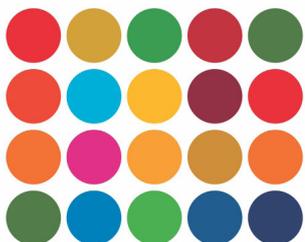




UNITED NATIONS  
ZIMBABWE



THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS  
ZIMBABWE 2021

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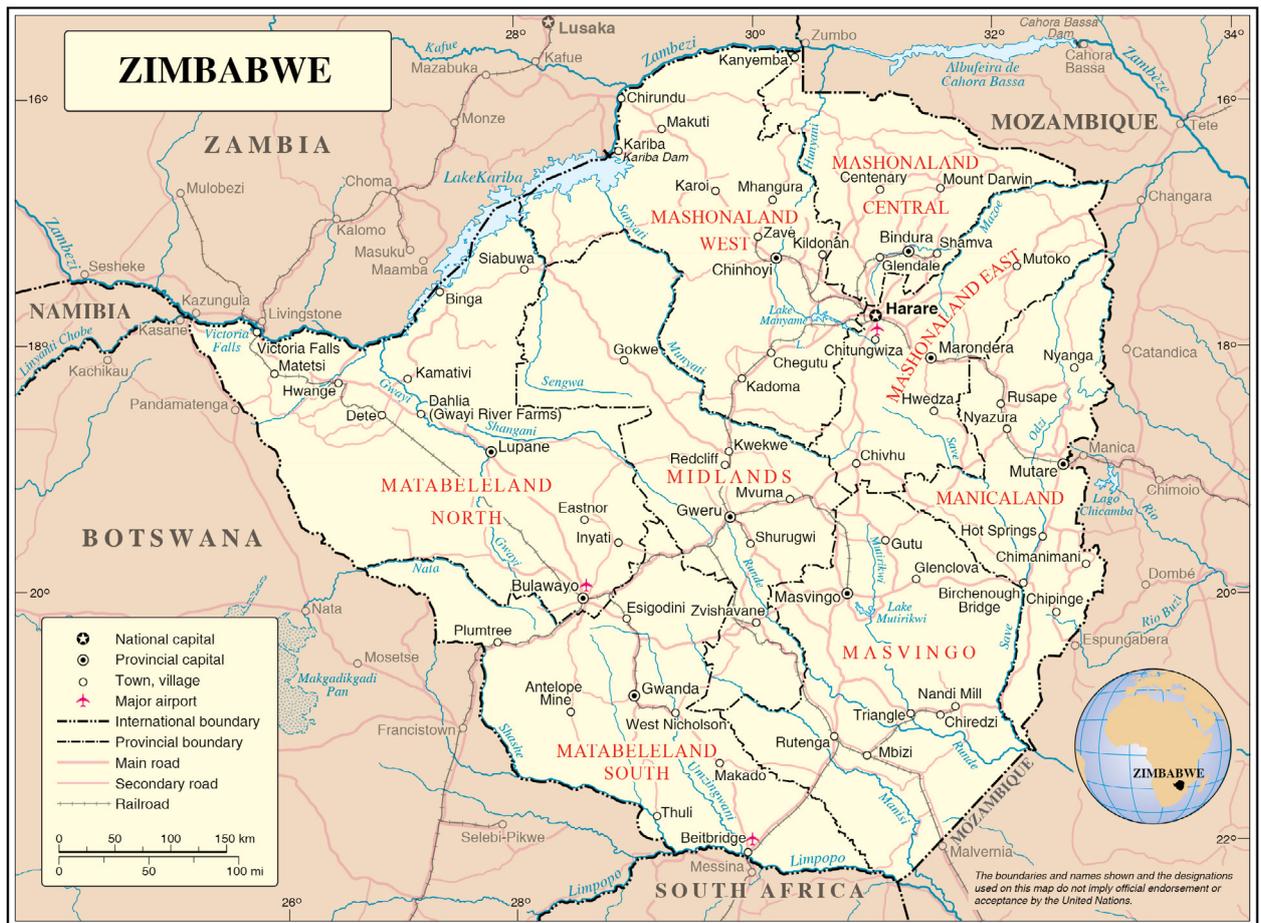
# ACRONYMS

Acronym	Name	Acronym	Name
<b>5Ps</b>	People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, Partnerships	<b>NMR</b>	Neonatal Mortality Rate
<b>ACHPR</b>	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	<b>NPOs</b>	Non-Profit Organisations
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area	<b>NPRC</b>	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank	<b>NRSC</b>	National RBME Steering Committee
<b>AGYW</b>	Adolescent Girls and Young Women	<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	<b>NSDRF</b>	National and Sectoral Development Results Frameworks
<b>AMTO</b>	Assisted Medical Treatment Order	<b>NSDS3</b>	The third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
<b>APRM</b>	African Peer Review Mechanism	<b>NSPPF</b>	National Social Protection Policy Framework
<b>ART</b>	Anti-retroviral treatment	<b>NSS</b>	National Statistical System
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>NSSA</b>	Zimbabwe the National Social Security Authority
<b>BAZ</b>	Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe	<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>BEAM</b>	Basic Education Assistance Module	<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>BSM</b>	Business Spend Management	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>CAT</b>	UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	<b>OPC</b>	Office of the President and Cabinet
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment	<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>CCDDPLAC</b>	Cabinet Committee on Devolution and Development of Local Authorities	<b>PA</b>	Public Assistance
<b>CCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<b>PEA</b>	Political economy analysis
<b>CDM</b>	Clean Development Mechanism	<b>PEL</b>	Protocol on Employment and Labour
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	<b>PEPFAR</b>	The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
<b>CERIDs</b>	Centres for Education Research Innovation and Development	<b>PET</b>	Protocol on Education and Training
<b>CESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	<b>PFM</b>	Public Financial Management
<b>CeSHHAR</b>	Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research	<b>PICES</b>	Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey
<b>CFTA</b>	Continental Free Trade Area	<b>PLHIV</b>	People Living with HIV
<b>CI</b>	Confidence Interval	<b>PMP</b>	Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons
<b>CMW</b>	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	<b>POTRAZ</b>	Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for East and Southern Africa	<b>PPPs</b>	Private-Public Partnerships
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease	<b>PPS</b>	Personnel Performance Systems
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>PRFT</b>	Poverty Reduction Forum Trust
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<b>PSC</b>	Public Service Commission
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations	<b>PSI</b>	Population Services International
<b>DDPLAC</b>	Devolution and Development Local Authorities	<b>PVOs</b>	Private Voluntary Organisations
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development	<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>DHIS</b>	District Health Information Systems	<b>RBME</b>	Result-Based Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Surveys	<b>RBZ</b>	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>RC/HC</b>	UN resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinators
<b>DRM</b>	Domestic Resource Mobilization	<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinators Office
<b>e-GP</b>	electronic Government Procurement	<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>RIDSP</b>	Regional Integration Strategic Plan 2021-2030



