 KW and is expected to contribute 780 Megawatt hours (MWh) to the national grid per annum. Econet Wireless, through its energy subsidiary, Ugesi Energy, launched in 2019 the first phase of a US$45 million solar power rural electrification programme, targeting one hundred (100) growth points across the country.

Schweppes, has invested in a 1MW rooftop solar solution and is the biggest single self-consumption solar plant in Zimbabwe and the largest in Southern Africa (excluding South Africa). Kefalos on the other hand has invested in a 600 KW solar installation while Surrey has invested in a 100 KW solar PV plant. These investments in renewable energy will enable these companies to sustainably increase their production through enhancing operational efficiencies while reducing operating costs in the long run thereby contributing to the improvement of national competitiveness.

Schweppes Zimbabwe commissioned a 1MW rooftop Solar PV system which is the biggest in Zimbabwe. The solar system is set to ensure continuous production. More of such rooftop solar systems can be installed at shopping malls, hospitals, hotels and other facilities.

Other companies which have invested in solar energy include Nottingham Estates (Pvt) Ltd with a capacity of 1.5MW in Beitbridge; Padenga Holdings (Pvt) Ltd with a capacity of 0.33MW in Kariba; Riverside Power Station with a capacity of 2.5MW in Mutoko. There are also four operational biomass projects and these are: Triangle (Pvt) Ltd with a capacity of 33MW; Hippo Valley Estates (Ltd) with a capacity of 45MW; Green Fuel (Pvt) Ltd with a capacity of 18MW; Border Timbers with capacity of 0.5MWand they are generating energy for their own consumption.

Off-grid solar energy systems are changing the socio-economic landscape of rural communities. Mashaba Off-grid Solar Energy system in Gwanda is one such off-grid system that could be replicated across the country as a way of empowering communities. The off-grid system generates 99 KW which powers three irrigation schemes, a school, a clinic, business centres and households.

The Mashaba Off-grid Solar Energy system in Gwanda

Source: *ZERA (https://twitter.com/zeraenergy/status/1188164709742235648/photo/1*

Schweppes Zimbabwe 1 MW rooftop solar PV system

Source: *ZERA (https://twitter.com/zeraenergy/status/1201792207310741504/photo/2)*

Conclusion and Next steps

Inadequate and unreliable access to electricity remains one of the biggest binding constraints to sustainable development in the country. Tackling the energy challenge can help to improve the doing business/investment climate, given the fact that energy is one of the biggest enablers to doing business.

In view of the country's large renewable energy capacity[22] there is need for leveraging of this capacity through more individual and private sector participation in the sector. There is an urgent need to expedite the reduction of regulatory and financial barriers for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as a means to encourage and incentivise greater private sector participation in the country's energy sector.

It is incumbent for the country to expedite the establishment of the Green Energy Fund of Zimbabwe in line with the renewable energy policy. This Fund will be used in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up of projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and off-grid sources.

22 Zimbabwe enjoys over 4600 hours of sunlight exposure per year.

SDG 8: Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work

Introduction

Employment creation has been clearly identified as a key objective in the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) (2021-2025), with clear employment targets. Government has come up with a Youth Employment Tax Incentive (YETI). This fiscal incentive is aimed at supporting employers who generate jobs for our young job seekers. Any additional job created will attract a percentage tax credit to the employer. This measure will reduce the employers' cost of hiring young people through a cost-sharing mechanism with Government. Government has allocated resources for labour intensive infrastructure development under the National Budget. The National Budget has also provided for the capitalisation of critical financial institutions that are aimed at supporting various micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Government enacted the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) Act in June 2019. The TNF is an institutionalised platform for social dialogue that brings together Government, business and labour to negotiate key socio-economic matters.

Zimbabwe has successfully implemented three cycles of the Decent Work Country Programme from 2005 when the concept was adopted by the ILO. The current cycle of the Zimbabwe Decent Work Country Programme (ZDWCP) was running from 2012 to 2017. The next cycle from 2019 to 2021 will prioritise promoting productive employment and decent jobs through active labour market policies and programmes. The programme provides the framework for cooperation between the Government and the ILO.

Government is in the process of establishing a National Productivity Organisation (NPO) to be known as Zimbabwe National Productivity Institute (ZNPI). National Productivity Organisations are specialized institutions set up with the mandate to promote productivity within workplaces and organisations. The main function of such entities is to raise the levels of productivity through applied research, training and consultancy services for enterprises and industries in the various sectors of the economy. In the interim, the ZNPI Secretariat in the Department of Labour Administration is conducting productivity awareness and training workshops meant to introduce participants to the basic concepts of productivity. These concepts include foundational and practical productivity enhancement and measurement tools.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is working with ILO in a project called Green Enterprise innovation and Development in Zimbabwe. This programme seeks to contribute towards solving a series of inter-related problems, such as high levels of youth unemployment, low levels of formal and growth-oriented entrepreneurship and unsustainable production processes of SMEs in Zimbabwe.

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary has included Agriculture among the compulsory learning areas at primary school level and is strengthening the Guidance and Counselling –Life skills Orientation Programme through increased emphasis on exposing pupils to various livelihood opportunities from the Early Childhood Development stage upwards. In addition, the Non-Formal Education continues to provide lifelong learning opportunities and financial literacy projects for adults and youths to upgrade their livelihoods.

Progress and Challenges

The Zimbabwean economy is dominated by agricultural and informal employment. The country faces a scarcity of regular wage employment for all who would like wage jobs and are capable of performing them. Would-be wage employees cannot afford to remain unemployed and continue to search so they find it better to create their own self-employment opportunities in the informal economy. The economic slowdown and the resultant company closures has resulted in a boom in the non-formal economy through informalisation with the 2019 Labour Force Survey showing that the share of informal employment to total employment is estimated at 76% in 2019 (see Table 8.1). Informal employment basically means that the country has abundant labour which is not being productively utilised.

Table 8.1: Informal Economy

	2014	2019
Employment in the informal sector	859,060	975,880
Share of informal employment to total employment	94.5	75.6
Female share of informal employment	48.6	41.7
Male share in informal employment	51.4	58.3

Source: *2019 LFCLS*

The 2019 LFCLS found that 36% of the working age population is employed. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector had the largest proportion of employed persons at 36%. The share of employment in the non-agricultural sector was 64%. The share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector was 43% while their share in middle and senior management levels was around 34%. Nineteen percent of the employed population were in precarious employment. Thirteen percent of all employed persons had at least one form of functional disability with close to 49% being in rural areas whilst 51% were in urban areas. In terms of types of functional disability, the highest proportion of employed persons had difficulty seeing and these constituted about 35%. Around 28% of the employed persons reported working excessive hours of more than 48 hours a week.

The 2019 LFCLS revealed that around that 376 thousand which is 13% of all employed persons had at least one form of functional disability such as difficulty seeing, hearing, self-care, walking among others. Of all the employed persons with at least one form of functional disability, about 54% were male whilst 46% were female. People with disabilities face accessibility barriers.

A major challenge for creating decent employment opportunities is the challenging doing business environment and regulatory framework. Estimates from Enterprise Surveys for the African continent reveal that about 1.3–3.0 million jobs are lost every year owing to administrative hurdles, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, poor tax administration, and other red tape. This figure is close to 20% of the new entrants to the labour force every year[23]. Doing business reforms aimed at simplifying and streamlining the doing investment environment are vital to realising the full the potential of the private sector to create decent job opportunities.

The female share in total agriculture, fishery and forestry sector stands at 36.1% in 2019. The contribution of women in the sector is largely undervalued as they disproportionately are engaged in subsistence food production. A total of about 2 million persons comprising 60.3% (females) and 39.7% (males) are engaged in unpaid subsistence food production. Women also have to juggle this work with other household chores/responsibilities. The majority of activities of own use production of other goods and services for own final use are mostly done by females in rural areas. Rural women also tend to work disproportionately more hours than both men as well as their urban counterparts.

As presented in Table 8.2, the national unemployment rate stands at 16.4% in 2019. The female unemployment rate was higher at 17.2% as compared to 15.7% for males. There are regional disparities in terms of unemployment, Matabeleland North registering the highest unemployment rate at 30.0% while Harare had the lowest at 9%. Youth (15-24) years had a national unemployment rate of 27.0%, higher for females at 30% than males at 25.0%. The national unemployment rate for youth (15-35) years was 21.0% again higher for females at 22.0% than males at nearly 20%.

23 African Economic Outlook 2019, AfDB.

Table 8.2: Unemployment rate

Indicator	2014	2019
Unemployment rate 15+ years	4.8	16.4
Male unemployment rate15+ years	4.4	15.7
Female unemployment rate 15+ years	5.2	17.2
Youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate	6.8	26.8
Male youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate	5.9	24.6
Female youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate	7.8	30.3
Youth (15-35 years) unemployment rate	12	20.8
Male youth (15-35 years) unemployment rate	10.2	19.7
Female youth (15-35 years) unemployment rate	13.0	22.3

Source: *2019 LFCLS*

The national proportion of youth (15-24) years who were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) was 44.7% in 2019 up from 35.2% in 2014 as seen in Table 8.3. The female youth (15-24) NEET is much higher at 52.0% in 2019 when compared with the male youth NEET of 36.4%. The NEET for youth (15-35) years was estimated at 47.0% with similar gender disparities.

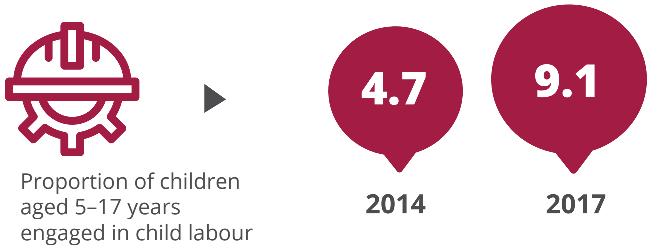
Table 8.3: Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)

	2014	2019
Youth (15-24) NEET	35.2	44.7
Male youth (15-24) NEET	33.6	36.4
Female youth (15-24) NEET	36.8	52.9
Youth (15-35) NEET	27.4	47.1
Male youth (15-35) NEET	23.2	37.3
Female youth (15-35) NEET	31.2	56.0

Source: *2019 LFCLS*

Child labour has been on the increase, with the proportion of children aged 5-17 in child labour rising from 4.7% in 2014 to 9.1% in 2017 as shown in Figure 8.1. The incidence of child labour is more rampant in the agricultural sector. According to the 2019 LFCLS, out of the 4.2 million children aged 5 to 14 years, 1.2% were estimated to be in child labour with more boys (1.6%) engaged in child labour than girls (0.8%). About 71.0% of the children who were involved in child labour were in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry while about 17.0% were in the retail trade industry. About 5% of the children were working in the mining and quarrying industry.

Figure 8.1: Proportion of children in child labour



Source: *2014 LFCLS; 2017 ICDS*.

Real GDP growth rate increased from 4.7% (2017) to 5.5% (2018) in response to the TSP policy measures. In 2019 the real GDP contracted to -6% and in an effort to stabilize the economy, government reintroduced the local currency along with other fiscal and monetary reforms which resulted in an improvement to -4.1% in 2020. The real GDP is expected to grow by 7.4% in 2021. The Dutch auction rate system introduced in June 2020 stabilised the exchange rate. Exchange rate stability and increased access to foreign exchange stimulated industry recovery which saw capacity utilization increasing from 36.4% in 2019 to 47% in 2020 albeit dampened by effects of the COVID-19 lockdown measures. The global restrictions on travel and international distribution of goods resulted in a boost in locally produced goods which saw a 40% increase in the occupation of the shelf space by local products in supermarkets.

Furthermore, the government implemented the fiscal consolidation programme in an effort to maintain fiscal deficits averaging not more than 3% of GDP in line with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) targets. For example, Government managed to contain the Public Wage Bill to below 50% of Government revenues. Fiscal consolidation measures were complemented by a tight monetary policy regime pursued by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and exchange rate stability induced by the Dutch auction system. The gross national income (GNI) per capita decreased by -2.5% from US$1,189.84 in 2018 to US$1,159.81 in 2020. Mobile banking has resulted in increased financial inclusion with recorded active users standing at 47.9% of the population. In total, the proportion of banked adults sat at 69% in 2020 and is expected to grow to 80% at the close of the year 2021.

Economic growth in the country has not been inclusive and fast enough to absorb the growing labour force. Zimbabwe has a fast-growing labour force. The country has recorded high rates of population growth averaging 2% per annum. As shown in Table 8.4, real GDP per capita annual growth improved from 0.1% in 2015 to 3.2% in 2017 before slowing down to -4.7% in 2018. On the other hand, real GDP growth per employed person slowed down from 5.1% in 2014 to -7.5% by 2019. Owing to the erratic economic growth, employment creation that is not expanding fast enough to keep up with the growing labour force.

Table 8.4: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita and per employed person

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	0.5	0.1	-0.8	3.2	4.7	-
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	5.1	5.0	2.8	3.8	2.8	-7.5

Source: *WDI and various National Budget statements.*

Table 8.5 shows the industry value added per worker for Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, SSA and the World over the period 2006 to 2018. Value added per worker is an important measure of worker productivity in an economy. Botswana has the highest value added per worker, followed by South Africa. Zimbabwe lags behind with an industry value added of US$7,438.50 as at 2018.

Table 8.5: Industry (including construction), value added per worker (constant 2010 US$), 2010-2018

	Zimbabwe	Zambia	South Africa	Malawi	Mozambique	Botswana	SSA	World
2010	4,977.94	15,516.35	29,652.03	2,327.18	3,378.35	35,073.56	12,314.14	27,253.58
2011	5,495.75	14,265.61	29,884.57	2,276.29	3,287.36	32,602.56	12,266.64	27,370.43
2012	6,037.16	12,925.32	30,252.45	2,285.43	3,157.55	30,799.86	12,198.88	27,198.75
2013	6,649.58	12,880.95	29,897.06	2,185.86	3,068.73	33,922.37	12,072.71	27,653.99
2014	6,991.42	12,581.06	29,540.60	2,192.43	2,990.47	33,364.31	12,009.63	28,189.24
2015	6,937.32	12,754.40	28,261.80	2,188.87	2,999.04	29,739.64	11,582.72	28,820.50
2016	6,979.84	12,760.41	28,685.55	2,173.71	3,100.55	29,409.62	11,283.80	29,591.30
2017	6,976.14	12,889.17	28,457.48	2,132.14	3,262.86	27,803.22	11,098.50	30,424.19
2018	7,438.50	12,897.55	27,965.49	-	3,238.57	28,631.37	10,120.43	25,391.60

Source: *World Development Indicators, April 2020.*

Table 8.6 shows the GDP per person employed over the period 2006 to 2018 for Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, SSA and the World. GDP per person employed measures output per unit of labour input and is a measure of labour productivity. As at 2017, South Africa had the highest level of labour productivity, followed by Botswana.

Table 8.6: GDP per person employed (constant 2011 PPP $), 2010-2019

	Zimbabwe	Zambia	South Africa	Malawi	Mozambique	Botswana	SSA	World
2010	4,227.20	9,515.36	43,072.16	2,752.46	2,183.14	41,244.23	8,917.96	30,814.05
2011	4,768.80	9,483.88	43,705.75	2,797.49	2,294.23	40,272.74	9,130.69	31,681.47
2012	5,484.32	9,674.35	43,546.98	2,758.04	2,413.31	39,405.88	9,397.19	32,385.09
2013	5,506.33	9,903.16	43,205.12	2,805.06	2,536.98	41,571.67	9,665.14	33,156.79
2014	5,546.27	10,093.10	43,195.40	2,871.30	2,671.28	42,706.14	9,891.08	33,915.04
2015	5,556.01	10,113.66	42,157.77	2,859.42	2,789.12	41,263.63	9,902.12	34,660.60
2016	5,512.76	10,223.87	42,413.91	2,837.92	2,805.59	42,107.62	9,818.61	35,433.97
2017	5,676.42	10,292.89	42,126.50	2,859.16	2,818.45	42,222.51	9,808.31	36,301.44
2018	5,921.07	10,299.20	41,839.25	2,867.38	2,817.07	42,924.26	9,778.74	37,106.95
2019	5,384.02	10,117.69	42,209.56	2,894.81	2,775.53	43,595.58	9,760.74	37,823.58

Source: *World Development Indicators (WDI), April 2020.*

Table 8.7 presents a cross-country trend analysis in terms of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) (per 100,000 adults) in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe over the period 2014-2018. Zimbabwe has lagged behind both South Africa and Zambia. The number of ATMs per 100,000 adults in Zimbabwe was 6.6% in 2018 when compared to 11.5% in Zambia and 66.7% in south Africa.

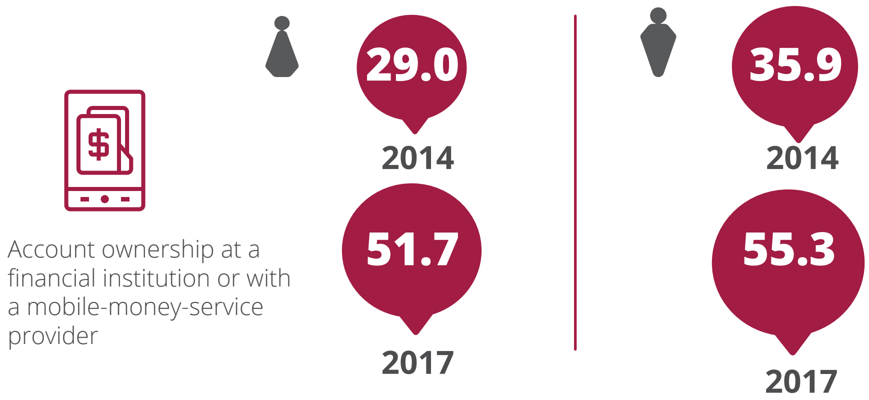
Table 8.7: Automated teller machines (ATMs) (per 100,000 adults), 2014-2018

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
South Africa	65.7	68.8	68.9	67.6	66.7
Zambia	10.3	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.5
Zimbabwe	5.9	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.5

Source: *WDI April 2020.*

Figure 8.2 shows the account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population ages 15+) in 2014 and 2017. Total account ownership has improved from 32.4% in 2014 to 55.3% in 2017. Account ownership is skewed in favour of male with 58.9% of the males owning an account in 2017 when compared with 51.7 of the females.

Figure 8.2: Account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population ages 15+)



Source: *WDI April 2020.*

The tourism sector which has been on an upward trajectory up until the pre-COVID-19 pandemic is expected to take one of the biggest knocks from the COVID-19 pandemic. Table 8.8 shows that the tourism sector's contribution to sustainable development in the country has been on an increasing trend over the period 2016-2018.

Table 8.8: Tourism sector's contribution to sustainable development in Zimbabwe, 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Share (%) of GDP	-	7.1	7.2
Share (%) of Total Employment	-	4.4	5.2
Share (%) of Exports	-	4.7	4.7
Tourism Receipts (US$ million)	819	917	1,386

Source: *2018 Tourism Trends and Statistics, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA).*

According to the 2017 National Social Security Authority (NSSA) Annual Report, there was a reduction in fatalities and injuries from 5,419 in 2017 to 5,072 in 2017, representing a 6.4% reduction. According to the 2018 Chamber of Mines annual Report, the mining industry recorded 81 fatal accidents in 2018 compared to 32 fatal accidents in 2017, an increase of 153%. The huge fatal accidents recorded in 2018 were mainly a result of reports from illegal mining operations. Out of the 81 accidents recorded in 2018, 39 were related to fall of ground, constituting 48% of the total. Gassing accidents accounted for 14.8% of the accidents reported and falling down excavations (9.9%) and shaft accidents (7.4%) were the other major causes of fatal accidents during the year.

Conclusion and Next steps

Zimbabwe continues to face a number of economic and employment-related challenges. For instance, the shrinking of the formal economy through deindustrialisation has resulted in a boom in the non-formal economy through informalisation with the 2019 Labour Force Survey showing that the share of informal employment to total employment is estimated at 76% in 2019. More efforts need to be put to ensure an expansion of full and productive employment opportunities, especially for women and young people, reduce informal employment and labour market inequalities, promote safe and secure working environments, and improve access to financial services to ensure sustained and inclusive economic growth. Importantly, ensuring job-rich growth will have a positive effect on ending poverty (SDG 1) and also reducing inequalities (SDG 10). There is a need for the adoption of employment-friendly macroeconomic policies underpinned by effective, inclusive and equitable labour market institutions. It's also important to come up with a national employment policy to address employment related challenges based on inclusive and effective social dialogue.

The rural economy represents an untapped opportunity. Rural development can help to unleash this potential through the creation of jobs and structural transformation. More focus must be on increasing investments in rural infrastructure including irrigation as well as rural health and education are critical ingredients in sustainable rural development strategies in African countries.

There are also opportunities for the creation of decent work through matching school curriculum to the human capital requirements, providing career guidance services and leveraging green growth opportunities. There is need to come up with incentives to promote innovation and investments in green activities.

SDG 9: Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Industrialisation and Innovation

Introduction

Investments in infrastructure to ensure a reduction in the high cost of doing business are a key success factor in successful industrialisation and innovation. The country is promoting sustainable industrialisation through the implementation of the industrial development policy which is running from 2019-2023. The industrial policy is guided by the principles of value addition and beneficiation; export-led industrialisation; promotion of sustainable industrial development; gender mainstreaming and modernisation as well as the upgrading of industrial equipment and machinery. The policy aims to attain the following: increase the manufacturing sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) to 30%; a manufacturing value added (MVA) growth of 16%; a merchandise export growth rate of 10% per annum; and increased employment in the manufacturing sector to 20% by 2023. The country has also come up with a local content strategy whose main objective is to use the country's consumption to stimulate increased activity in existing companies, create new companies and jobs, and save foreign currency in fulfilment of the objectives of the industrial development policy. The country has also come up with the trade policy and export strategy (TPES) framework meant to boost exports.

The Government promulgated the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act into law in October 2016 largely to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, generate employment and promote exports. SEZs are key to Zimbabwe's export-oriented and labour-intensive manufacturing strategy. In terms of tax incentives for SEZs, the Finance Act of 2017 provides for zero-rating of corporate income tax for the first years of setting up with a corporate tax rate of 15% applying thereafter and duty-free importation of raw materials and capital equipment. The other fiscal incentives include exemption from capital gains tax, exemption from non-residents tax on fees for services that are not locally available and exemption from non-residents tax on royalties. To date Government has already designated a number of sites as special economic zones for instance Sunway City has been designated a technological hub, Victoria Falls both a tourism and financial hub and Bulawayo as an industrial economic zone.

Zimbabwe also ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) ratified in May 2019. The Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) Act was signed into law in February 2020. The Act provides for a one-stop investment centre and is expected to improve and streamline the doing business regulatory framework.

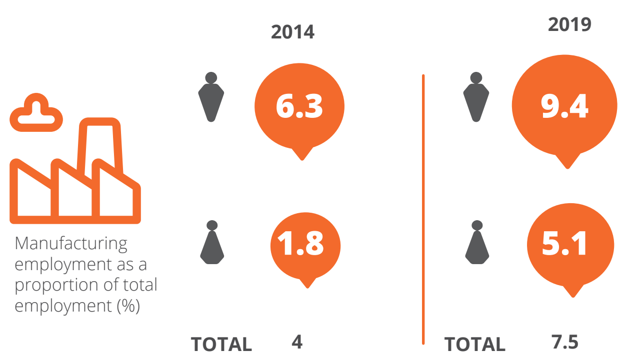
In 2018, the country launched the National ICT policy and a US$25 million innovation fund. The innovation seeks to create a technology hub to support and promote budding innovators in the country. To foster research-based industrialisation, the Government is in the process of establishing six (6) innovation hubs/science parks at the country's state universities as well as industrial parks in all the ten (10) provinces of the country. The construction of some innovation hubs superstructures has been completed at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), Midlands State University (MSU), the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), and the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT).

Progress and Challenges

The need to address the country's infrastructure deficits requires huge capital injections. The Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) estimated that rehabilitating Zimbabwe's entire road network would require about US$5.5 billion. It also estimated that the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) requires in excess of US$2 billion worth of investment for its rolling stock and to rehabilitate its entire network . This funding requirement is way beyond the government ability to provide through the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). It is within this context that government is developing a long-term national road infrastructure improvement plan to upscale private investments and Development Partner assistance in the transport sector. Given the need to improve on border efficiency government undertook to rehabilitate and upgrade the various border posts around the country, starting with Beit-Bridge border post currently underway. Rehabilitation of the Beitbridge-Harare highway has created opportunities for women in the male-dominated road construction industry.

The economy has experienced a weakening of the industrial sector over the years. Table 9.1 is a comparison of Manufacturing Valued Added (MVA) as a proportion of GDP in Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa. MVA as a share of GDP has declined from 8.6% in 2015 to 7.3% in 2019, lower than that of South Africa (11.6%) and Zambia (7.5%).

Table 9.1: Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP, 2015-2019



Source: *UNIDO database*

Manufacturing sector as a proportion of total employment has however improved from 4% in 2014 to 7.5% in 2019. The manufacturing sector remains highly male dominated as shown in Figure 9.1.

Figure 9.1: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Year	Zimbabwe	Zambia	South Africa
2015	8.6	7.5	12
2016	8.2	7.4	12
2017	7.7	7.4	11.9
2018	7.3	7.4	11.7
2019	7.3	7.5	11.6

Source: *2014 LFCLS, 2019 LFCLS.*

Most major infrastructure sectors and projects have been affected by underinvestment owing to limited new investments as well poor maintenance of the existing infrastructure stock. This has resulted in an increase in the cost of doing business, thereby stifling domestic investment.

Notwithstanding, Zimbabwe has experienced an increase in the usage of the internet with the percentage of individuals using the internet increasing markedly from 22.7% in 2015 to 28.0% in 2018.

Table 9.2: Percentage of Individuals using the Internet

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Zimbabwe	22.74	23.12	27.06	28.0
Zambia	21.00	25.51	27.85	14.30
Mozambique	16.93	17.52	10.00	-
South Africa	51.92	54.00	56.17	-

Source: *International Telecommunications Union (ITU) online database*

Table 9.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

	2014			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (%)	6.3	1.8	4	9.4	5.1	7.5

Source: *2014 LFCLS, 2019 LFCLS.*

The Dutch auction rate system introduced in June 2020 stabilise the exchange rate. Exchange rate stability and increased access to foreign exchange stimulated industry recovery which saw capacity utilization increasing from 36.4% in 2019 to 47% in 2020 albeit dampened by effects of the COVID19 lockdown measures. The global restrictions on travel and international distribution of goods resulted in a boost in locally produced goods which saw a 40% increase in the occupation of the shelf space by local products in supermarkets.