Acronym	Name	Acronym	Name
<b>EDF</b>	Education Development Fund	<b>RMNACH-N</b>	Reproductive Maternal New-born Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition
<b>ESCWA</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	<b>RRPs</b>	Regional Refugee Response Plans
<b>ESD</b>	Education for Sustainable Development	<b>RTGS</b>	Real-Time Gross Settlement
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>SADC QF</b>	SADC Qualifications Framework
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment	<b>SafPHHE</b>	Sanitation Focused on Participatory Health and Hygiene Education
<b>FSWs</b>	Female Sex Workers	<b>SAPP</b>	Southern African Power Pool
<b>FTLRP</b>	Fast-Track Land Reform Programme	<b>SDF</b>	Standards Development Fund
<b>GAM</b>	Global Acute Malnutrition	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>SDRF</b>	Sector Development Results Frameworks
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product	<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and gender-based violence
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SOEs</b>	State-Owned Enterprises
<b>GHI</b>	Global Hunger Index	<b>SR</b>	Special Rapporteurs
<b>GII</b>	Gender Inequality Index	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>Global Fund</b>	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	<b>STEAM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, [and] Mathematics
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income	<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
<b>GoZ</b>	Government of Zimbabwe	<b>SWAP</b>	UNCT System-wide Action Plan
<b>GPE</b>	Global Partnership for Education	<b>TB</b>	tuberculosis
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index	<b>TCPL</b>	Total Consumption Poverty Line
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	<b>TFCA</b>	Tripartite Free Trade Area
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights-Based Approach	<b>TORs</b>	Terms of reference
<b>HRH</b>	Human Resources for Health	<b>TSP</b>	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan	<b>TV</b>	Television
<b>HSB</b>	Health Service Board	<b>U5MR.</b>	Under-Five Mortality Rates
<b>HSCT</b>	Harmonised Social Cash Transfer	<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>ICERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>ICPPED</b>	International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>ICRC</b>	Independent Complaints Review Commission	<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>IDI</b>	ICT Development Index	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced People	<b>UNCRPD</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>IFIs</b>	international financial institution	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation	<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IMR</b>	Infant Mortality Rate	<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
<b>IMT</b>	Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on the Alignment of Legislation to the Constitution.	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>IP</b>	Internet Protocol	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>IPRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>IRBM</b>	Integrated Results-Based Management	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunications Union ITU Information Communication Technology for Development	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>JMP</b>	Joint Monitoring Programme	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Acronym	Name	Acronym	Name
<b>JSC</b>	Judicial Service Commission	<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Development Fund for Women
<b>LBT</b>	Lesbian Bisexual Transgender	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>LFCLS</b>	Labour Force Child Labour Survey	<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender or Intersex	<b>UNSDG</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving no one behind	<b>UNWOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>MAPS</b>	Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support	<b>US</b>	United States
<b>MfDR</b>	Management for Development Results	<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Ratio	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>MoHCC</b>	Ministry of Health and Child Care	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>MoPSE</b>	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>MRA</b>	Mutual Recognition Agreements	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises	<b>ZAGP</b>	Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme
<b>MTRs</b>	Mid Term Reviews	<b>ZCHPC</b>	Zimbabwe Centre for High Performance Computing
<b>MVA</b>	Manufacturing Value Added	<b>ZDHS</b>	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey
<b>MW</b>	megawatts	<b>ZEC</b>	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
<b>NAMACO</b>	National Manpower Advisory Council	<b>ZESA</b>	Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority
<b>NANGO</b>	National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations	<b>ZETDC</b>	Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company
<b>NATPHARM</b>	National Pharmaceutical Company of Zimbabwe	<b>ZGC</b>	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
<b>NCDs</b>	Noncommunicable diseases	<b>ZHRC</b>	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
<b>NDRF</b>	National Development Results Frameworks	<b>ZIMDEF</b>	Zimbabwe Manpower Development Fund
<b>NDS1</b>	National Development Strategy 1	<b>ZimPHIA</b>	Zimbabwe Population-based HIV Impact Assessment
<b>NEET</b>	Not in Employment Education or Training	<b>ZIMRA</b>	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority
<b>NER</b>	Net Enrolment Rates	<b>ZimSTAT</b>	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
<b>NFE</b>	Non-Formal Education	<b>ZimVAC</b>	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations	<b>ZINGSA</b>	Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency
<b>NGP</b>	National Gender Policy	<b>ZPC</b>	Zimbabwe Power Company
<b>NHA</b>	National Health Accounts	<b>ZRP</b>	Zimbabwe Republic Police
<b>NMEP</b>	National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy	<b>ZUNDAF</b>	Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework
		<b>ZWL</b>	Zimbabwe's ISO currency Code



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Department of Field Support  
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Zimbabwe's Human Development Index score in 2019 stood at

**0.571**

ranking at 150 out of 189 countries.

Gender Inequality Index score of Zimbabwe was

**0.527**

ranked at 129 out of 162 countries in 2019

Building resilience and  
**widening social safety nets**  
will help ease the impact of stressors and fight poverty

Zimbabwe is a lower middle-income country with a population estimated at 14.8 million in 2020<sup>1</sup>, the majority of whom live in rural areas. Zimbabwe's Human Development Index score in 2019 stood at 0.571— ranking at 150 out of 189 countries. Gender Inequality Index score of Zimbabwe was 0.527, ranked at 129 out of 162 countries in 2019. Zimbabwe made remarkable progress in the first decade of independence with quantum improvements in social wellbeing. The latter decades recorded moderate improvements in key development areas. Regrettably, the country also registered a decline in some socio-economic indicators. These were largely due to prolonged periods of economic recession, political challenges and more regular climate-induced humanitarian crises. These disruptive shocks and crises continue to impede the country's progress in achieving the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and worse still, threaten to reverse past development gains. The government has in recent years also taken steps to accelerate progress on human development with the ushering in of a new vision, premised on reforms to transform Zimbabwe into a prosperous and empowered upper middle-income society by 2030.

### PEOPLE

Since independence, the country has made significant improvement in social indicators, such as in education and health, on the back of infrastructure expansion and policies to alleviate poverty. Notably, net enrolment and completion rates for both primary and secondary schools, remain amongst the highest on the continent. Significant progress has also been registered in maternal and child health and in reducing HIV incidence over the last decade. However, various, social indicators have stagnated or in some instances regressed over recent years. The growing informalization of the economy has been accompanied by a rise in vulnerable employment and underemployment, thus perpetuating poverty. While the proportion of people living in poverty marginally decreased to 70.5 percent in 2017<sup>2</sup> from 75.6 percent in 1995, poverty remains high. Rural poverty is significantly higher than the national average, although urban vulnerability has been increasing in recent years. Extreme poverty has also increased. Deterioration of WASH infrastructure on account of declining investment, rising urbanisation and expansion of informal settlements has given rise to un-sanitary and un-hygienic conditions that increase the risk of waterborne diseases and the contamination of potable water sources. Cholera and typhoid outbreaks have become a common occurrence in the country with the 2008/2009 cholera epidemic claiming at least 4 000 lives. Poor access to safe drinking water has also increased the burden of domestic care work on women and girls. Gender inequality remains high, with women lagging behind in almost every metric of development progress. The country remains vulnerable to shocks such as economic, climate and health. A deadly Cyclone Idai in 2019 coupled with years of drought and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, had a devastating impact on Zimbabwe, leaving more than half the population food insecure. These shocks are also threatening to further reverse important, but fragile gains that had been registered in various social indicators. Social protection coverage remains very low, despite high poverty levels. Resultantly, partners have increasingly focused on humanitarian support to keep the social sectors operational, over the years. The assistance is mostly outside direct support to the Government. The continued vulnerabilities point to the need for building the resilience of individuals, households, and communities to strengthen their ability to withstand shocks and adverse conditions. Building resilience and widening social safety nets will help ease the impact of stressors and fight poverty.

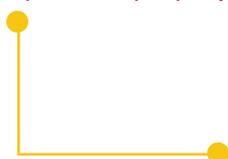
<sup>1</sup> Government of Zimbabwe. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1)

<sup>2</sup> Rapid Poverty and Income and Expenditure Survey (PICES) 2017

## PROSPERITY

The Government is implementing an ambitious reform program to transform the country towards an open, inclusive development model, and to accelerate sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and human development after years of stagnation. Though still fragile, notable achievements so far recorded include fiscal consolidation, external sector balance and exchange rate stability. However, the country still faces significant barriers towards a functioning market economy that is based on private sector-led growth. These challenges include high levels of inflation, unsustainable and high external debt levels, and effects of the multi-currency system on Zimbabwe's export competitiveness and investment. Moreover, the growing informal sector faces significant challenges including lack of broader engagement of private capital investors, limiting their capacity to progress and positively contribute to economic growth. High levels of vulnerable employment and under-employment further exacerbate poverty with majority of the labour force being employed in the informal economy and faced with a plethora of decent work deficits including poor wages, lack of social protection, voice and representation. The limited fiscal space undermines economic and social sector allocations including social protection and infrastructure investment. Both the government and the IMF project an economic rebound over the next few years. However, there is a significant difference on the pace and extent of the rebound. Disruptive shocks and limited economic diversification have exposed the economy to the whims of the international commodity markets and recently the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated the challenges. However, there are opportunities to enhance economic performance through consolidating macro-economic stability, investing in sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change, enhancing value addition and deepening value chains, while boosting trade through regional trade integration and reinforcing the nexus between growth and jobs to achieve sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.

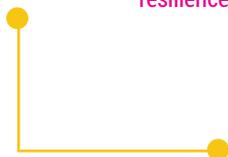
Consolidating macro-economic stability, investing in climate smart agriculture, enhancing value addition and deepening value chains, while boosting trade through regional integration and creating jobs are critical to steps towards prosperity



## PLANET

The country faces critical environmental challenges including land degradation, inadequate quantity and quality of water resources, waste management, and climate change. Zimbabwe has been a party to the Kyoto Protocol since 2009, following the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), subsequently, the Paris Agreement and other global protocols, such as the Minamata Protocol in 2020. The country's policy frameworks, strategies and the institutional arrangements for managing environmental challenges are expansive. Nevertheless, weak enforcement of environmental regulations and limited capacity undermine policy effectiveness. Limited capacity to invest in mitigation and adaptation to climate disasters and extreme weather events render the poor highly vulnerable to the increasing impact of climate change. Climate change is expected to worsen the plight of the most vulnerable groups that already bear the brunt of the loss of natural resources that they rely on for their livelihoods. Without concerted action to address this disproportionate impact on the poor, marginalized and powerless communities, climate change will worsen vulnerabilities and deepen inequalities. Zimbabwe's important opportunities to adapt to climate change include, transition to a low carbon economy, protect biodiversity and natural resources as well as enhance resilience. Zimbabwe has access to the multilateral funding windows like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund. While most funding in this sector remains donor funded, the government and development partners could more actively involve and leverage private sector participation to blend development finance.