Significant progress has been made in ICT infrastructure which is the bedrock for digital services rollout. Digital technologies have become the cornerstone and key enabler for Government operations, businesses and access to basic services by individuals. In 2017, fixed broadband (fiber) and mobile broadband stood at 8,765 km and 3,74 mobile broadband base stations respectively. At the end of 2020, approximately 9,500km fiber and 4,012 mobile broadband base stations had been deployed amid the harsh economic conditions. Subsequently, there has been an increase in active mobile penetration rates of 94.2% and the internet penetration rate, which stood at 60.9%, as at the end of 2020 having increased from 50.8% in 2017. In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in Government internal operations and administration, Government successfully commissioned the National Data Centre and launched the Local Authorities Digital System (LADS) which is a locally developed Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution expected to be used in 92 local authorities. Other initiatives being undertaken by Government and the private sector include:

- Setting up of the National ICT Device Factory, implementation of National Data Centre;
- Development of E Government Enterprise Architecture and Interoperability Framework;
- Upgrading of the Government Internet Services Provider (GISP) infrastructure;
- Enhancement and optimization of Government common connectivity infrastructure;
- Expansion of the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) coverage to all districts; and
- Establishment of the Community Information Centers (CICs) at sub national levels. These have been prioritized under NDS1.

Conclusion and Next steps

To achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development, focusing on the promotion of inclusiveness alone is not sufficient. Instead, the country must introduce specific measures to make manufacturing production cleaner. As part of the post-COVID recovery there is need to progressively move to a low-carbon economy. In Zimbabwe as in many other countries, the renewable energy sector has the potential to promote climate resilience and foster green economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic through attracting investments and creating green jobs. Businesses must be further incentivised and empowered to invest in low-carbon solutions that create new jobs.

There has been an improvement in budgetary allocation towards capital expenditure. There is need to leverage greater private sector investment in infrastructure through public-private partnerships (PPPs). The doing business environment needs to be improved further to create the right incentives and signals for greater private sector involvement in the economy. Given the country's comparative and competitive advantages, there are immense opportunities for the country to move to a sustainable industrialisation path characterised by labour-intensity, cleaner fuels, high energy efficiency and less energy-intensity.

Innovation is a vital enabler of sustainable development. Some of the emerging best practices around innovation the country must learn and embrace include: broadening the innovation spectrum/process to include social movements and grassroots actors as well as a shift from technological to social innovation approaches such as social enterprises. Social innovation is particularly aimed at improving human/societal welfare and well-being. Grass roots and social innovation can also help to ensure inclusion and equity in areas such as agriculture, health and education.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Introduction

Inequality is multi-dimensional, with a number of drivers and sources that include: economic, social, environmental and political. Addressing inequality is critical for inclusive and sustainable development. Section 301 of the Constitution provides for Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers from central to provincial and local tiers of government to support devolution.

An aspect that the Government has been particularly focussing on is the issue of financial inclusion. Financial inclusion is vital for reducing poverty, inequalities and achieving sustainable development. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) launched the National Financial Inclusion Strategy in 2016 aimed at ensuring access to financial products and services especially by the marginalised population and the hitherto financially excluded.

In 2019, Cabinet approved the National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP) whose vision is 'to establish a well-managed, sustainable and inclusive labour migration management system that promotes good governance and effective regulation of labour migration, and protects the rights of labour migrants and their families.' The NLMP seeks 'to harness and maximise the benefits of (inward and outward) labour migration for national development, including through remittances and investment promotion and functional labour market information systems.'

Progress and Challenges

The Gini coefficient of Zimbabwe according to PICES 2017 was 0.435 up from 0.423 in 2011/12. This suggests growing welfare inequality in Zimbabwe over the recent years and an increase in the gap between the rich and the poor. Inequality varies by place of residence and was slightly higher in urban areas (0.398) compared to rural areas (0.361). The national Gini coefficient was much higher than the one for rural and urban areas separately which is indicative of the large gap in median consumption expenditures between rural and urban areas.

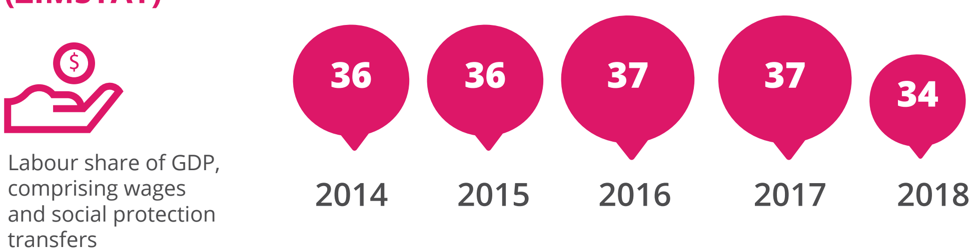
Table 10.1: Comparison of the Gini Coefficient in Zimbabwe over Selected Years

Year	National Gini Coefficient	Rural Gini Coefficient	Urban Gini Coefficient
2017	0.435	0.361	0.398
2011/12	0.423	0.370	0.390
2001	0.489	0.434	0.452
1995/96	0.626	0.597	0.575

Source: *ZIMSTAT PICES Surveys*

The market labour share for Zimbabwe has been fairly stable averaging about 36.0% over the period 2014-2018. The labour income share (or labour share) is the part of national income allocated to labour compensation, while the capital share is the part of national income going to capital. As shown in Figure 10.1, the labour share rose from 36.0% in 2014 to 37.0% in 2017 before declining to 34.0% in 2018. The decrease in the labour market share is reflective of dwindling wage compensation in real terms.

Figure 10.1: Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers (ZIMSTAT)



Source: *ZIMSTAT*

In terms of financial soundness, Table 10.2 shows trends in the key financial soundness indicators. The performance and soundness of the financial sector remains strong as shown by the indicators.

Table 10.2: Financial Sector Indicators, December 2016 – December 2019

Key Indicators	Benchmark	Dec-16	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19
Return on Assets (%)	-	2.26	2.61	4.57	8.99
Return on Equity (%)	-	12.64	15.48	20.59	33.02
Capital Adequacy Ratio (%)	12	23.7	27.63	30.27	39.56
Tier 1 Ratio (%)	8	-	-	23.84	27.87
Loans to Deposits (%)	70	56.64	44.81	40.71	36.6
Non-Performing Loans Ratio (%)	5	7.87	7.08	6.92	1.75
Liquidity Ratio	30	61.91	62.62	70.66	72.42

Source: *Various RBZ Monetary Policy Statements*

An improvement in the level of access to financial services has been noted as reflected in the financial inclusion indicators shown in Table 10.3.

Table 10.3: Financial Inclusion Indicators, December 2016 – December 2019

Indicator	Dec-16	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19	Dec-19
Percent of loans to SMEs over total loans	3.57	3.75	3.94	2.9	8.99
Number of SMEs with bank accounts	71,730	76,524	111,498	112,634	33.02
Number of women with bank accounts	769,883	935,994	1,736,285	2,265,650	39.56
Number of loans to Youth	38,400	61,529	69,421	141,976	27.87
Total number of bank accounts (millions)	1.49	3.07	6.73	7.13	36.6
Number of low-cost accounts (millions)	1.2	3.02	4.67	4.57	1.75

Source: *RBZ 2020 Monetary Policy Statement*

Innovations such as mobile banking, online/digital finance, value chain financing, group savings and lending, micro finance and credit have contributed to increasing access to, usage and quality of finance for low-income individuals.

The high levels of informality in the country have exacerbated inequality in the country. Low-productivity employment in the informal economy is highly correlated with inequality.

According to the 2021 Monetary Policy Statement, the number of accounts opened by women and MSMEs increased from less than 800,000 and 80,000 in 2016 to over 2.5 million and almost 140,000 in 2020, respectively, largely as a result of increased gender and MSMEs initiatives by the Bank and other stakeholders. Lending to target segments such as women, the youth and MSMEs also increased, largely due to a number of targeted financial inclusion interventions.

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The high levels of informality in the country have exacerbated inequality in the country. Low-productivity employment in the informal economy is highly correlated with inequality.

Conclusion and Next steps

Key priorities that need to be addressed include creating opportunities and developing skills for employment and livelihoods, reducing disparities in resource allocation and ownership, closing gaps in health and education, as well as improving access to resources and services. Ensuring inclusive economic growth is vital to the creation of opportunities such as employment. Sustainable inequality reduction is dependent on the creation of a sufficient number of jobs. A sector that has huge potential for the creation of jobs is the MSMEs sector. MSMEs however experience a lot of challenges with respect to accessing finance and markets, thereby militating against their realising their full potential. Targeted government support can help the MSMEs to be more competitive, grow and expand.

In particular, investments in education have been shown to have a strong inequality reducing effect in many countries by improving productivity and socio-economic mobility. It is important to improve the quality as well as the reach of education. Policies that enhance agricultural productivity are also very vital to reducing inequalities.

Reducing inequalities also requires strong labour market institutions. To this end the Government through the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) has adopted a minimum wage policy.

To sustainably address the drivers of inequalities there is need to invest more in public services and social protection; addressing issues of unpaid care and domestic work; guaranteeing equality and non-discrimination; and address harmful cultural practices, such as gender-based violence and child marriage.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Introduction

According to the 2017 ICDS, about 32% of Zimbabwe's population resides in urban areas. The Government is putting relentless effort towards achieving sustainable cities and communities by 2030. The country has more than 30 000 villages, thousands of farm and plantation settlements as well as some 500 urban centres (including 32 Urban Council areas). These vary in spatial size, demographic structure and size, environmental and economic character. Housing delivery is one of the national priorities identified in the NDS 1 as the country seeks to address the daunting housing backlog which has resulted in the emergence of unplanned informal settlements.

Zimbabwe has endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the global blueprint for reducing existing disaster risk and preventing the creation of new risks. Government has approved the concept of the New Smart City being constructed on 18,000 hectares of land in Mt Hampden with the New Parliament Building as the catalyst.

Progress and Challenges

The country's population has increased by an average annual rate of 2% and the population is estimated at 13,572,560 according to the 2017 ICDS. The country has experienced de-urbanisation between 2012 and 2017. The urban population declined from 4,284,145 in 2012 (2012 Population Census) to 4,282,725 in 2017 (2012 ICDS). The urban population constitutes about 32% of the total population (2017 ICDS), down from 33% in 2012. In Harare (the capital city), the population has declined from 2,123,132 in 2012 to 1,973,906 in 2017. In Bulawayo (the second largest city), the population however rose from 653,337 in 2012 to 738,600 in 2017. The decline in the overall urban population is on account of rural-urban migration owing to a slowing down (urban) economy characterised by deindustrialisation.

A National Human Settlements Policy (NHSP) was developed in 2019 to spearhead human settlements programming. Government is seized with efforts to promote, facilitate and provide safe and affordable housing and social amenities. SDG 11. 1 and 11.7 focuses on ensuring access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums/ upgrading of informal settlements) and providing access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces respectively. To this end, construction of housing units, blocks of flats and servicing of residential stands have been implemented. Since 2017, 164,195 residential stands have been fully serviced and 49,870 housing units have been constructed.

The country continues to experience a huge housing deficit in the cities as well as poor urban infrastructure and social services. Limited transport infrastructure has also made cities in the country heavily congested lowering he quality of life of most urban dwellers as well as the ease of doing business. Deficiencies in public transport systems have given rise to an informal transport sector.

There has been a huge rise in the demand for urban housing which has pushed the prices of land and housing up. High inflation and interest rates have negatively affected housing affordability through increasing mortgage lending rates. The country has an estimated housing backlog of 1,250,000[24]. A majority of urban residents are unable to access or afford land or housing in the formal sector. Hence, there has been a mushrooming of informal settlements across the country with inadequate infrastructure and services. The majority of the informal settlement dwellers eke out a living in the informal sector as informal entrepreneurs. Government has in some cases adopted informal settlement upgrading as a staged process of improvement of the quality of life in informal settlements[25] based on incremental provision of services and tenure.

High inflation and interest rates have negatively affected housing affordability through increasing mortgage lending rates. A majority of urban residents are unable to access or afford land or housing in the formal sector. Hence, there has been a mushrooming of informal settlements across the country with inadequate infrastructure and services. The majority of the informal settlement dwellers eke out a living in the informal sector as informal entrepreneurs.

Limited transport infrastructure has also made cities in the country heavily congested lowering the quality of life of most urban dwellers as well as the ease of doing business. Deficiencies in public transport systems have given rise to an informal transport sector. The country is in the process of rebuilding a mass transit system through the resuscitation of the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO). An efficient mass transit system is vital and central to sustainable development. To support the development of a successful housing finance market, the Government established a credit bureau with comprehensive credit profile on potential borrowers. The credit bureau provides lenders with the information needed to ascertain borrowers' repayment capacity.

24 United Nations Population Division, World urbanisation prospects, 2014 revision.

25 Informal settlements are residential areas where housing units are constructed on land to which the occupants have no legal claim or which they occupy illegally and unplanned settlements and areas where housing does not comply with statutory plans and building regulations (unauthorized housing) and is often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas (UN-Habitat, 2003).