Zimbabwe's important opportunities to adapt to climate change include, transition to a low carbon economy, protect biodiversity and natural resources as well as enhance resilience



## PEACE

Peace is the cornerstone of every nation's development given the foundation it provides to foster unity and collaboration towards a common good for the country. Zimbabwe's

Zimbabwe's policy thrust on devolution in line with the Constitution, provides an opportunity to extend reach and effectiveness of service delivery to citizens and marginalized communities



Constitution, adopted in 2013 following a wide consultative process, provides a sound basis for strengthening and deepening democracy in the country. The Constitution contains a progressive Bill of Rights, sound principles for public administration and clearly defined independent institutions to provide for checks and balances. However, the process of aligning all laws to the Constitution is yet to be completed. While the country enjoys relative peace, there remain challenges that have slowed progress in the attainment of the country's development aspirations. Political polarization remains high owing to unresolved historical conflicts, disagreements over certain political processes (including contested election outcomes), different perceptions around human rights including workers' rights, rule of law and corruption, among others. Governance vulnerabilities, particularly corruption in the public sector, threaten meaningful progress towards the attainment of the SDGs. Opportunities exist to enhance adherence to the rule of law, administration of justice and realization of human rights. The implementation of key constitutional provisions and international obligations as well as strengthened reporting on key governance and human rights indicators under both the international and regional systems, have the potential to improve collection and analysis of governance data and promote Government's accountability and evidence-based decision-making. Zimbabwe's policy thrust on devolution in line with the Constitution, provides an opportunity to extend reach and effectiveness of service delivery to citizens and marginalized communities. While the COVID-19 pandemic posed serious risks for effective governance by exposing service delivery systems that were unprepared for disaster management, opportunities exist for the modernization of the public service to enhance service delivery.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Government has set out to accelerate international re-engagement and cooperation after years of a complex and often difficult relationship with some members of the international community and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Although Zimbabwe settled its obligations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the country remains in arrears with the World Bank, African Development Bank, and the European Investment Bank as well as various other multilateral and bilateral development lenders. These arrears limit the country's access to international capital markets and concessional financing. The country continues to engage these groups for a debt clearance plan. In terms of Official Development Assistance (ODA), the largest amount has been provided in the area of health, followed by other social and infrastructure services and humanitarian aid. Macroeconomic instabilities, particularly exchange rate policies, have constrained the domestic financing landscape. Given the overall gloomy global economic outlook due to the impact of COVID-19, ODA flows may be depressed further with adverse impact on already constrained domestic financing space. Domestic Resource Mobilization for Zimbabwe provides a long-term path to sustainable development finance given the context of foreign debt overhang and limited engagement with International Financial Institutions.

Domestic Resource Mobilization for Zimbabwe provides a long-term path to sustainable development finance given the context of foreign debt overhang and limited engagement with International Financial Institutions



## POPULATIONS FURTHEST BEHIND IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

The Government of Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025) contain aspirations of 'Leaving No One Behind' and prioritizing development interventions to reach those who are furthest behind, first. While Zimbabwe has made some progress across the 5Ps of sustainable development, there are segments of the population that remain marginalised and socially excluded. **These groups include: Indigenous People, Persons with Disabilities, Women and Children, Populations hardest hit by disasters and climate shocks, Sexual Minorities and Sex Workers, Refugees and Stateless persons, Older Persons, Migrants, Youth including Adolescent Girls, and Young Women (AGYW) as well as Women, and Children in specific religious affiliations. Some of the factors that lead to exclusion could be; geographical location,**

**population group, migratory status, age, ethnicity, religion, gender, education level, socio-economic status, and the nature of their job.**

Data collection on progress that is measured at national or subnational averages across whole populations alone allow inequalities to go unnoticed. Therefore, to reach the furthest behind first, the government, the UN system, communities and stakeholders should commit to prioritising outcomes for these excluded groups and aim to promote strengthened collection of data that goes beyond population averages, to identify who and where they are and what they need. These analyses help to facilitate early and sustained action to address gaps if the country is to realise its commitment to **'Leave No One Behind.'**





# 1. INTRODUCTION

This Common Country Analysis (CCA) is an integral component of the United Nations development planning process in Zimbabwe. It offers important insights to guide the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026. The CCA provides a situational analysis focusing on legal, institutional, policy and financial landscape, as well as relevant regional, sub-regional and cross-border dynamics in delivering progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, the CCA examines underlying structural and root causes of inequalities and vulnerabilities. It identifies groups lagging or at the risk of being left behind in development progress. The CCA is anchored on the 5Ps - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships - of the 2030 Agenda to analyze in an integrated manner, some of the common underlying and root causes of identified key development challenges. The multi-dimensional and holistic lens of the 5Ps bring together the social, environmental, economic, and ethical dimensions of sustainable development. The evidence is drawn from published systematic reviews and research, existing data, along with views of over 100 participants from Government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Development Partners, and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) as well as UN agencies outside Zimbabwe.<sup>3</sup> Finally, the CCA identifies opportunities and entry points for UN to respond effectively to Zimbabwe's national development priorities and to accelerate the country's achievement of SDGs (Refer to Annex 1: Methodology and Annex 2: Process timeline).

The CCA is anchored on the **5Ps-**  
 People, Planet, Prosperity,  
 Peace and Partnerships - of  
 the 2030 Agenda to analyze  
 in an integrated manner, some  
 of the common underlying and  
 root causes of identified key  
 development challenges.

## 1.1 COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Zimbabwe's population was estimated at 14.8 million in 2020. Two-thirds, lived in rural areas and 52 percent were females.<sup>4</sup> As many as 9% of the total population were living with at least one disability, which placed them at a disadvantage with respect to sustainable development. Applying the UN probabilistic medium scenario projections,<sup>5</sup> Zimbabwe's population is likely to grow from 13.1 million in 2012 to approximately 19.3 million in 2032, suggesting an average annual population growth rate of 2%.<sup>6,7</sup> (refer to annex 3: evolution of key age structure). However, fertility rates are expected to decrease from 3.7 in 2012 to 2.7 in 2032 and life expectancy at birth projected to increase (from 57.4 to 67.4 years for males and from 64.0 to 75.2 years for females). With its largely youthful population, Zimbabwe could benefit from a demographic dividend<sup>8</sup> subject to the right investments and policies. The country entered the demographic dividend window around 2004, which is projected to last until 2060<sup>9</sup>. However, it requires the appropriate socio-economic context and a supporting policy framework for the benefits to be harnessed.

<sup>3</sup> Resident agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDSS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIIDO, UNOPS, WFP and WHO; non-resident agencies: IFAD, ITC, ITU, IAEA, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNECA, UN-HABITAT, UNODC, UPU and IFIs – WB and IMF  
<sup>4</sup>ZimSTAT. 2015. Population Projections Thematic Report. ZimSTAT. [Online] Available at <http://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Population/population/population-projection.pdf> [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>5</sup> The United Nations' probabilistic population projections estimate the double logistic curves of the fertility and mortality models in the framework of a Bayesian hierarchical model. The Bayesian model generates probabilistic prediction intervals that depict the likelihood of alternative future trajectories. The medium projections offer a range of more-or-less plausible trajectories. Out-of-sample validation tests reveal that, on average, projection errors are less than 3% for population and life expectancy and around 12% for total fertility over a 20-year horizon. Such tests also confirm that the prediction intervals describe well the range of subsequent outcomes. See UN.2019. [Online] Available at [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewj07nohqrAhWHSsAKHSFmD3QQFjAKegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fdevelopment%2Fdesa%2Fpopulation%2Fabout%2Fdirector%2Fpdf%2FWilmoth\\_APC\\_Nov2019\\_Script.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1zxo7p3EsgMwXF86V2SReX](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewj07nohqrAhWHSsAKHSFmD3QQFjAKegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fdevelopment%2Fdesa%2Fpopulation%2Fabout%2Fdirector%2Fpdf%2FWilmoth_APC_Nov2019_Script.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1zxo7p3EsgMwXF86V2SReX). [Accessed on 30 November 2020]

<sup>6</sup>Zimstat. 2015. Population Projections Thematic Report. ZimSTAT. [Online] Available at <http://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Population/population/population-projection.pdf> [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>7</sup>UNCSO. 2012. RIO 2012 Issues Briefs Produced by the UNCSO Secretariat, June 2012 - No. 14: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development. UNCSO. [Online] Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/543brief14.pdf> [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>8</sup>The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that may result from a decline in a country's mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, a country's young dependent population grows smaller in relation to the working-age population. With fewer people to support, a country has a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic policies developed and investments made [Online: <https://www.prb.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/demographic-dividend.pdf>]

<sup>9</sup>GoZ. 2017. Harnessing the demographic dividend in Zimbabwe. Available at <https://zimbabwe.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Harnessing%20the%20Demographic%20Dividend%20Study%20Report.pdf> [Accessed on 16 December 2020]

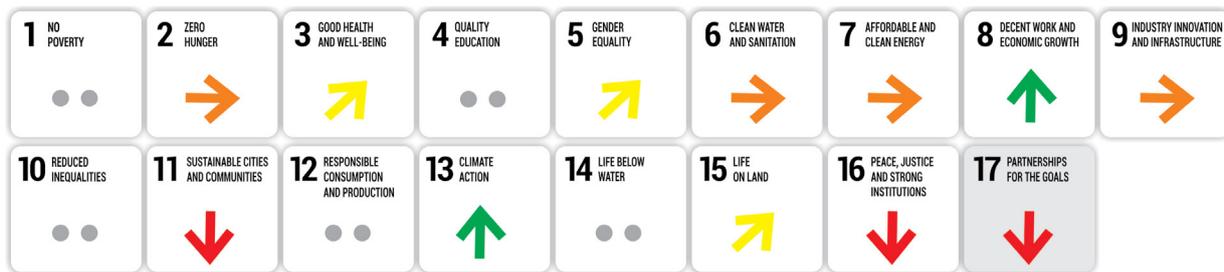






Figure 1.2 Zimbabwe SDG dashboard

Trends



Legend: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing •• Trend information unavailable

Source : <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/zwe>

Although Zimbabwe's economy has shown recent signs of relative stability, it has not grown at sufficiently high or inclusive<sup>21</sup> levels to create adequate decent jobs<sup>22</sup> and significantly reduce poverty. A series of climate-induced disruptive shocks and crises have negatively affected growth. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened economic and social challenges. To that end, poverty remains high, with extreme poverty increasing in recent years. Women, youth, children, Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) among others, bear the disproportionate impact. Governance indicators are largely stagnating with some indicators declining. However, the country recently recorded marginal improvements in "government effectiveness" after years of sharp decline since the 1990s (Mo Ibrahim Governance Index).



<sup>21</sup> In 2017, the country's Gini was 0.44, representing a marginal increase from 0.42 in 2011. ZIMSTAT (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency). Poverty Income Consumption and Expenditure Surveys.

<sup>22</sup> Defined by ILO, decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

## 2. PEOPLE



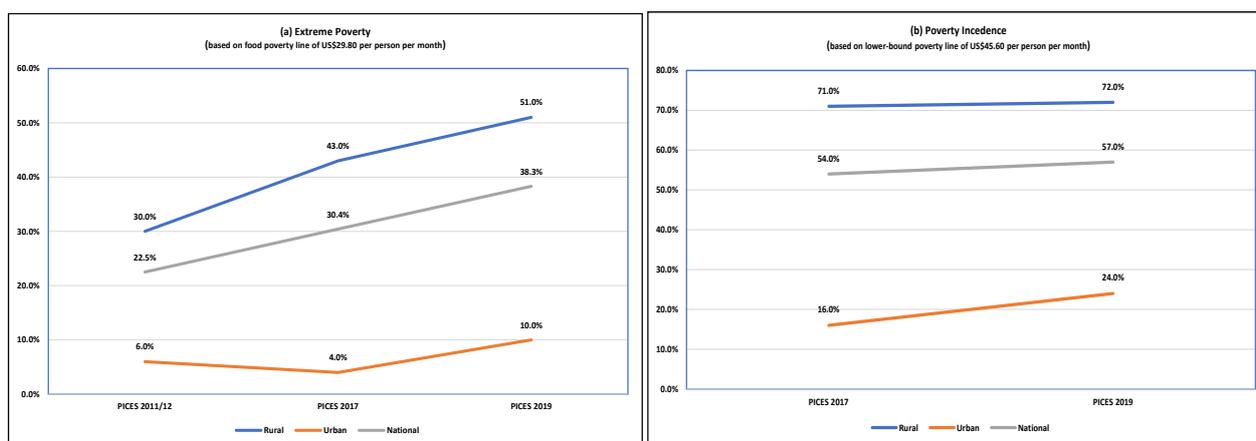
In this section, analysis focusses on progress and challenges relating to implementation of SDGs 1-6<sup>23</sup>. These SDGs encompass the broad ambit of the "People Pillar" focusing on human development and wellbeing. The section analyses developments in the delivery of basic social services such as education, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). It also explores progress made in the provision of social protection, broader protection services including protection against all forms of violence, as well as progress made and challenges encountered in the areas of food and nutrition security and gender equality.

<sup>23</sup> SDG 1 - No Poverty; SDG 2 - Zero Hunger; SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4 - Quality Education; SDG 5 - Gender Equality; SDG 6 - Clean Water & Sanitation

## 2.1 POVERTY

People living in poverty are among the most vulnerable to political manipulation, social inequity and exclusion. They are often most susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change, resource scarcity and environmental degradation. These groups are more vulnerable to health-inequalities and risks arising from poor sanitation and unclean water. Poverty was relatively high at 54% in 2017 and 57% in 2019<sup>24</sup> with rural populations most affected. Meanwhile, extreme poverty rose from 22.5% in 2011 to 38.3% in April–May 2019. Although poverty remains largely a rural phenomenon, extreme poverty in urban areas increased from 4% in 2017 to 10% in April–May 2019. Poverty reduction has been a key policy priority for the Government of Zimbabwe as evidenced by the development and adoption of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper in 2016. However, economic challenges and exposure to more complex, recurring, and intense shocks (including economic, social, climate change-induced and the recent COVID-19 pandemic) hampered progress in this regard.

**Figure 2.1 Trends in the Prevalence of (a) Household Poverty and (b) extreme Household Poverty**



**Data Sources: ZIMSTAT and World Bank 2019, Zimbabwe Poverty Update 2017–19, Joint Report**

Children under the age of 15 years constituted nearly 50% of the poor and the extreme poor, but they only made up 40% of the total population.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, rural child poverty, at 76.3% in 2017, stood deeper and entrenched, with exceedingly high degree of inequality, than urban child poverty, at 20%.<sup>26</sup> The Zimbabwe Child Poverty Report (2019) also showed that the prevalence of poverty among people with disabilities stood higher, at 74.1% in 2017, than that of people without disabilities at 69.5%. The same report shows that women and girls bear the brunt of poverty with heightened exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), unpaid care work and negative coping mechanisms, including transactional sex as well as sex work, entrenching them deeper into vicious cycles of poverty.

## 2.2 HUNGER

Hunger has increased in Zimbabwe rising from 16.5 in 2014 to 44.4 in 2019<sup>27</sup>, as measured by the Global Hunger Index (GHI). This is mainly on account of recurring droughts leading to a decline in agricultural performance (see annex 6: Trends in maize production). The 2020 Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) indicated that 7 million people urgently needed humanitarian assistance in 2020, up from 5.5 million in 2019. More than 4.3 million people were acutely food insecure in rural areas, while 2.2 million in urban areas, were equally cereal food insecure. The right to sufficient food is guaranteed under the Constitution<sup>28</sup> but Zimbabwe is counted among the four highest

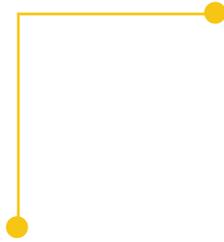
<sup>24</sup> Zimstat and World Bank 2019, Zimbabwe Poverty Update 2017–19, Joint Report ZIMSTAT and World

<sup>25</sup> Zimstat and World Bank 2019, Zimbabwe Poverty Update 2017–19, Joint Report ZIMSTAT and World

<sup>26</sup> Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Child Poverty Report 2019. Harare, Zimbabwe: Zimstat and UNICEF. [Online] Available at <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/media/3261/file/Zimbabwe%20Child%20Poverty%20Report%202019.pdf>. [Accessed on 22 November 2020]

<sup>27</sup> 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).

<sup>28</sup> Section 77(b) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.



The agricultural sector, which provides a source of livelihood for

# 70%

of the population continues to face challenges relating to low production and productivity, limited access to markets and market information, problematic land rights and insecure land tenure, poor land management practices, limited access to finance and credit by communal farmers, climate change-induced disruptions and weak extension support systems.

food insecure countries in the world.<sup>29</sup> Poverty, disease, economic hardships and low agricultural productivity have collectively impeded the availability of and access to adequate supplies of food. The agricultural sector, which provides a source of livelihood for 70% of the population continues to face challenges relating to low production and productivity, limited access to markets and market information, problematic land rights and insecure land tenure, poor land management practices, limited access to finance and credit by communal farmers, climate change-induced disruptions and weak extension support systems. This is mostly characterized by underfunding, which in turn impacts farmers' ability to adopt innovative and sustainable agricultural practices.