Government has also embarked on the regularisation of informal settlements programmes in various local authorities where proper planning and provision of requisite infrastructure is being done. The programme is currently being implemented in 4 settlements. Furthermore, the sector is championing an urban renewal programme. To ensure the successful implementation of the programme, responsibility lies with local authorities, central government and potential investors. Some of the already existing infrastructure in urban settlements including the dwellings are dilapidated, necessitating the need for renewal. Currently, the programme is being implemented in 3 cities namely Mutare, Bulawayo and Harare.

Government has approved the concept of the New Smart City being constructed on 18,000 hectares of land in Mt Hampden with the New Parliament Building as the catalyst.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The huge housing backlog in the country can be viewed as both a huge challenge and a tremendous opportunity to expand economic activity through housing investments and construction sector industrialisation which should help to create numerous decent employment opportunities. A sound and stable macroeconomic environment is vital to lay a solid foundation conducive for sound housing development policies. Housing sector investments have been found to have a huge economic multiplier with high labour intensity. Lowering of production costs will help to boost local production of building materials. Inclusive housing finance including affordable mortgage facilities and housing microfinance and micro-insurance are also very crucial. Further strengthening of the legal and institutional framework will also go a long way in crowding in the private sector in the housing sector investments. Increased tenure security has positively increased housing investment in many countries.

There is need to improve sustainable urban planning and land management practices to improve availability and access to land especially for the poor. The country must come up with sustainable urban development policy to: improve transportation infrastructure within and between cities to connect people, resources across regions; improve housing conditions, income equality and gender equality; lift vulnerable groups out of urban poverty by providing new social safety nets and public employment programmes; expand social enterprises to better tap the potential of the urban informal economy. Infrastructure policies are essential to activating the comparative advantages of all cities. Firms need supportive infrastructure, especially transport and energy, to avoid being spatially trapped inside crowded city centres. It is also vital to enhance the capacity of government to be able to assess the fair value of land as a way of capturing the significant potential for domestic resource mobilisation related to land value capture.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Introduction

Sustainable consumption and production enhance resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and access to green and decent jobs, contributing towards sustainable development. The country has established the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) to promote the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of the environment. EMA provides for regulations to promote the sustainable use of the environment through environmental impact assessment, environmental audits and penalties to environmental polluters.

In an effort to promote sustainable environment management and waste disposal, the country launched the national clean-up campaign under the theme 'Zero Tolerance to Litter – My Environment' on the 5th of December 2018. The first Friday of each calendar month has been officially declared the National Environment Cleaning Day. The objectives of the clean-up campaign are to ensure the environment is safe, clean and healthy, ensure environmental sustainability, promote environmental awareness, restore community pride, promote local trade and tourism, restore wildlife habitats, engage communities in long-term environmental initiatives and to eradicate diseases, such as cholera and typhoid.

President Mnangagwa holds aloft the Presidential Clean-up Day Declaration which launched in Highfield, Harare on 5 December 2018

Moreover, littering or throwing a paper on the ground has been designated a level three offense that attracts a fine.

Progress and Challenges

Solid waste management is undoubtedly one of the most topical environmental challenges in the country. In July 2017, EMA banned the use of containers made of expanded polystyrene (EPS) by the food industry and recommended their replacement with recyclable or biodegradable ones.

A number of business entities have incorporated sustainability into their business models and operations. In addition, the City of Harare has partnered with a number of companies in the development of sitting areas and islands along major roads in the central business district (CBD) of the city.

The country has attained a number of accomplishments in modernizing its public procurement system, these include:

- Adoption of modern Public Procurement Regulations that define the legal, institutional, and procedural framework. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act came into force on January 2018.
- Establishment of the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) and Board appointed in January 2018.
- Development and promulgation of Procurement Regulations, Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) and Guidelines.
- Development of Training of Trainers course materials. Roll out of this training program is underway whilst a professionalization and certification module is being developed.
- Development of Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) strategy, e-GP Guidelines and Business Process Re-Engineering Report.

All companies listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange are now mandated to publish sustainability reports. This follows the gazetting of Statutory Instrument 134 of 2019 on 14 June 2019 in an effort to enhance transparency, disclosures and accountability in the governance of listed companies. Section 400 deals with sustainability reporting and makes the following mandatory provisions:

(1) 'the issuer must disclose its sustainability policy, including mitigation of risks, sustainability performance data and other material information which deepens stakeholders' understanding of corporate performance.'

(2) 'the issuer should provide a balanced and objective view of their performance by including both positive and negative impacts on environment and society, how it relates to its stakeholders and contribute to sustainable development.'

(3) 'the issuer is encouraged to apply internationally accepted reporting frameworks.'

Section 401 (1) specifically states that, 'The ZSE encourages the adoption of internationally reporting frameworks, such as the Global reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines or standards in disclosing the company's sustainability performance...'

Conclusion and Next Steps

The country has come up with some regulations to regulate the use of plastic bags. There are however loopholes since the country does not regulate the entire lifecycle of plastic bags—from manufacturing and production, use and distribution, to trade and disposal. There are also calls for the banning of plastics bags in the future in line with regional and global best practice. This will help to curb pollution as well as eliminate the risk of plastic entering into the food value chain thereby endangering animal and human health.

In the long run, it is important to develop a zero-waste approach and zero waste plan adapted to the local context. The zero-waste approach should eventually achieve 100% recycling through better waste management. Some options that can be incorporated in the zero-waste plan include user-pays waste charges, the demarcation of space for recycling, bio-digesters, upcycling and composting.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Introduction

Climate change has had adverse effects on the economy as well as the wellbeing of Zimbabweans. Droughts, cyclones and other weather-related threats are becoming more frequent. In 2019, the Zimbabwean economy declined by 6.0% largely on account of a number of factors including climate change-induced Cyclone Idai which ravaged parts of the country as well as the El Nino induced drought which negatively affected agricultural production and electricity/power generation. Cyclone Idai which affected areas of Manicaland (Chimanimani and Chipinge), Masvingo and Mashonaland East, caused significant loss of lives and left about 270,000 people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, besides causing widespread property and infrastructure destruction. Cyclone Idai caused damage estimated at about US$1.2 billion (6% of GDP)[26].

Cyclone Idai left a trail of destruction in the country.

Source: https://www.sundaymail.co.zw/zim-mulls-weatherproof-structures-in-idai-aftermath

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26 Zimbabwe 2019 Article IV Consultation—Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Zimbabwe, IMF Country Report No. 20/82, March 2020.

Source: *https://www.sundaynews.co.zw/climate-change-and-tourism/*

The country has come up with a number of policies to deal with climate change. First and foremost, the Government has reconfigured its Ministry responsible for Environment to reflect the importance of climate by creating a Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry. Furthermore, under the same Ministry, government established the Department of Climate Change Management. The Department is mandated with promoting best practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to enhance the country's response and capacity to manage the impacts of climate change. The Department has a vision of 'A Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Zimbabwe,' and a mission to 'Climate Proof all Socio-Economic Sectors through effective Climate Change Management.' The Department of Climate Change Management is mandated to develop climate related policies and strategies; coordinate climate research; carry out education, awareness and training on climate change issues; participate in greening the economy (promote energy efficiency, creation of green jobs); participate in climate change negotiations; develop and coordinate climate mitigation and adaptation projects; resources mobilization; ensure compliance by Zimbabwe to climate related conventions and protocols among other activities.

In 2018, the country launched the National Climate Policy and the Climate Smart Agriculture Manual for Agriculture Education in Zimbabwe. The policy seeks to guide climate change management in the country, enhance the national adaptive capacity towards climate resilience, scale up mitigation actions, facilitate domestication of global policies and ensure compliance to the global mechanisms. The Policy is being supported by the National Climate Change Response Strategy, National Environmental Policy and Strategies. Renewable Energy Policy, the Forest Policy and other strategies aimed at achieving climate resilience and sustainable development.

A Climate Smart Agriculture Manual was developed under technical assistance from Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). The manual will help in making the country's agricultural systems climate resilient. The Government is currently in the process of drafting supportive Climate Change legislation to help in operationalising the National Climate Policy; establishing a firm well-defined institutional structure for climate change management; putting in place a National Climate Change Funding Mechanism; and, ensuring climate change is mainstreamed in planning and budgetary processes at national and sub-national levels.

Resources were mobilised from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) aimed at building capacity to advance national adaptation planning process in Zimbabwe. The National Adaptation Plan to be developed under the project will enable the country to mainstream climate change adaptation towards climate resilience through initiatives such as strengthening of technical and institutional capacities as well as efficient collection and dissemination of climate information.

The country also came up with the National Child Friendly Climate Policy that is designed to educate school children about climate change and promote climate-friendly practices, such as protection of forests and wetlands and broader use of low-emissions technologies. The Policy was developed after realising the role children could potentially play in the fight against climate change and the need to equip them thereof. The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Tourism and Hospitality Industry has come up with a revised Gender Action Plan that progressively builds upon the first plan, and works to address many of concerns raised by women and gender groups at the UNFCCC. The new plan places greater focus on implementation and scaling up gender-just climate solutions. Zimbabwe has integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula.

The Government developed the Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), for the period 2020-2050, in response to the global climate change crisis. The LEDS sets the course for reducing emissions, while at the same time ensuring sustainable economic development for the country. It is based on the Government's economic planning up to 2050 and covers mitigation measures across the four key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sectors of Energy; Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU); Agriculture, Forestry and other Land use (AFOLU); and, Waste. The LEDS explores measures that aim to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions or increase carbon sequestration in forests and soils while contributing to socio-economic development. The LEDS also provides a framework for developing an economy wide Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The LEDS is based on the assessment of 38 sectoral mitigation measures, identified following a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process. The implementation of these 38 sectoral mitigation measures will reduce the costs of electricity, agricultural production, fuel consumption and overall provide a significant impulse for economic growth.

Climate change has been mainstreamed into different policies and plans including the Renewable Energy Policy, Biofuels Policy, National Agriculture Policy Framework and Disaster Risk Management Programming, among many others.

Progress and Challenges

Zimbabwe ratified the Paris Agreement and officially communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), pledging to conditionally reduce per-capita energy-related emissions by 33% below the projected business as usual by 2030. The target is conditional on the means of implementation such as financial support, technology development and transfer and the related training. The target is to be achieved through actions such as energy efficiency improvement, increasing hydro in the energy mix, promoting renewable energy and implementation of REDD+ activities. The NDC also presents an adaptation contribution which seeks to upscale adaptation actions to enhance resilience of all sensitive socio-economic sectors among them agriculture and water resources.

In 2017, the country received US$1.5 million under the Zimbabwe Climate Change Technical Assistance program (ZIM-CLIM). This is a component of the Zimbabwe Reconstruction Fund (ZIMREF) which is being implemented in collaboration with the World Bank. The goal of ZIM-CLIM is to mainstream climate change considerations in the planning and management of priority sectors, notably agriculture, forestry and water/energy infrastructure. ZIM-CLIM supported the country to develop an NDC Implementation Framework which provides a practical plan for achieving the NDC targets focusing on the energy sector. The programme also managed to build capacity of national institutions to mobilize climate finance. The Technical Assistance also supported analytical work on vulnerability of forestry resources and development of climate smart irrigation guidelines.

To complement World Bank's efforts, the Government with support from UNDP, initiated the development of an economy-wide Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) and the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to help in meeting the country's emissions reduction target. The LEDS document is a very important document in the NDC work and complements the NDC Implementation Framework developed under the World Bank Technical Assistance. The two documents will support Zimbabwe in implementing its emission reduction targets in the current NDC – and in updating and enhancing Zimbabwe's NDC from being focused on the energy sector to become economy wide.

The country managed to mobilise resources from the Green Climate Fund for the following projects:

- ***Integrated Climate Risk Management for Food Security and Livelihoods in Zimbabwe Focusing on Masvingo and Rushinga Districts*** - the total project value is 10 Million and is estimated to be completed in 2023. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement together with World Food Programme (WFP) Zimbabwe. The project will strengthen national and community adaptation based on climate forecasts and information. It will increase adaptive capacity of food insecure households through community-based asset creation and risk transfer through weather-based-index insurance. Subsequently the investment capacity of smallholder farmers to sustain climate resilient development gains will be enhanced. The project is estimated to benefit more than 102, 000 beneficiaries in the target districts.

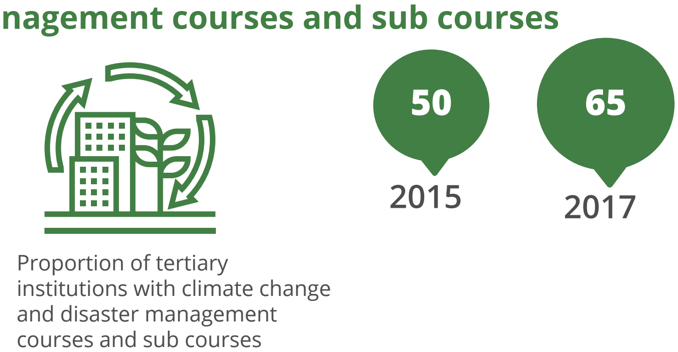
- ***Building Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Agricultural Livelihoods in Southern Zimbabwe*** – the total project value is US$47.8 million (Green Climate Fund (GCF) Grant of US$26.6 Million; Co-financing of US$14.2 Million Grant; and Co-financing US$5.8 Million in kind) with estimated beneficiaries of US$2.3 million. The project proposes to address observed and projected climate impacts and build resilience of smallholder farmers in the three river-basins of Save, Runde and Umzingwane in the southern parts of Zimbabwe. The project is estimated to be completed by June 2024.