Nutrition security also remains a huge challenge for the country, with NDS1 prioritizing nutrition as one of the critical areas Zimbabwe must address to make accelerated progress over the next five years. The country faces the burden of malnutrition, with various forms of undernutrition (e.g., micronutrient deficiencies in children and women, stunting, wasting) and overnutrition. Currently, over 1.1 million children and women require nutrition assistance, notwithstanding minor improvements in incidences of stunting, wasting and obesity.<sup>30</sup> The high burden of micronutrient deficiency or 'hidden' hunger among women and children is a serious public health concern. According to the 2020 Global Nutrition Report (GNR), Zimbabwe has some of the largest sex gaps in nutritional status, with boys and men generally having higher rates of undernutrition while girls and women have higher rates of obesity.<sup>31</sup> Geographical location is also associated with major disparities in nutritional status. Rural children have higher rates of stunting, wasting and underweight than their urban counterparts. The impact of multiple, overlapping hazards and shocks cannot be overstated.<sup>32</sup> Poor quality diets, directly associated with the humanitarian crises experienced by the country and levels of extreme poverty, coupled with a diet that is largely dependent on maize and lacking in diversity are an immediate cause of malnutrition in Zimbabwe<sup>33</sup> In addition, the current policy environment is mainly oriented toward addressing undernutrition, with limited emphasis on the emerging issue of obesity, which has additional consequences on health outcomes.

The country has recently benefitted from strategic cooperation and partnership with several bilateral and multilateral agricultural development programmes, including inter-alia, the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP), the Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP), the Feed the Future, Smallholder Irrigation Programme (SIP) and the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund. These efforts have gone a long way in improving resilience and productivity in the target communities.

## 2.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection coverage remains very low despite high poverty levels with only 5% of the national population covered by at least one social protection system<sup>34</sup> Zimbabwe's social protection expenditure still falls far short of the expected coverage<sup>35</sup> In particular, women and men in the informal sector are excluded from enjoying equal social protection benefits in the form of occupational safety, health care, pension benefits and maternity protection in the case of women<sup>36</sup> As a share of the GDP, non-contributory social protection budget stood at 1.2% in 2020, with a provision towards the school feeding programme (US\$47.9 million) and the free sanitary wear for female learners in primary and secondary schools (US\$9.3million)<sup>37</sup> Government agencies mandated to plan and implement social protection programmes face major challenges in spending the

<sup>29</sup> Visit to Zimbabwe, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, A/HRC/43/44/Add.2

<sup>30</sup> ZIMSTAT and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe:

<sup>31</sup> 2020 Global Nutrition Report: Action on equity to end malnutrition. Bristol, UK: Development Initiatives.

<sup>32</sup> ZIMSTAT and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: ZIMSTAT and UNICEF, Table TC.8.1).

<sup>33</sup> Visit to Zimbabwe, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, A/HRC/43/44/Add.2

<sup>34</sup> ZIMSTAT and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: ZIMSTAT and UNICEF, Table TC.8.1).

<sup>35</sup>World Bank. 2016. Zimbabwe Public expenditure review 2016: volume 5: Social protection. GoZ and World Bank. [Online] Available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27903/116350-WP-v5-PUBLIC-JUNE21-6am-ZIMPER-Volume-5.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#:~:text=The%20National%20Social%20Protection%20Strategy,and%20alleviate%20poverty%20and%20deprivation.>

<sup>36</sup> Visit to Zimbabwe, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, A/HRC/43/44/Add.2.

<sup>37</sup> UNICEF. 2020. Zimbabwe Social Protection Budget Brief. UNICEF. Harare. [Online] Available at <https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/6511/file/UNICEF-Zimbabwe-2020-Social-Protection-Budget-Brief.pdf> [Accessed on 1 January 2021]

**Table 2.1 Estimates for Selected Social Protection Indicators, 2019 Zimbabwe MICS**

allocated amounts as well as poor targeting. Most current social protection programmes are also biased towards supporting rural populations (see Table 2.1). However, some urban population segments remain under-served including the poor in households headed by adolescents.

INDICATOR	COMPARATIVE DATA FROM DHS AND MICS		
	NATIONAL	URBAN	RURAL
Percentage of children age 2-17 years reported with functional difficulty in at least one domain	3.8%	4.6%	3.1%
Percentage of women age 15-49 years covered by health insurance	9.5%	17.2%	4.7%
Percentage of men age 15-49 years covered by health insurance	8.4%	16.7%	3.7%
Percentage of children under five years covered by health insurance	6.2%	13.9%	3%
Percentage of children age 5-17 years covered by health insurance	5.6%	16.0%	1.9%
Percentage of population covered by social transfers in the last three months	40.4%	12.7%	53.1%
Percentage of households in the two lowest wealth quintiles that received any type of social transfers in the last three months	51.0%	--	--
Percentage of children under 18 years living in households that received any type of social transfers in the last three months	42.5%	11.5%	53.9%
Percentage of children and young people age 5-24 years currently attending school that received any type of school-related support in the current/most recent academic year	5.7%	3.8%	6.4%
*Seeing, hearing, walking, fine motor, communication, learning, playing			
DATA SOURCE: Zimstat and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: Zimstat and UNICEF.			

Government funding is negatively impacted by high levels of inflation and has not matched the increasing social assistance needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation with Zimbabwean citizens returning from neighbouring countries often without savings and assets, requiring transitory social protection support as they settle and recover from shock. It is estimated that over 170,000 citizens and residents have returned to Zimbabwe since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>38</sup> Many returnees will also require employment opportunities in addition to the transitory social protection assistance given that most of them are still economically active. Social protection programmes also suffer high administration costs, duplication and weak accountability and transparency on targeting mechanisms and insufficient information on the efficacy of programs owing to lack of harmonised processes and inadequate coordination across implementing agencies, which in the process undermines the efficiency of public spending and potential for social gains.<sup>39</sup> Institutional capacity gaps also hamper the social protection system, which has endured operational deficits in the wake of fluctuating development partner support.

## 2.4 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Acknowledging the impact of health and well-being on human and social development, the 2030 Agenda contains several ambitious health-related goals and targets including ending the epidemics of tuberculosis (TB), malaria, HIV and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. Zimbabwe has registered notable progress on several key health indicators over the last decade, with significant achievements in maternal and child health (see Table 2.2) and a decline in HIV incidence. However, the cost of healthcare continues to increase beyond the means of most citizens, making the SDG target of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030 a distant ambition. Persistent high

<sup>38</sup> IOM Points of Entry Situation Report, No. 24

<sup>39</sup> World Bank. 2016. Zimbabwe Public expenditure review 2016: volume 5: Social protection. GoZ and World Bank. [Online] Available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27903/116350-WP-v5-PUBLIC-JUNE21-6am-ZIMPER-Volume-5.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#:~:text=The%20National%20Social%20Protection%20Strategy,and%20alleviate%20poverty%20and%20deprivation.>

**Table 2.2 Estimates of Selected Health Indicators from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) since 2010, Zimbabwe**

maternal and neonatal mortality despite high coverage indicators point to deficiencies in the quality of care provided. There is a shortage of medicines and equipment in public hospitals and maternity clinics. This is further compounded by the shortage of trained and motivated health professionals in public hospitals.<sup>40</sup> Moreso, the COVID-19 pandemic risks reversing the fragile gains made over the years by disrupting routine health services and constraining access to essential health and nutrition services.

INDICATOR	COMPARATIVE DATA FROM DHS AND MICS			
	2010-11 DHS	2014 MICS	2015 DHS	2019 MICS
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100000)	960	614	651	462
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000)	31	29	29	32
Infant mortality rate (per 1000)	57	55	50	47
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	84	75	69	65
Total fertility rate	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.9
Modern contraceptive use, currently married women	57.3%	66.5%	65.8%	NA
Any ANC from a skilled provider (ANC 1)	89.8%	93.7%	93.3%	93.3%
At least 4 ANC visits (ANC4+)	64.8%	70.1%	75.7%	71.5%
Skilled delivery	66.2%	80.0%	78.1%	86.0%
Percentage of births delivered in a health facility	65.1%	79.6%	77.0%	85.5%
Percentage of women with a postnatal check (MOTHER) within 2 days of birth	27.7%	77.3%	56.5%	90.9%
Percentage of women with a postnatal check (NEWBORN) within 2 days of birth	NA	85.0%	73.2%	82.1%
All basic vaccinations among children age 12- 23 months	80.3%	69.2%*	76.0%	84.5%

\*For 2014 MICS: Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received all vaccinations recommended in the national immunization schedule; DHS estimates are based on receipt of 8 basic vaccinations

**DATA SOURCES:**  
 Zimstat and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: Zimstat and UNICEF.  
 Zimstat and ICF International (2016). Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2015: Final Report. Rockville, Maryland, USA: Zimstat and ICF International.  
 Zimstat (2015). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Final Report. Harare, Zimbabwe.  
 Zimstat and ICF International. 2012. Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2010-11. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Zimstat and ICF International.