Zimbabwe was among six countries that showcased their NDC Partnership Plans at an NDC Partnership side event that took place during the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid, Spain. The country's Partnership Plan outcomes include: local climate change mainstreaming; capacity strengthening for climate finance; reducing water vulnerability; engaging micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; increasing the adoption of low-carbon and clean technologies; scaling up climate-smart agriculture; and strengthening early warning systems. Twenty-seven partners are involved in implementing the Plan with financial contributions of US$ 23 million.

Zimbabwe was admitted into the UN CC: Learn Partnership (UN CC:Learn) for the Southern Africa Programme and received a grant to develop a National Climate Change Learning Strategy which systematically examines and identifies critical learning and skills development needs in key climate-related sectors, as highlighted in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and other climate-related policies and strategies. The development of the National Climate Change Learning Strategy was finalised and it will be key in mainstreaming climate change into the education/ learning sector and skills development.

Figure 13.1 shows that the proportion of tertiary institutions with climate change and disaster management courses and sub-courses has improved markedly from 50% in 2015 to 65% in 2017.

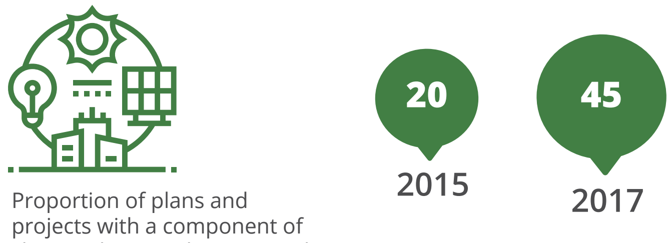
Figure 13.1: Proportion of tertiary institutions with climate change and disaster management courses and sub courses



Source: *Climate Change Management Department*

The proportion of plans and projects with a component of climate change education and awareness has also increased from 20% to 45% between 2015 and 2017 (see Figure 13.2).

Figure 13.2: Proportion of plans and projects with a component of climate change education and awareness



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

Source: *Climate Change Management Department*

The key projects being implemented by the Department of Climate Change Management are shown in ***Annex 1.***

Conclusion and Next Steps

The Climate Change Legislation will amongst other things: establish a firm well-defined institutional structure; establish a National Climate Change Funding Mechanism; and, ensure climate change is mainstreamed in planning and budgetary processes at national and sub-national levels.

The National Climate Change Learning Strategy will strengthen learning and skills development on climate change in Zimbabwe. Awareness levels on climate change will be raised through the usage of education materials that will be developed. Climate change will be mainstreamed in the education curriculum at all levels of formal and non-formal education.

SDG 15: Life on land

Introduction

Zimbabwe is richly endowed with natural resources which include renewables (land; forest, water; wildlife) and non-renewables (minerals) among others. The exploitation of these vast natural resources presents immense opportunities to drive sustainable development. The country also has established the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority whose mandate is to manage the entire wildlife population of Zimbabwe. The country has also established the Forestry Commission, an agency that is responsible for regulating forest utilisation in the country. Forests play a critical role in promoting sustainable development through climate mitigation, cleaning the air, acting as a source of food and medicine, supporting terrestrial biodiversity, water catchment protection, prevention of soil erosion, and providing employment opportunities.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to various international and regional agreements and protocols on the environment. Key among them are the Convention on Biological Diversity; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests (Forest Instrument); the Sustainable Development Goals; African Union Convention Article VIII on Vegetation Cover and the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Forestry.

In 2020, the Government gazetted Statutory Instrument No. 71 and 72 as part of efforts to strengthen the Parks and Wild Life Act to deal with poaching and illegal trafficking of endangered species that include pangolins.

Progress and Challenges

The country has been experiencing rapid depletion of forests. The deterioration in the country's wetlands ecological biodiversity and integrity also remains a major challenge in the country. Unsustainable agricultural activities, resources extraction and veld fires are major threats to wetlands. According to the Forestry Commission, the country is losing on average 330,000 hectares of forest land per year. This can be attributed to agricultural expansion and tobacco curing, over reliance on fuel wood energy, greater demand for human settlement, uncontrolled veldt fires and invasive alien species among others. Increased mining activities following recent discoveries of gold, diamonds, chrome and coal have resulted in massive clearance of bio-mass as new mines are developed and old mines expanded. Furthermore, an increase in the population of newly resettled areas has resulted in accelerated clearance of forests and woodlands for cultivation.

Zimbabwe is also facing an unprecedented rise in poaching and illegal wildlife trade which threatens to destroy the country's rich wildlife resource base. Poaching is threatening the survival of elephants, rhinos, cheetahs, lions, hippos among others.

The Forestry Commission has been on a massive tree planting programme nation-wide through initiatives such as the national tree planting day, schools tree growing and tree care competitions and also at special commemorations such as International Forest Day, World Environment Day among others. In order to consolidate these efforts, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Tourism and Hospitality Industry embarked on a year National Tree Planting Programme in the year 2015 with a view to increasing the country's forest cover and reduce deforestation. This programme involved the planting of 75 million trees nationwide covering a total area of 45,740 hectares over five years.

The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) is involved in wetlands protection and utilisation projects across the country to demonstrate to communities that wetlands protection and sustainable utilisation is possible. Examples of these projects are: the Nyamuenda Wetland in Nyanga; Domborutinhira in Mutasa; Muvhami Wetland in Makonde; Songore Wetland in Murehwa; and the Njovo wetlands in Masvingo among others, where local communities are benefiting from market gardening, fish farming whilst at the same time conserving their wetlands.

Zimbabwe is tapping from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), an international funding mechanism that presents a tremendous opportunity to address some of the most urgent environmental problems threatening human prosperity and survival, including: global biodiversity loss, climate change, ozone depletion, and the degradation of the world's oceans and other international waters. So far, the country has received US$148.94 million towards implementation of 42 projects in the area of climate change, bio diversity, and land degradation among others. For example, the Government is implementing a five-year Global Environment Facility funded programme to support conservation initiatives in North Western Zimbabwe. The programme is known as the Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor and focuses on three key environmental components; Forestry, Wildlife and Landscape Management. The Forestry component supports improved forest management activities in two gazetted forests (Ngamo and Sikumi) in Hwange as well as a piloted sub project on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) activities as a tool for good forest stewardship in Zimbabwe.

Stakeholder efforts have seen the creation of NGO based working groups on woodlands such as Environment Africa, Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources, Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) Association, Africa 2000, the Environment and Development Action (ENDA), Biomass User's Network, and ZERO among others. These groups interact to exchange ideas on woodland management and work in collaboration with relevant environmental government institutions such as the Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX); Environmental Management Agency (EMA); Forestry Commission as well Parks and Wild Life Authority.

Zimbabwe participates in several transboundary conservation initiatives with other Southern African countries such as Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia. For example, it is involved in the Lower Zambezi Mana Pools Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) with Zambia; Great Limpopo Trans frontier Park with South Africa and Mozambique; Limpopo-Shashe –TFCA with Botswana and South Africa; Kavango –Zambezi TFCA with Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia; as well as the Chimanimani TFCA with Mozambique. The Great Limpopo Trans frontier park management priorities for example, are focused on biodiversity conservation and tourism. The park is exploring a number of intervention strategies, including rehabilitation of the land (Kruger), reforestation through tree planting (Limpopo), reducing the number of cattle and introducing rotational grazing while restoring soil-eroded areas (Gonarezhou), and a planned introduction of 36 alternate fuel sources to counter charcoal use among communities.

Conclusion and Next Steps

There is local recognition of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as an important component of sustainable development. There is great scope to promote Public Private Parentships (PPPs) and community participation in the forestry sector and create a sense of collective responsibility for all forest types and ecosystems. It is also important to ensure recognition and secure the rights of local communities and smallholders to access forests and trees.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Introduction

SDG 16 is an enabling goal for 2030 Agenda because it provides the framework for peace, justice for all, and strong institutions – which accelerate other SDGs. The new 'SDG 16+ Report' suggests inclusive and participatory approach; collaborative and dialogue capacity; data collection; accountable & inclusive institutions; participatory decision-making and responsive policies that leave no one behind, access to justice and rule of law; human rights; localized SDGs, in line with the constitution, with national realities.

Under the Zimbabwe constitution, every institution is required, not only to encourage national unity, peace and stability, but also facilitate 'equitable and balanced development' and to involve the people and local communities in design and execution of development plans and programmes. Zimbabwe has established a number of independent commissions to support democracy and entrench human rights through Chapter 12 (Independent Commissions supporting democracy) of the Constitution namely: the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC); National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC); the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC); and the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC); and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Zimbabwe has also established institutions to combat corruption and crime under Chapter 13 of the Constitution namely: the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and the National Prosecuting Authority.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is the national human rights institution whose man mandate is to protect, promote and enforce human rights. The ZHRC has a number of thematic working groups focussing on the following thematic issues: Economic, Social and Cultural rights; Civil and Political rights; Environmental rights; Children's rights; and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment rights.

The National Assembly has passed the Freedom of Information Bill. The Bill is the centrepiece of three proposed laws that will repeal the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and bring the country's information-related laws into conformity with the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution. The Bill seeks to give legal effect to Section 62 of the Constitution which provides for the right to access to information as enshrined in the Declaration of Rights. The Bill among others sets out the procedure of access to information held by public institutions or information held by any person, which is necessary for the exercise or protection of a right.

Anti-corruption reforms in Zimbabwe have included ensuring the independence of the Office of the Auditor General; strengthening and reconstituting the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC), reforming financial management through a Public Finance Management Act; promoting transparent budget processes; strengthening public procurement; and embarking on a project to validate the Government payroll through a biometric authentication process.

Zimbabwe is affected by human trafficking as a source, transit and destination country for victims of trafficking. The Government has since stepped up efforts to respond to human trafficking through the establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC). The national response to human trafficking is guided by the National Plan of Action (NAPLAC).

Zimbabwe has acceded to the African Union's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The AU's APRM, 'which promotes democracy and responsive governance.' This decision demonstrates commitment to entrench open, transparent, democratic and good governance in the context of wider reforms. The APRM is a voluntary arrangement to systematically assess and review governance, share experiences, (South-South) identify deficiencies and evaluate capacity through self-assessment.

Progress and Challenges

Table 16.1 shows Zimbabwe's performance on major indicators of corruption perceptions. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts, and ranged between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt) for the period up to 2011. As from 2012 the CPI score is on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The country has experienced an improvement in terms of corruption perceptions with the CPI improving from 22 out of 100 in 2018 to 24 out of 100 in 2019 while the CPI ranking improved from 160/180 in 2018 to 158/180 in 2019.

Table 16.1: Indicators of Corruption Perceptions

Year	Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) – Transparency International	Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Ranking – Transparency International
2000	3 (out of 10)	65/90
2001	2.9 (out of 10)	65/91
2002	2.7 (out of 10)	71/102
2003	2.3 (out of 10)	106/133
2004	2.3 (out of 10)	114/145
2005	2.6 (out of 10)	107/158
2006	2.4 (out of 10)	130/163
2007	2.1 (out of 10)	150/179
2008	1.8 (out of 10)	166/180
2009	2.2 (out of 10)	146/180
2010	2.4 (out of 10)	134/178
2011	2.2 (out of 10)	154/182
2012	20 (out of 100)	163/174
2013	21 (out of 100)	157/175
2014	21 (out of 100)	156/174
2015	21 (out of 100)	150/168
2016	22 (out of 100)	160/180
2017	22 (out of 100)	157/180
2018	22 (out of 100)	160/180
2019	24 (out of 100)	158/180

Source: *Transparency International and World Bank*

Table 16.2 is a comparative analysis of the prevalence and incidence of corruption in Zimbabwe compared to two country groupings (SSA and Low income). As at 2016, Zimbabwe fares better than both SSA and Low-Income Countries in all the indicators.

Table 16.2: Comparative Analysis of Prevalence and Incidence of Corruption, 2011-12 and 2016

Indicator	Zimbabwe 2011-12	Zimbabwe 2016	Small Firms	Medium Firms	Large Firms	SSA	Low Income
Bribery incidence (percent of firms experiencing at least one bribe payment request)	16.2	17.5	17.2	20.5	9.8	22.7	24.6
Percent of firms expected to give gifts to get a construction permit	44	9.2	36.5	0.9	0	25.9	28.5
Percent of firms expected to give gifts to secure government contract	6.5	21.1	24.7	11.4	12.4	33.8	36.8
Percent of firms expected to give gifts in meetings with tax officials	12.6	12.6	11.8	17.5	4.6	17.2	18.9

Source: *World Bank Enterprise Surveys*

Table 16.3 shows the performance of Zimbabwe on the major indicators of institutional quality.