Although over 80% of children aged 12-23 months had all the recommended vaccinations in 2016, a slight increase from 79% in 1998,<sup>41</sup> infant mortality remains relatively high. Rural Zimbabwe has the highest under-5 mortality rate: 92 deaths per 1,000 live births, versus 60 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas. By 2018, the country was still far from meeting the SDG specific target of under-5 mortality, and this has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted child immunization efforts. It is recommended that the country develops and implements a comprehensive strategy on preventing maternal, neonatal and child mortality.<sup>42</sup>

The adult HIV prevalence in Zimbabwe remains high at 12.8%.<sup>43</sup> However, the HIV incidence has steadily decreased in recent years and by 2019, the country had achieved the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment cascade targets for PLHIV who know their status and are on treatment and those on treatment that have viral suppression (90-94-86 by 2019). The Global and National AIDS Strategies are aiming at 95-95-95 treatment targets by 2025. The number of AIDS-related deaths decreased by 61% from 2010 to 2019, while new HIV infections also decreased by 44% during the same period.<sup>44</sup> The Fast Track and national target for reduction of new HIV infections by 2020 was 75% from a 2010 baseline indicating that the country is not on track with prevention. New HIV infections among young women aged 15-24 years are more than double those among young men.

<sup>40</sup> CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/

<sup>41</sup> Zimstat and ICF International. 2016. 2015 ZDHS Key Findings. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ZIMSTAT and ICF International

<sup>42</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>43</sup> AIDSinfo | UNAIDS 2020

<sup>44</sup> AIDSinfo | UNAIDS 2020

The national coverage for prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services still falls below the

**95%**

coverage threshold needed to eliminate Mother-To-Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV with a resultant MTCT rate of 8.17% in 2019 that is greater than the desired target of 5%.

The national coverage for prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services still falls below the 95% coverage threshold needed to eliminate Mother-To-Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV with a resultant MTCT rate of 8.17% in 2019 that is greater than the desired target of 5%. HIV prevalence among key populations remains disproportionately higher (42% among female sex workers and 21% among MSM) than among the general population (12.8%). The sustainability of the AIDS response strategy remains a major concern as it is predominantly supported through external funding (accounting for 69% of the expenditure on HIV response) with domestic financing chipping in with 31%.<sup>45</sup> The Global Fund and PEPFAR contribute over 97% of external funding. Domestically, financing has since 1999 been sourced from the National HIV and Aids Levy, drawn from a tax of 3% of all taxable income. However, this source has been eroded by inflation and, in 2020, by COVID-19.<sup>46</sup> The other investments primarily include out-of-pocket costs from individual savings, which can come with consequences such as poverty.<sup>47</sup>

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a deadly infectious killer disease, causing approximately 30,000 people to fall ill and 4,600 deaths every year in Zimbabwe. However, progress has been made in recent years around TB control and prevention. The 2019 WHO Global TB report<sup>48</sup> noted that Zimbabwe was one of the only four high burden TB countries to achieve treatment coverage rates above 80% with 25,775 people added on treatment. Measures introduced by the Ministry of Health and Child Care including the scaling up of TB diagnosis, increasing shorter and safer preventive TB treatment regimens and child friendly formulations have bolstered the TB response.<sup>49</sup> Eastern Zimbabwe remains endemic to malaria, despite the country recording a substantial decline in malaria incidents by up to 81% between 2003 and 2015, across all age groups.<sup>50</sup> In spite of the overall trend, Zimbabwe experienced a significant spike in new malaria cases in 2020 with 306,365 infections and 279 deaths reported countrywide, implying that COVID-19 may have undermined disease prevention and control efforts.<sup>51</sup> While Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are less deadly than HIV, the prevalence of TB and Malaria can impede human productivity and consequently, socio-economic progress. Zimbabwe is also endemic to at least 10 other NTDs,<sup>52</sup> with as many as 10 million people requiring treatment for at least one NTD ever year. NTD prevention and control can significantly help improve health and well-being.

Zimbabwe has a much lower coverage of services for a rising level of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Projected annual cost of the top 10 NCDs by 2030 is \$57.22 per capita, with a US\$1 billion annual cost to the health sector and US\$3.6 billion total cost to the economy.<sup>53</sup> Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) remains a looming threat in Africa and is projected to claim about 4.1 million lives yearly, resulting in 2 to 3.5% loss of GDP unless its mitigated. Zimbabwe is no exception. A study following the 2018 cholera outbreak identified high incidence of drug resistance, which made it difficult to contain the disease using standard antibiotics. The Government's National Action Plan of 2017-2022 will be a critical vehicle to effectively respond to this challenge. The country has also experienced increased occupational injuries and fatalities emanating from limited investments towards safety and health especially in the expanding informal economy. In 2019, 3% of workers reported having been injured at work, while 1% had suffered work-related illness.<sup>54</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated workplace safety and health concerns especially for essential services workers in both private and public sectors.

<sup>45</sup> MoHCC, NAC.2020. Global AIDS Response Progress Report 2020 FastTrack Commitments To end AIDS by 2030. Reporting Period: January 2019 - December 2019

<sup>46</sup> Covid greatly disrupted AIDS programme, NewsDay [April 3, 2021]

<sup>47</sup> TARSC.2015. Policy Brief: Evidence and proposals for advancing equity and universal coverage of health services in Zimbabwe [Online] Available at <https://www.tarsc.org/publications/documents/Rebuild%20Polbrief%20Summary%20%20May2015.pdf> [Accessed on 3 January 2021].

<sup>48</sup> WHO, 2019. World Tuberculosis Report [Online] Available at <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329368/9789241565714-eng.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Gwitira, I., Mukonoweshuro, M., Mapako, G. et al. Spatial and spatio-temporal analysis of malaria cases in Zimbabwe. *Infect Dis Poverty* 9, 146 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-020-00764-6>

<sup>51</sup> OCHA, 2020. Zimbabwe Situation Report, 2020

<sup>52</sup> These are Schistosomiasis, Soil Transmitted Helminths, Lymphatic Filariasis, trachoma, Rabies, Leprosy, Sleeping Sickness, Anthrax, Plague and Snakebites.

<sup>53</sup> AIDS and TB Programme/MoHCC (2020). Zimbabwe National and Sub-National HIV Estimates Report 2019.

<sup>54</sup> Zimstat, 2019. Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The county is developing a new health strategy to succeed the National Health Strategy 2016–2020. The new strategy seeks to improve the Health Financing approach, enhancing the quality of services provided as well as investing in Primary Health Care (PHC) with focus on Community-Based Primary Health Care systems. In addition, rebuilding Human Resources for Health and strengthening Health Management Information systems along with harmonising the monitoring and evaluation framework will ensure meaningful community systems strengthening and strategic purchasing. An estimated investment target of US\$760 million is needed to strengthen the health delivery system.<sup>55</sup> In addition, support will be required for the country to be able to participate in regional health activities and to develop a long-term plan to keep health personnel skilled.<sup>56</sup> Zimbabwe is party to the SADC Protocol on Health that coordinates regional efforts on epidemic preparedness, mapping prevention, control and where possible the eradication of communicable and non-communicable diseases. This Protocol provides for common regional strategies to address the health needs of women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

## 2.5 QUALITY EDUCATION

Zimbabwe has one of the highest literacy rates on the continent. The country spends about 11% of its GDP on education, placing it among the top in Africa.<sup>57</sup> The country's net enrolment and completion rates for both primary and secondary schools, are among the best on the continent. However, its tertiary gross enrolment rate, remains lower than regional leaders such as South Africa.