Table 16.3: Indicators of Institutional Quality

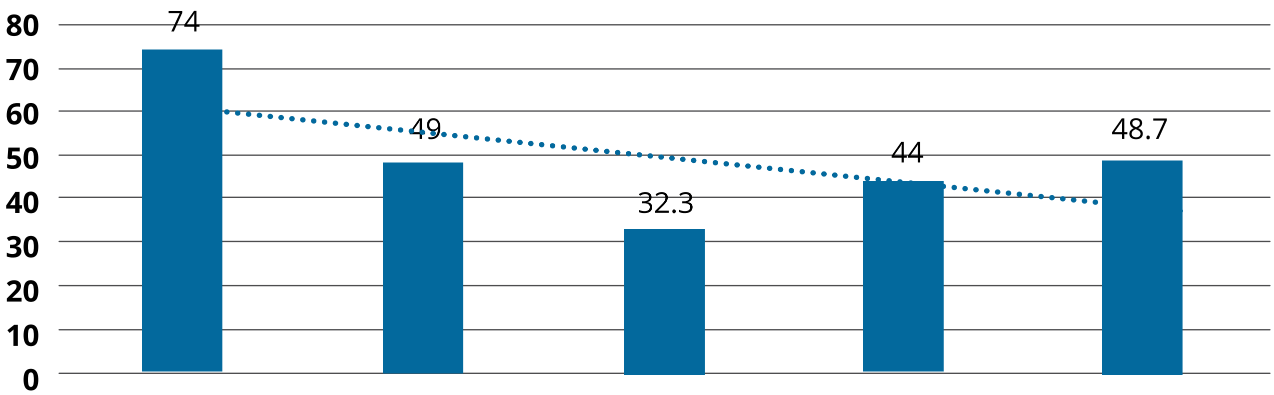
Year	Freedom Housing Freedom Rating (1=Best,7=Worst)	Fraser Institute Economic Freedom Rating (out of 10)	Ranking	Mo Ibrahim Governance Score (out of 100)	Average Score for Africa
2000	N/A	4.6	119/123	36	46.5
2001	5.5	3.6	123/123	36.3	47.5
2002	6	3.5	123/123	36.6	47.8
2003	6	3.7	126/127	36.7	48.1
2004	6	3.2	130/130	36.3	48.4
2005	6.5	3.4	141/141	34.8	48.9
2006	6.5	3.4	141/141	34	49.4
2007	6.5	3	141/141	33.8	50
2008	6.5	4.1	139/141	31.5	50.4
2009	6.5	4.1	141/142	32.4	50.3
2010	6	4.35	142/144	33.6	50.4
2011	6	4.59	149/152	35.8	49.8
2012	6	4.92	149/152	36.8	50.1
2013	6	5.33	149/152	38.7	50
2014	5.5			40.4	50.1
2015	5.5				
2016					
2017					
2018					
2019					

Source: *Freedom House, Fraser Institute and Mo Ibrahim Foundation*

Birth registration is fundamental to the realisation of other rights such as health, education and access to justice. Registering children at birth is the first step in securing their recognition before the law, safeguarding their rights and ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed. Birth registration of children under 5 years of age is particularly important as a component of vital statistical data jointly collected with child development and survival data for policy and programme development.

According to the 2019 MICS, 48.7% of children's births were registered, up from 44% in 2015 (see Figure 16.1).

Figure 16.1: Proportion of children under 5 years whose births have been registered with a civil authority (per cent)



	2005-06 ZDHS	2010-11 ZDHS	2014 MICS	2015 ZDHS	2019 MICS
%	74	49	32.3	44	48.7

Source: *2019 MICS*

Table 16.4: Birth registration, 2019

	Percent Registered	Age (in months)	Percent Registered
Total	48.7	0-11	29.6
Sex		12-23	45
Male	48.4	24-35	52.4
Female	48.9	36-47	54.3
Area		48-59	60.8
Urban	68.7		
Rural	40.3	**Mother's education**	
Province		Pre-primary or none	38
Bulawayo	71.3	Primary	35.5
Manicaland	40.8	Secondary	51.8
Mashonaland Central	47.2	Higher	83.5
Mashonaland East	46.9	**Wealth Index Quintile**	
Mashonaland West	39.4	Poorest	31.9
Matabeleland North	50.4	Secondary	38.7
Matabeleland South	48.7	Middle	44.5
Midlands	45.9	Forth	56.4
Masvingo	41.2	Richest	80.3
Harare	70.2		

Source: *2019 MICS*

Table 16.5 shows the percentage of the population subjected to violence (physical, psychological or sexual) in 2018. Assault is the most common type of offense followed by domestic violence and robbery (plain).

Table 16.5 shows birth registration statistics for 2020 with the largest number being registered in the 0-1 and 1-2 age groups, which means more children are being registered soon after birth.

Table 16.5: Birth Registrations in 2020

Sustainable Development Goal	SDG Indicator	Output Indicator	Age	Male	Female	Birth Total	Registered
Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.	Number of children under 5 whose births have been registered with a civil authority, disaggregated by age.	Number of registered births for children under 5 years	0 – 1 1 – 2 2 – 3 3 – 4 4 - 5	9 330 7 246 2 378 1 920 2 607	9 096 6 999 2 397 1 881 2 673	18 426 14 245 4 775 3 801 5 280	

Source: *Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage/ Department of the Registrar General's Department.*
The statistics provided in Table 16.5 are based on computerised birth certificates issued.

Table 16.6 shows the percentage of the population subjected to violence (physical, psychological or sexual) in 2018. Assault is the most common type of offense followed by domestic violence and robbery (plain).

Offence	Total Counts 2018	Percent of Population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence
Murder	735	0.006
Assault	77,760	0.595
Rape (Adult)	1,543	0.012
rape (Juvenile)	3,038	0.023
Armed Robbery (Firearm)	561	0.004
Armed Robbery (Other weapons)	2,605	0.02
Robbery (Plain)	5,218	0.04
Aggravated Assault	266	0.002
Indecent Assault	1,602	0.012
Indecent Act with a young person	2,806	0.021
Kidnapping	437	0.003
Human Trafficking	10	0.000
Domestic Violence	21,439	0.164
Children Acts	310	0.002
Other Sexual Offences	227	0.002
Total	**118,557**	**0.9**

Source: *Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage*

Table 16.6 shows the number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 people by age group and sex as at 2018. Most of the victims of intentional homicide are in the 20-24 age group at 123 (17%) followed by the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups at 15% each. There are more male victims of intentional homicide at about 73%.

Table 16.7: Number of Victims of Intentional Homicide per 100 000 People by Age Group and Sex, 2018

	Sex			Total Population Per Age Group	Cases Per 100,000
Age Group	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**		
0-4	11	16	27	1972247	1
5-9	20	2	23	1697961	1
10-14	14	11	25	1697961	1
15-19	34	16	50	1410614	4
20-24	79	43	123	1201634	10
25-29	85	24	109	1136328	10
30-34	83	26	109	914287	12
35-39	45	11	57	731429	8
40-44	52	5	57	522450	11
45-49	27	16	43	352654	12
50-54	16	2	18	352654	5
55-59	16	7	23	287347	8
60-64	20	2	23	222041	10
65+	32	18	50	561633	9
Total	**535**	**200**	**735**	**13061239**	**6**

Source: *Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage*

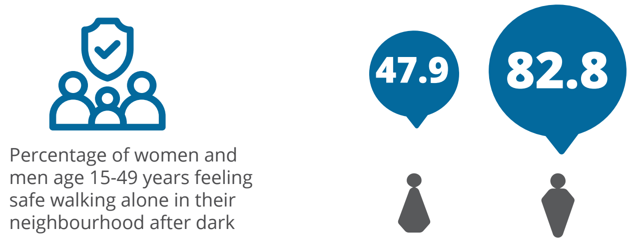
In terms of the prevalence of violent discipline by caregivers, the share of children who experienced violence discipline by caregivers has increased from 62.6% in 2014 to 64.1% in 2019 (see Figure 16.2)..

Figure 16.2: Share of children (age 1-14) who experienced any violent discipline by caregivers

Source: *2014 MICS; 2019 MICS.*

In terms of safety, the share of men who feel safe walking around in the area they live was 82.8% when compared with 47.9% for women (see Figure 16.3).

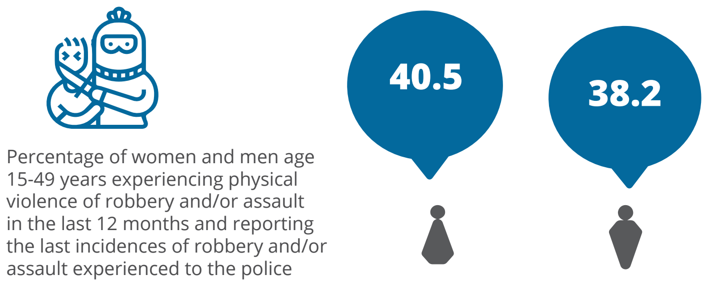
Figure 16.3: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live



Source: *2019 MICS*

With respect to crime reporting, the share of women who experienced physical violence and reported was 40.5%, while the share of men who experienced physical violence and reported was 38.2% (see Figure 16.4)..

Figure 16.4: Proportion of population experiencing physical violence and reporting



Source: *2019 MICS*

Table 16.11 shows some initiatives undertaken to facilitate the achievement of SDG 16.

Table 16.11: Initiatives undertaken to facilitate the achievement of SDG 16

Initiative	Qualitative Indicators of Progress	Quantitative Indicators of Progress against targets
Aligning of Legislation and Licensing of Campus Radio Stations	Licensing regulations amended and aligned	(5/10) Campus Radio Stations Licensed
Aligning of Legislation and Licensing of (10) Community Radio Station	Licensing regulations amended and aligned	(6/6) Community Radio Stations Licensed
Aligning of Legislation and Licensing of (12) Digital Television Stations	Licensing regulations amended and aligned	(12/12) Digital Television Stations Licensed
Aligning Legislation to License (10) Provincial Radio Stations	Licensing regulations amended and aligned	(0/10) Provincial Radios Licensed
Digitalization of (18) Television Transmitter Sites	Provide digital television access to unserved or underserved areas	Digitalization of (18/48) Television Transmitter Sites Completed
Installation of (5) FM Radio Transmitter Sites	Provide radio access to unserved or underserved areas	Installation of (5/25) FM Radio Transmitter Sites Completed
Licensing of Datacasting Players	Improve internet access and foster digital inclusion	Datacasting License Issued to (1/1) Player(s)

Source: *Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services*

Conclusion and Next Steps

Government is in the process of rolling out e-governance to make service provision and governance more efficient and effective. This can help fight corruption by raising accountability through digital footprints, raise transparency by publicizing regulations and fees, and reduce face-face interaction where most requests for bribes take place. To speed up company registration, the Government has also adopted an online company registration system.

To promote resource transparency, the Government is considering adopting and implementing Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

To address the issue of tax evasion, the country is also looking at the modalities of entering into Automatic Exchange of Tax Information (AETI) with destination countries where the proceeds of tax evasion are deposited.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

Introduction

Government has put a lot of emphasis on building partnerships with the private sector, civil society and development partners to ensure successful implementation of the SDGs. In particular, a strong partnership between government and development partners has been established through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The onset of the implementation of the SDGs coincided with the first year of implementing the new ZUNDAF (2016 – 2020). The ZUNDAF (2016-2020) is supporting national development efforts in six result areas that are fully aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely: Social Services and Protection; Poverty Reduction and Value Addition; Food and Nutrition; Gender Equality; HIV and AIDS; and Public Administration and Governance.

Progress and Challenges

The Government has made some progress in terms of the doing business reforms. For instance, Zimbabwe has just recently been listed among top 20 'improvers' according to a list by the World Bank on top 20 economies that have improved the most on ease of doing business. Zimbabwe is joined by four other African countries in the top 20 namely: Togo, Kenya, Nigeria and Djibouti. In terms of budget transparency, the country has been ranked number three in Africa (after South Africa with a score of 81 out of 100 and Namibia with a score of 51 out of 100) in terms of budget transparency by the Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2019 with a transparency score of 49 out of 100 in 2019 up from 23 out of 100 in 2017.

Fiscal space remains constrained because of the poor performance of domestic revenue inflows against the background of rising recurrent expenditures. The country is in an unsustainable fiscal position with the bulk of the fiscal revenues financing recurrent expenditure. Tables 17.1 and 17.2 show the analysis of the fiscal space and public expenditure for the period 2009-2016. As shown in Table 17.1, total revenue to GDP increased from 17.1% in 2016 to 21.5% in 2018 before declining to 17.6% by 2019. While tax revenue to GDP improved from 15.8% in 2016 to 21.1% in 2018 before coming down to 17.3% in 2019. The decline over the period 2018-2019 is on account of a weakening economy.

Tax revenue as percentage of GDP declined to 13% by 2020, due to growing informalisation of the economy; high number and value of fiscal incentives; levying of Government fees below cost recovery and leakages manifesting through smuggling; underreporting of revenue particularly on US dollar transactions; corruption and under performance of the economy due to COVID 19 pandemic. Under NDS1 government is targeting to strengthening revenue collection effort through reviewing and streamlining tax incentives, formalising the informal sector, upgrading of the audit and tax services of large taxpayers, as well as linking ZIMRA systems with other agencies. The success and sustainability of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on the Government to mobilise greater domestic resources.