The country's net primary school enrolments rate among the extreme poor was as high as 87% in 2011 as among the non-poor (92%), and equitably so among boys and girls. However, there were stark differences between extreme poor (34%) and the non-poor (58%) for net secondary enrolment. Meanwhile, the country continues to have a very low net enrolment rate in pre-primary education. Only 19.39% of urban children access pre-primary education, indicating the need to increase access of pre-primary education in urban areas. There is also a lack of awareness about the importance of pre-primary education and demand for using the services. Access to education also remains difficult for children in rural areas due to long walking distances between home and school.<sup>58</sup> At primary school level, the completion rate remained generally stable over the period 2014–2018 (77.6%). The completion rate at the upper secondary level increased from 11% in 2014 to 14.9% in 2018 with a gender parity in favor of males (see Table 2.3). This disparity is attributed to a high dropout rate for girls, owing to early marriages, teenage pregnancy, discriminatory cultural practices, poverty, and the policy on re-entry of adolescent mothers into school after delivery not being implemented.<sup>59</sup>

**Table 2.3 ECD, Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary completion rates 2014-2018**

Completion Rate (%)												
Year	ECD			Primary			Lower Secondary			Upper Secondary		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
2014	75.67	75.06	75.36	76.73	77.78	77.25	66.08	62.28	64.19	12.54	9.44	10.96
2015	84.45	83.61	84.03	78.71	80.78	79.73	67.27	64.08	65.68	14.33	10.83	12.54
2016	90.17	89.82	90.00	78.88	80.24	79.56	66.79	64.53	65.67	14.53	11.18	12.82
2017	94.12	93.25	93.68	77.74	79.83	78.78	68.06	66.65	67.35	16.61	13.29	14.92
2018	92.68	91.91	92.29	76.20	78.96	77.57	64.76	61.47	63.12	16.04	13.88	14.94

Source: GoZ, 2020<sup>60</sup>

<sup>55</sup> AfDB. 2019. *Joint Needs Assessment for Zimbabwe Identifying Challenges and Needs*. Africa Development Bank, World Bank, UN. [Online] Available at [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe\\_country\\_portal.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe_country_portal.pdf). [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>56</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>58</sup> CRC, Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Zimbabwe, CRC/C/ZWE/CO/2

<sup>59</sup> CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the Sixth Periodic Report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6

<sup>60</sup> GoZ. 2020. Draft Zimbabwe Progress Review Report of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), September 2020. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

Children with disabilities had lower school completion rates. Reasons for this range from limited teacher capacity to respond to the needs of children with disabilities to a misalignment between the learning modalities available and the needs of children with disabilities, and limited mechanisms and facilities to integrate learners with disabilities. The ICT divide contributes to the widening disparity in the education sector with a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable children.

While COVID-19 accelerated the use of digital platforms in delivering education, evidence from the Rapid PICES show that only 25% of rural school-going children continued learning after schools' closure compared to 70% in urban areas. Urban school-going children that continued learning had better access to ICTs, with 40% using mobile learning applications. The majority of rural school-going children relied on parents' phones (65%) and the radio (17%). In addition, COVID-19 induced vulnerabilities have negatively impacted the poor with at least 50.3% of pupils reportedly sent away from school during the first term due to non-payment of school fees.<sup>61</sup> Beyond primary and secondary education, about 45% of youths aged 15-24yrs are not in employment, education or training (NEETs), with females disproportionately worst affected at 53%.<sup>62</sup> This sets youths for a challenging transition from school-to-work with many facing huge barriers to accessing employment and economic opportunities. Barriers to students' access to education and training should be eliminated through the improvement of access to all children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, allocation of sufficient resources to increase the quality of education and improvement of school infrastructure especially in the rural areas.<sup>63</sup>

## 2.6 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The NDS1 acknowledges that the inclusion of women in all political, economic, and social activities is key for the attainment of Vision 2030. To that end, Government committed to prioritising gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the pledge to leave no-one behind. Specifically, the NDS1 aims to accelerate gender mainstreaming through: Youth and Women Affirmative Action; Equal Opportunity for All Programs; Promoting Women into Positions of Influence; Promoting Equality at all levels of Society; Advancing Women Political Representation; Youth and Women Advocacy Initiatives; and Enhancing Access to Financing for Women in Business. This aligns well with the priorities set out in the National Gender Policy (2017). It is critical that gender priorities are adequately financed including the national gender machinery. This implies effective implementation of the government's national gender budgeting policy.

Despite progressive Constitutional and policy provisions on gender equality and women's empowerment, and efforts by the Government, development partners and other stakeholders to address gender gaps, improving the status of women in Zimbabwe remains low. The promise of a nation where women and girls enjoy full gender equality, equal representation as men in state institutions at every level and in governmental bodies, and where all legal, social, environmental, and economic barriers to their empowerment are curbed remains elusive. In addition to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, women continue to face legal, cultural, and social barriers. They face hurdles in respect of equal opportunities, including access to finance, decent employment, land and freehold property; unequal representation and limited opportunities to influence policy. High levels of gender-based violence against women across private and public spheres including workplaces also persist.<sup>64</sup>

While some progress has been made in women's representation in politics<sup>65</sup> this has largely been the result of a prescribed quota of seats reserved for women to ensure

<sup>61</sup> Food and Nutrition Council. 2020. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC): 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA). Food and Nutrition Council. Harare. [Online] Available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-0000119650.pdf>. [Accessed on 22 November 2020]

<sup>62</sup> Ibid

<sup>63</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>64</sup> See Section 17 and 56 of the Constitution and the National Gender Policy

<sup>65</sup> Technical note 20. 2020. Joint Needs Assessment - Updated Sector Note 20: Gender and Youth

In 2019, out of the 103 CEOs of state-owned parastatals, there were only **15 female CEOs** (14.6%).<sup>65</sup>

proportional representation. Senate representation rose from 23% in 2012 to 44% in 2019, while National Assembly representation increased from 16% in 2012 to 32 % in 2019. However, the overall picture of the 350-member Parliament remains one of male dominance and marginalisation of women. Furthermore, women in politics do not directly benefit from campaign funding through the Political Parties Finance Act. Similarly, women are under-represented in key decision-making positions. For instance, few women are appointed as ministers or on boards of public and private companies. In 2019, out of the 103 CEOs of state-owned parastatals, there were only 15 female CEOs (14.6%).<sup>66</sup> In 2019, Zimbabwe's Stock Exchange listed companies<sup>67</sup> confirmed that 20 boards were made up of men only<sup>68</sup> In addition, sixteen (16) boards had only one (1) woman, six (6) boards had two (2), while eleven (11) had three (3) women. Only five (5) listed boards are chaired by women out of the sixty (60) listed companies.<sup>69</sup> Out of 64 Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of companies listed on the stock exchange, 61 were men and only three women (4.68 %).

The CEDAW Committee recently considered the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe at its 1753rd and 1754th meetings held on 13 February 2020. While recognising the positive steps taken by the country to address gender equality in its Constitution and policy frameworks, the Committee however, raised concern with the delays in aligning subsidiary legislation with the Constitution and the remaining discriminatory provisions in the legislative framework, including provisions on marriage and property rights, and on the minimum age of marriage. Concern was also raised on the absence of a specific gender-equality law to incorporate the principle of equality of women and men and define and prohibit all forms of discrimination against women, including direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres. Other challenges include insufficient levels of human, technical and financial resources allocated to the implementation of gender equality policies and plans, the absence of sectoral targets and benchmarks and effective coordination arrangements to guide implementation, and the lack of information on the results and impact of the National Gender Policy.

Going forward, it is critical that legislative measures and actions to eliminate the marginalization of women from socio-economic and political spheres are adopted and mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence strengthened.<sup>70</sup> It is also vital for Zimbabwe to link the implementation of the different normative frameworks such as CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa to its development efforts. It is also key for the country to make the necessary investments to strengthen its national gender machinery, including the production and use of gender statistics for decision-making.

## 2.7 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The right to safe, clean, and potable water is enshrined in the Zimbabwean Constitution.<sup>71</sup> The country has also progressively increased its public investment allocation to enhance WASH outcomes after years of deterioration. Government spending on WASH increased from 1.2% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2020. However, there remains stark urban-rural disparities in WASH, with rural communities having limited access to basic drinking water services (see figure 2.3). In 2019, 77.1% households had access to improved sources of drinking water with a wide rural (67.9%) to urban (97.3%) divide. Rural areas have seen very low levels of investment, receiving the lowest allocation of public funds for the WASH sector. Consequently, women bear the burden of fetching water for drinking and cooking and diverting their time and attention from productive work. Women and girls in rural areas travel long distances to access water with adverse implications on school

<sup>65</sup> Women on Boards: A Review of Zimbabwe Listed Companies, 2019, Bernard Chidziva, ISOR-Journal of Business and Management, Volume 21, Issue 12. Ser. III (December. 2019), PP 62-65 (all-60 listed boards)

<sup>67</sup> Women on Boards: A Review of Zimbabwe Listed Companies, 2019, Bernard Chidziva, ISOR-Journal of Business and Management, Volume 21, Issue 12. Ser. III (December. 2019), PP 62-65 (all-60 listed boards)