Table 17.1: Analysis of the Fiscal Space, % of GDP

% of GDP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Revenue	20.0	19.1	17.1	17.3	21.5	17.6
Tax Revenue	18.2	18.1	15.8	16.9	21.1	17.3
Non-tax Revenue	1.8	1.0	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
FDI	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.1	2.4	-
Transfers	13.4	14.2	-	-	-	-
ODA	5.5	5.6	-	-	-	-

Source: *calculated from Ministry of Finance data.*

Table 17.2: Analysis of Public Expenditure, % of GDP

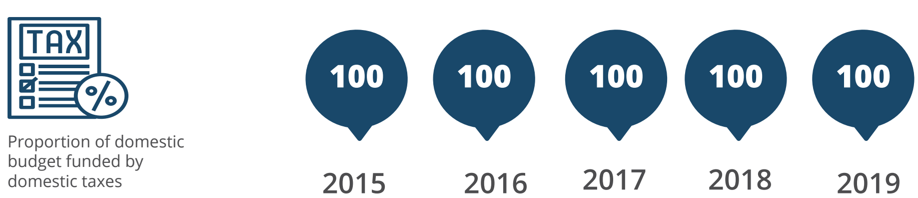
% of GDP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Expenditure	28.3	29.4	22.9	26.5	26.3	17.2
Current Expenditure	25.8	25.6	18.5	19.8	16.8	10.1
Capital Expenditure	2.5	3.8	1.9	6.7	10.0	7.2

Source: *calculated from Ministry of Finance data.*

Increasing the Government revenue as a percentage of GDP will increase the capacity of the country to finance sustainable development programmes. The huge informal economy provides an opportunity for the Government to expand its tax base.

Figure 17.1 shows the proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes. The bulk of the domestic budget is funded from domestic taxes.

Figure 17.1 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

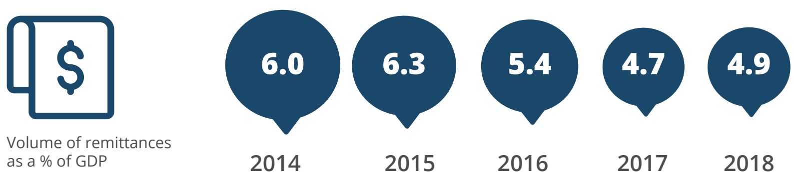


Source: *ZIMSTAT*

It has been shown that remittances are a significant and stable source of financing accounting for as much as 30.0% of GDP in some developing economies contributing immensely to development and poverty eradication. There is scope for the country to leverage greater remittances inflows for sustainable development by increasing incentives, reducing the cost of remittances services and improving the overall investment climate. Successful reengagement of the international community is crucial to improving the country's creditworthiness and enhance access to global capital markets. This will help to unlock greater development finance and investment inflows. As shown in Figure 17.2, the volume of remittances (in US$) as a percent of GDP has been on a declining trend.

According to the 2021 Monetary Policy Statement, in 2020, diaspora remittances amounted to US$1.0 billion, a 58% increase from previous year of US$635.7 million. The increase in diaspora remittances is mainly due to liberalisation of the use of free funds in the country and improved channelling of remittances through formal channels

Figure 17.2: Volume of remittances (in US$) as a percent of GDP



Source: *ZIMSTAT*

Internet plays an important role in access to information as well as improving the public services. The internet is not only a pathway to information, communication, and economic opportunity, but is also increasingly necessary to access basic commercial and public services. Internet usage is also an enabler of other fundamental rights such as the right to free expression, access information, the right to education and the freedom of association and assembly. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, many individuals and households especially in the developed world have been using opportunities offered by ICTs to minimise the disruption through for example using the Internet to work from home, to order goods/ products for home delivery (e-commerce), or to continue their children's education and learning. However, developing countries like Zimbabwe are less equipped to use ICTs to minimise disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Abridged Postal and Telecommunications Sector Performance Report for Q2 of 2019 by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), at the end of December 2018, 62.9% of Zimbabwe's population had access to the Internet. By the end of June 2019, this figure had dropped to 57.2%.

A major contributor to the drop in internet usage rates is the increasing cost of mobile data and connectivity fees. Accordingly, the statistics reveal that at least 95% of Zimbabweans access the internet via their mobile devices using mobile data from mobile network operators such as Econet, Net-One, and Telecel. Over the last months of 2019, there have been steep increases in mobile data costs across all mobile networks while user income level has been eroded by chronic high inflation forcing internet users to prioritise spending on other services besides the internet. The Affordability Report 2019 published by the Alliance for

Affordable Internet, states that a lack of competition in the broadband sector leads to the high cost of broadband in low-income countries such as Zimbabwe among others. In the same report, Zimbabwe slipped one position down in the Affordability Drivers Index (ADI) to position 53 of 61 countries covered in the report.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The country has enacted the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) Act in an effort to strengthen the national institutional framework for broad-based stakeholder participation in decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. There is however need to broaden participation to cover all key stakeholders, including youths and communities like is the case in other countries.

There is also need to streamline and reduce the high taxes prevailing in the telecommunications sector which have essentially driven up connectivity costs.

Assessing means of implementation

The mobilization of adequate finance is an important means for the attainment of sustainable development in the country. This requires the proactive involvement and partnership of all the relevant stakeholders as well as the integration of a number of sources of finance involving the Government, the private sector, international partners, as well as the diaspora. There is need to explore innovative and sustainable sources of finance. It is also important to ensure the participation and involvement of all key stakeholders including local authorities, the private sector, civil society organisations and people with disabilities, in the coordination and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) of July 2015 provides a financing framework for the 2030 Agenda. The AAAA identifies strategies for developing countries to mobilize domestic resources. The AAAA covers commitments and recommendations in the following action areas: domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; science, technology, innovation and capacity building; as well as data, monitoring and follow-up. Domestic resource mobilization has been identified as the most important core source of sustainably financing SDGs. The AAAA highlights the primacy of countries as the key drivers and financiers of sustainable development. The implementation of the AAAA is critical in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Zimbabwe is currently not able to mobilise sufficient adequate domestic revenues. Tax revenues are the most important component of domestic resources. The tax-GDP ratio in Zimbabwe remains erratic and inadequate. A major obstacle to government's ability to raise revenues is caused by prevalence of narrow tax base owing to the large size of the informal economy. Widening the tax base and enhancing the efficiency and capacity of tax administration are important for effective resource mobilization for financing sustainable development. Zimbabwe needs to create the right mix of incentives to encourage the participation of the private sector in the financing of sustainable development. Private sector resources are crucial to complement public sector investments and to contribute to economic growth and job creation, as well as innovations in areas critical for sustainable development.

There is now growing consensus that Diasporas can be a powerful driver of sustainable development if well harnessed and in the right policy context. The key areas in which Diaspora members have played positive development roles are: remittances, direct investment, human capital transfer, philanthropy, capital market investment, and tourism. Diasporas can be effective partners for development (development agents). In particular, it has been shown that remittances are a significant and stable source of financing accounting for as much as 30% of GDP in some developing economies contributing immensely to development and poverty eradication. There is scope for Zimbabwe to leverage greater remittances inflows for sustainable development by increasing incentives, reducing the cost of remittances services and improving the overall investment climate.

To ensure effective implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is need for empirically sound evidence-based policymaking. Carrying out evidence-based policymaking, however, requires strong statistical systems as well as a sound, credible and well disaggregated database. The country has an overall 44% data gap. Capacitating the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) is therefore necessary to effectively address the data requirements of the 2030 Agenda and close the data gaps. There is need to continuously improve collection, analysis and dissemination of high quality, reliable and timely data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, disability, region and other relevant variables. Effective local action requires disaggregated data collection and management at various local levels.

Evaluating policies and strategies

Sustainable development is consistent with the nation's development vision of attaining upper middle-income status by 2030 and is at the core of the nation's development priorities. The implementation of SDGs in Zimbabwe has been through Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) (2013-2018), the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP) (2016-2018), the Transitional Stabilization Programme (TSP) (2018-2020), the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) (2021-2025) and the National Budget.

The ZIMASSET was implemented from October 2013 until December 2018. ZIMASSET was a cluster-based development strategy and these clusters include: Food Security and Nutrition; Social Services and Poverty Eradication; Infrastructure and Utilities; and Value Addition and Beneficiation. These four clusters were supported by three enabling clusters namely: Fiscal Reform Measures; Public Administration, Governance and Performance Management; and Aid Coordination. Government launched the IPRSP on 26 September 2016 and ran from 2016 to 2018. The IPRSP was anchored on seven pillars namely: Agriculture Productivity, Growth and Rural Food Security; Social Sectors; Private Sector; Infrastructure and Climate Change; Environment and Climate Change; Gender Women and Youth Empowerment; and Strengthening Governance and Institutional Capacity. The implementation of both the ZIMASSET and the IPSRP were affected by successive droughts (in the 2011/12 and 2015/16 agricultural seasons) which affected agricultural and total national output resulting in most of the key macroeconomic targets being missed. Notwithstanding, there was a slight improvement in terms of the prevalence of poverty on account of the country's social protection interventions. The proportion of people below the Poverty Datum Line (PDL)/ Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL) came down from 72.3% in 2010/11 to 70.5% by 2017. The proportion of poor households came down from 62.6% in 2010/11 to 60.6% in 2017.

The Government through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development unveiled an ambitious Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) on 5 October 2018. The TSP sought to

27 Consolidated Statement of Financial Performance of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the period ended 31 December 2019, Government of Zimbabwe.

28 Zimbabwe 2021 Pre-Budget Strategy paper, Building Resilience and Economic Recovery Post COVID-19, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Harare, October 2020.

stabilise the macroeconomy as a basis for sustainable development. The country achieved a budget/fiscal surplus of ZWL$437 million in 2019[27] . The current account position improved from a deficit of US$1.4 billion in 2018 to a surplus of US$311.2 million in 2019[28]. A current account surplus will help to sustain currency stability and confidence. This is key in terms of macroeconomic stabilisation and highlights a key success in terms of the fiscal consolidation process the Government has embarked on as part of the TSP.

The National Budget has incorporated and internalised SDGs through increasing public expenditure and investments on agriculture, education, health, social protection and infrastructure. The National Budget has also provided fiscal incentives to promote employment creation as well as promoting the uptake of alternative renewable sources of energy such as solar. Importantly, the renewable energy sector has the potential to promote green economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic through attracting investments and creating green jobs. While SDGs have been integrated and aligned into national development plans and the National Budget at the national level, there are still a lot of challenges at the sub-national level.

The successor to the TSP, the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), will run from 2021-2025. The NDS1 has 14 priority areas which are well aligned to the SDGs. These 14 priorities areas include: Economic Growth and Stability; Food and Nutrition Security; Governance; Moving the Economy up the Value Chain & Structural Transformation; Human Capital Development; Environmental Protection, Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management; Housing Delivery; Digital Economy; Health and Well-being; Infrastructure & Utilities; Image Building and International Engagement and Re-engagement; Social Protection; Youth, Sport and Culture; and Devolution. Employment creation and poverty reduction have also been mainstreamed into the NDS1 with clear targets to track progress.

Concluding with recommendations

The country has made significant strides in terms of establishing a robust institutional framework for coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An SDGs Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs in the country is in the process of being established. Notable progress has also been registered in terms of integrating and mainstreaming the SDGs into the National Vision 2030 as well as the National Budget. Emphasis has also been put on building partnerships with key stakeholders including development partners, the private sector, civil society organisations including the youths, the elderly, as well as people with disabilities. This is important to ensure mutual accountability and collective responsibility. Importantly, there is need for the localisation of the SDGs at sub-national levels.

Sustained and inclusive economic growth remains vital to achieving sustainable development in the country. Economic growth in the country has not been inclusive and fast enough to absorb the growing labour force as well as to have a significant impact on poverty. Zimbabwe has a fast-growing labour force. The country has recorded high rates of population growth averaging 2% per annum. Owing to the erratic economic growth, employment creation that is not expanding fast enough to keep up with the growing labour force. Progress in terms of the targets and indicators has been mixed. Even where there has been progress, there are however age, gender and regional disparities. There is need to increase investments in critical productivity-enhancing and poverty reducing sectors of the economy to ensure pro-poor and inclusive growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the exigency and necessity to make the economy more sustainable, resilient, diverse and innovative. Scaling up investments in clean energy, strengthening health systems and expanding social protection coverage can help to initiate and sustain an inclusive, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery and mitigate the fallout from future crises. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted how important it is to keep resources in reserve for times of crises. For example, a number of countries have been drawing down on their sovereign wealth reserves to sustainably finance their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This therefore implies the need for the country to fully operationalise the sovereign wealth fund in line with the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Zimbabwe Act, 2014 as a way of mobilising domestic savings.

Challenges

The country is facing several challenges in terms of implementation of the SDGs. These include:

- An underperforming macroeconomy with the economy shrinking by an estimated -6.0% in 2019 and projected to weaken again in 2020 presents a huge challenge. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is necessary to attain sustainable development.
- The country continues to suffer from limited fiscal space on account of negative economic growth over the past 2 years, sub-optimal investment levels as well as high levels of informality. The limited fiscal space coupled with the unsustainably high levels of public indebtedness have exacerbated the huge financing gap.
- Lack of adequate and critical infrastructure (energy, transport, water and sanitation, ICT) has inhibited private sector investments in the country.
- Rapid urbanisation, deindustrialisation and rising informality which have resulted in: rising incidence of urban poverty; inadequate provision of services; growing incidence of informal settlements; and environmental degradation among others.
- Climate change has exposed the country to natural disasters with adverse effects on impacts on agriculture, food security and health. The 2020 Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), launched on 2 April 2020, indicates that 7 million people in urban and rural areas are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance across Zimbabwe, compared to 5.5 million in August 2019.

- With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic the food crisis worsened. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for February–June 2020 showed people across the entire country were food insecure, with 45% of the rural population (4.3 million people) and 2.4 million people living in urban areas facing acute food insecurity. According to ZIMSTAT and World Bank (2020), food insecurity in the country has worsened since 2019. About 31% of rural and 18% of urban households faced severe food insecurity, while 75% of rural households and 65% of urban households faced moderate food insecurity in July.
- While the prevalence of poverty has declined, it still remains unsustainably high especially

when compared with other countries in the region. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to push many into extreme poverty in view of the limited safety nets. According to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), about 249,000 persons, which is approximately 2% of the population, were receiving a monthly pension or any social security fund or both. With respect to medical insurance, about 984,000 persons, representing about 7% of the population, indicated they were members of a medical aid scheme.

- Insufficient timely and disaggregated data for most indicators, making it difficult to track and monitor progress.

- Limited internet coverage especially in the rural areas. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the huge digital gap between the few who are connected and the many who still remain unconnected.

Opportunities

- According to the 2017 ICDS, Zimbabwe has a relatively young population. Out of the estimated population of 13,572,560, 40% are below age 15. The country's demographic profile is dominated by the productive age group (15-64) which accounts for 51.4% of the total population. This demographic composition provides an opportunity to the Zimbabwe economy as this young population implies a potential large labour force that can generate and accelerate economic growth and sustainable development.

- The huge rural and informal economy in the country represents a largely untapped reservoir of wealth and economic opportunities. Zimbabwe's rural population is estimated at 68% (2017 ICDS), while the informal economy accounts for about 60% of the total economy, the second largest after Bolivia[29]. These opportunities can be realised through greater investments in social and physical capital as well the implementation of policies that facilitate transition from informality to formality. Transitioning from informality to formality is particularly vital for effective domestic resource mobilisation as it expands the tax base.

- The Zimbabwean Diaspora, estimated at more than 3 million, has emerged as a significant opportunity and an important variable in the country's vision of becoming an upper middle-income status country by 2030. Some of the channels through which the Zimbabwe diaspora can contribute to sustainable development include: remittances, philanthropy[30], skills transfers, investments, tourism and advocacy. For instance, diaspora remittances help to improve macroeconomic stability, reduce poverty, facilitate human capital formation as well as support investments. The macroeconomic impacts and multiplier effects of diaspora remittances across the country were more prominent during the 2008 economic crisis.

- The country's huge and largely untapped natural resources and renewable energy capacity presents opportunities for greater participation by individuals and the private sector in the economy. This calls for further streamlining of the doing business environment among others to create a conducive investment environment. There are significant opportunities to scale up public-private partnerships (PPPs) especially in the area of infrastructure investments.

- The country has set up a number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country. These SEZs present significant opportunities for export-oriented and labour-intensive in-

29 Medina, L. and F. Schneider (2018). Shadow Economies Around the World: What Did We Learn Over the Last 20 Years? IMF Working Papers, WP/18/17.

30 The Highlife Foundation, a philanthropic foundation is funding the Higherlife Foundation Medical Doctors Fellowship.

dustrialisation provided deliberate attention and emphasis is placed on creating and strengthening linkages, value chains and systems between the local MSMEs and the multi-national corporations (MNCs) operating in the SEZs. This will help to ensure that the spill overs from SEZs are pro-poor, inclusive and broad-based.

- Zimbabwe has put in place a good policy and institutional framework to underpin sustainable development. There is however a huge implementation gap which needs to be bridged.
- There are also myriad opportunities for civil society organisations (CSOs) to complement government sustainable development efforts with community-based assistance based on evidence and innovation. CSOs can also contribute towards localising the SDGs as well monitoring and reporting progress at the local level. This is particularly important in view of the data gaps.
- The digital economy offers immense opportunities for the country to enhance productivity and competitiveness, enhance public sector efficiency, as well as to reduce the cost of doing business. It is important to invest strategically and systematically in developing the requisite digital infrastructure, services, skills and entrepreneurship.

Lessons Learnt and Next Steps

- Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership and collaboration of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure that no one is left behind. The country has embraced the ‘whole of government’ as well as the ‘whole of society’ approaches. Importantly, greater political and social consensus on sustainable development priorities, policies and programmes help to sustain them and to manage the effects of any possible post reform exogenous shocks. It also helps to develop more efficient institutional structures that help to mitigate those shocks.
- There is need for decentralization of the SDGs implementation at all levels (national, provincial, district, community, household) of governance to ensure maximum impact. In particular, improving the involvement of local authorities is necessary to create a critical mass around sustainable development.
- Ensuring greater private sector involvement is critical to bridge the huge financing gap that exists in terms of SDGs financing.
- Urgently addressing structural barriers to disability inclusion, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to enhance their participation in the economic development process
- Capacitating the National Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT) to effectively address the data requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There is need to continuously improve collection, analysis and dissemination of high quality, reliable and timely data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, disability, region and other relevant variables. Effective local action requires disaggregated data collection and management at various local levels.
- Increasing public awareness, knowledge and perceptions of SDGs is necessary to empower especially local communities and citizens to take action in their own local communities.

- As part of the localisation of the SDGs, it is vital to broaden the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to cover as many local authorities as possible. To date, VLRs have been undertaken in Harare and Victoria Falls. The VLRs are important in ensuring that the SDGs are integrated and mainstreamed into the local authorities' development plans and strategies

- There is need to ensure that more resources are directed towards the productive sectors of the economy such as health, education, social protection and infrastructure to ensure economic growth is inclusive. In particular, investments in health, education and infrastructure have a positive effect on the accumulation of human and physical capital as well as total factor productivity.

- The country has been affected by climate change. climate change induced weather extremes, variability and climate change impacts. This makes climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector a national priority, demanding policy direction at the highest level. At the same time, the agricultural sector also provides opportunities for climate change mitigation through initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and sustainable agro-forest-based adaptation and management practices.

- There is need to provide support to sub-national levels of government to raise awareness of the SDGs and develop capacities for local level implementation, including translation of the SDGs into local plans, programmes, and monitoring efforts.

- The COVID-19 has highlighted the need to make the economy more sustainable, resilient, diverse and innovative. This can be achieved by strengthening health systems and expanding social protection coverage. Comprehensive social protection systems and universal health coverage can help to lessen the fallout from crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important it is to keep resources in reserve for times of crises. For example, a number of countries have been drawing down on their sovereign wealth reserves to sustainably finance their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country must fully operationalise the sovereign wealth fund in line with the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Zimbabwe Act, 2014 as a way of mobilising domestic savings.

- The consolidation of local and foreign resources is critical for effective financing of sustainable development in the country. In this regard, it is critical to ensure that development partners channel all assistance through Central Government in order to ensure traceability and accountability.

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Annex 1

	Project	Timeline		Resources ($)	Comments and Progress	Key Deliverables
		From	to			
1	Project: Building capacity to advance the National Adaptation Planning process in Zimbabwe	2019	2021	3, 000, 000 GCF Funded	The project seeks to strengthen the enabling environment for adaptation planning and implementation in Zimbabwe. Project launched, consultants recruited, project running, all provinces sensitised now sensitisation of all 59 districts underway. Launch of the Climate Change Mainstreaming Research Programme at Lupane State University in Matabeleland North Province. The research programme will see 5 local universities in provinces of Zimbabwe training members of the Provincial Development Committee on how to mainstream climate change in development frameworks and budgets. The selected universities will be awarded research grants to support a (i) short training course on climate change for representa-tives of each PDC (ii) joint University and PDC local research on climate change challenges and the priority suitable interventions that can be implemented towards adaptation.	• Stakeholder's capacity to formulate and implement the NAP process in Zimbabwe enhanced. • Background information for formulating and implementing the NAP process managed, and adaptation options prioritized. • NAP implementation resources identified and studies to inform medium-to long-term climate change adaptation investments conducted. Monitoring, reviewing and reporting on the NAP process in Zimbabwe improved.
2	Project: National Communications	2019	2023	700, 000 National Communication Support Programme	Compilation of the Fourth National Communication (FNC) to the UNFCCC and the first Biennial Update Report (BUR1) for Zimbabwe Project Launched in 2018 last quarter, consultancy procured, project running	• A national inventory of the greenhouse gases compiled in accordance with the guidance of the COP. • Impact analysis and vulnerability assessment of key sectors of the economy to the adverse impacts of climate change in Zimbabwe. • Analysis of GHG mitigation options and possible measures of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases while advancing sustainable development plans and programmes for Zimbabwe; • Elaboration of programmes including measures aimed at facilitating adequate adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change;

	Project	Timeline		Resources ($)	Comments and Progress	Key Deliverables
		From	to			
3.	Project: Support Towards Implementing Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)"	2018	2020	1, 000, 000 Russia Trust Fund, United Nations Development Programme	The project's goal is to contribute to the low emission development pathway for Zimbabwe through implementation of a robust Nationally Determined Contributions action program. Project launched, consultancy procured, awareness workshops conducted on reporting the project Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems completed awaiting launch. Consultations with relevant private sector and government stakeholders to produce a set of recommenda-tions ongoing. The key sectors being focused on are Waste; Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU); Agriculture Forestry and other Land Uses (AFOLU); and, Waste. Partly financing development of a Climate Finance Facility (CFF) by KPMG engaged by Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ). The Facility will be instrumental in pursuing the agenda of climate finance in Zimbabwe. It will also feed in the National Climate Fund to be established by Climate Change Legislation.	The project's main objectives are to: **i.** Support the Government of Zimbabwe to develop the Low Emission Development Strategy for Zimbabwe in order to provide clear direction for low emission development for the country; **ii.** Build a functional, effective and sustainable domestic MRV system for tracking low emission development in Zimbabwe **iii.** Facilitate partnerships with investors and companies, including Russian business actors and academic institutions, in order to open up for investments, collaboration and technological exchange for low emission development
4.	Project: GCF Readiness	2018	2020	300, 000 Green Climate Fund	GCF readiness financing will enable the country to meet its finance needs, enhance information exchange, enable the FP (or the NDA once established) to provide guidance for the crafting of GCF compliant projects and programmes, and set the country on a wide-ranging coherent programme that will bring about the transformational change envisaged by the Fund. Project launched, consultancy procured, stakeholders workshops conducted for example on reviewing and updating the country's GCF Project Pipeline	The project addresses the following: **i.** Creating an enabling framework to mobilise finance for climate change interventions. **ii.** Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry **iii.** Capacity building in climate finance, climate change programming for GCF, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems iv. Cross sectoral and inter-ministerial GCF awareness **v.** Refine the priority areas set out in Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contribution submitted to the UNFCCC

	Project	Timeline		Resources ($)	Comments and Progress	Key Deliverables
		From	to			
5.	Supporting Enhanced Climate Action for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development Pathway Project (SECA)	2016	2020	Varies UNDP / UNV funded	The project aims to achieve increased climate resilience and low carbon development UNVs procured in the target districts of Gokwe South, Lupane and Bulilima; solar powered nutritional gardening in the project districts; drilling of boreholes for provision of water to households, institutions and farming plots	The project aims to achieve its objectives through: • Scaling up climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in some of the most vulnerable districts (Bulilima, Lupane, Gokwe South, Buhera and Chiredzi); • Supporting low emission development policy, strategy and planning frameworks; • Supporting climate and gender sensitive Disaster Risk Management planning and implementation; • Providing capacity for Government institutions to meet obligations under UNFCCC, Sustainable Energy for All and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction The project supported the development of a new project initiative to combat climate change impacts on smallholder agriculture in the Save, Runde and Mzingwane river basins. The proposal was submitted to Green Climate Fund for funding.
6	UN CC: Learn project	2019	2020	100,000	UN CC:Learn supports countries in developing National Strategies to strengthen human resources and skills for climate resilient development and promotes learning materials including open online courses on climate change. The project aims to develop a National Climate Change Learning Strategy to strengthen learning and skills development to address climate change in the Republic of Zimbabwe. Resources for the activity are being channelled through UNDP, The Government engaged the services of a consultant to develop a Background Report on National Policy Priorities, Initiatives and Institutions Relevant for Climate Change Capacity Development in Zimbabwe and to do an Assessment of Learning Needs and Capacity to Deliver for the National Climate Change Learning Strategy. Inception workshop done from 21-22 October 2019 to discuss the strategy development process and for the consultant to present his preliminary findings. The reports were finalised by December 2019 after incorporating recommendations from stakeholders. A Mid-term workshop on" Designing Results based Action to Strengthen Learning and Skills Development to Address Climate Change in Zimbabwe and Advance NDC and NAP Implementation", was held from the 13th to the 14th of February in 2020. The workshop was to identify, review and prioritise possible activities to be included in the Action Plan for the Strategy. The Strategy was validated and finalised and now awaits implementation.	The projects aim to develop a National Climate Change Learning Strategy which will assist in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The learning strategy will strengthen learning and skills development to address climate change in the Republic of Zimbabwe

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