<sup>68</sup> -ibid-

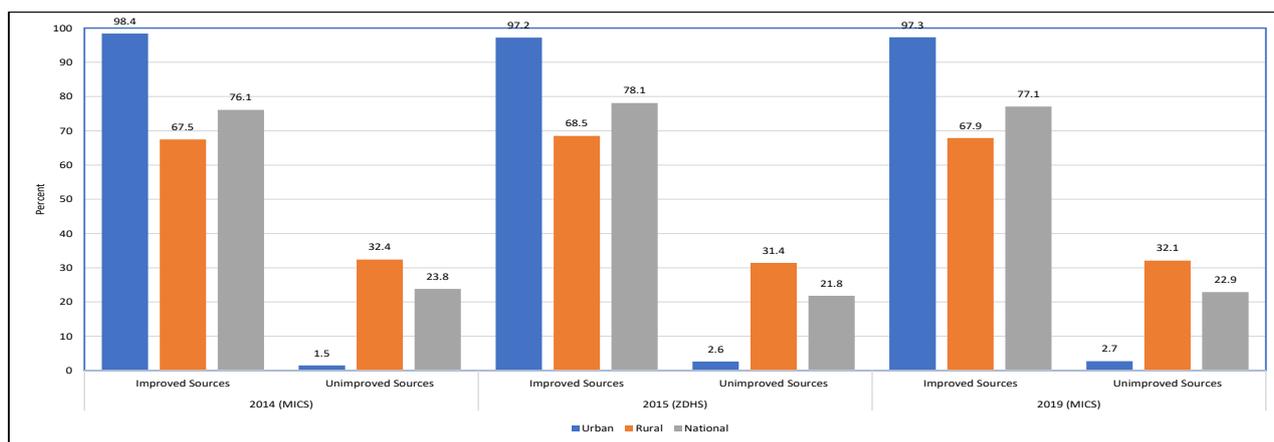
<sup>69</sup> bid

<sup>70</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/ HRC/34/2

<sup>71</sup> Section 77(a), Constitution of Zimbabwe

attendance and increasing their exposure to protection-related risks including threats to their physical safety and exposing them to the risk of contracting COVID-19 due to overcrowding at most water points. The situation is particularly difficult for women and girls with disabilities who may not be able to easily move around in search for water. Meanwhile, in the urban and peri-urban areas, rising urbanisation and the expansion of informal settlements have given rise to informal, un-sanitary and un-hygienic conditions that increase the risk of diarrheal diseases and contamination of water sources. The poor access to WASH in urban areas resulted in one of the largest cholera outbreaks seen in Africa, in 2008/2009, which claimed at least 4 000 lives. There were many subsequent outbreaks, including the 2018 outbreak that mainly affected Harare (8,535 cumulative cases, including 163 laboratory-confirmed cases, and 50 deaths).<sup>72</sup>

**Figure 2.2 Distribution of households by source of drinking water, 2014 - 2019**



**Source:** 2014 MICS; 2015 ZDHS.

Open defecation, though declining, is still high in Zimbabwe. The 2019 MICS estimated a national open defecation rate of 21.7%, with this practice existing almost exclusively in rural areas.<sup>73</sup> The poorest populations and most disadvantaged segments of society have the lowest access to WASH as well as basic drinking water services (34.6% among poorest versus 94.2% among richest quintile).<sup>74</sup> Moreover, 64.7% of households in the poorest wealth quintile still practice open defecation.<sup>75</sup> Thus, rural areas with predominantly poor WASH services impose disproportionate burden on the most vulnerable groups.

## 2.8 HOUSING

Post independent Zimbabwe has experienced an influx of people migrating from the rural to urban areas to improve their livelihoods, thereby putting significant pressure not only on the existing services and infrastructure, but also on housing. The Fast-Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) added to this pressure as it resulted in thousands of farm workers migrating to the urban areas, eventually settling in informal settlements of the urban areas.<sup>76</sup> To keep pace with the growing need for housing in the urban areas particularly among the urban poor, Government employed a variety of instruments to encourage alternative housing supply. This was however, done without revising some of the applicable municipal by-laws thereby creating confusion and conflict, which was further complicated by the persistent economic challenges facing the country and poverty growth and corruption.<sup>77</sup> Consequently, informal settlements have been developed on wetlands or land reserved for other purposes such as clinics, schools, cemeteries and roads and very often are not serviced with the requisite infrastructure and services (such as connection to water supply and sewage systems). This development has severe implications for public health and safety as well as the environment.

<sup>72</sup> CEDAW, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6

<sup>73</sup> Zimstat and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: Zimstat and UNICEF, Table WS.3.1.

<sup>74</sup> Zimstat and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: Zimstat and UNICEF, Table WS.1.2.

<sup>75</sup> Zimstat and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: Zimstat and UNICEF, Table WS.3.2.

<sup>76</sup> Report of the fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe to assess the scope and impact of Operation Murambatsvina by the UN Special Envoy on Human Settlements Issues in Zimbabwe Mrs Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (UN 2005)

<sup>77</sup> Rodger Owiso, Arbitrary home demolitions in Zimbabwe and the right to adequate shelter. Case study of Arlington Estate, Harare

Central Government and local authorities in urban and peri-urban areas have engaged in evictions and demolition exercises targeted at 'illegal' informal housing settlements and business structures that were built in violation of planning and environmental by-laws. While there may be justification for such action by authorities, the manner in which the evictions and demolitions are often conducted results in possible violation of a wide range of human rights beyond the right to housing and property to the right to human dignity, personal security, health, education, privacy etc. Delivery of housing is one of the 11 priorities of NDS1 and the Government has resolved to address the mushrooming informal settlements and streamline land and housing allocations.<sup>78</sup>

Moving forward, it is critical that the Government is supported in its efforts to address the legal and structural challenges relating to land administration and governance. Additionally, coordinated responses to the needs of the victims of the evictions and demolitions, particularly the most vulnerable, must continue to be supported including through provision of humanitarian assistance such as emergency shelter, non-food item kits, medical care, mental health and psychosocial support etc; and where possible, provide support towards raising awareness within communities on land, housing and property rights and facilitating access to legal remedies.

## 2.9 SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 IMPACT ON PEOPLE

Apart from the loss of lives, COVID-19 elevated vulnerabilities and presented risks for the short, medium and long-term.

The pandemic increased pressure on already stretched health systems. Other essential services such as vaccinations, maternal and child health services were disrupted as Governments prioritised the COVID-19 response. Evidence from the PICES Telephone Survey (1st round)<sup>79</sup> conducted in July 2020 to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, showed that 19% of rural households and 23% of urban were unable to access medical treatment when needed due to, amongst other reasons, non-availability of medical personnel at the health centres.

Basic hygiene practices such as hand washing under running water have been identified as some of the most effective ways for preventing the spread of COVID-19. However, the pandemic amplified the perennial challenges of urban water shortages. Data from the Rapid PICES reveal that 14% of urban dwellers were unable to wash hands, while 21% faced challenges with access to drinking water due to water shortages. Economic reasons also revealed the rural-urban divide, regarding access to soap for hand washing with 24% of the rural population reporting not having enough access to soap compared to 14% in urban areas.

The pandemic disrupted livelihood and economic activities in the rural and informal economies exacerbating the food insecurity situation due to disruptions in accessing workspaces and breakdown of food supply chains during lockdowns. The narrowing economic opportunities and declining incomes affected the capacity of poor households to cope. The Rapid PICES revealed that 37% of rural households and 41% of the extreme poor went without eating for a whole day. The impact has been more severe on urban households whose incomes have been significantly affected. More than half of urban households had to skip a meal at least once during the past month preceding the survey, while 71% were unable to eat healthy or nutritious food in July 2020 up from 36% in April-May 2019.<sup>80</sup> Capability to buy food is low, especially for rural and extremely poor households, with 26% of all rural households and 19% of all urban households unable to buy maize meal due to lack of affordability.<sup>81</sup>



Evidence from the PICES Telephone Survey (1st round)<sup>78</sup> conducted in July 2020 to assess the socio impact of COVID-19,

**showed that 19% of rural households and 23% of urban**

were unable to access medical treatment when needed due to, amongst other reasons, non-availability of medical personnel at the health centres.

<sup>78</sup> Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy

<sup>79</sup> ZIMSTAT, 2020. Rapid PICES Telephone Survey (1st round) July 2020

<sup>80</sup> ZIMSTAT, 2020. Rapid PICES Telephone Survey (1st round) July 2020

<sup>81</sup> Ibid

# 3. PROSPERITY



This section assesses progress made by the Government of Zimbabwe towards the attainment of SDGs 8-10, with a focus on macro-economic performance and key sectors and their implications on achievement of other goals. The NDS1 (2021-2025) aspires to transform the country towards shared prosperity by accelerating inclusive economic growth, private sector investment and job creation. Achieving macro-economic stability and attracting investment to stimulate inclusive economic growth are central to the NDS1's priorities for "Prosperity" in the country.

### 3.1 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Over the past 40 years, Zimbabwe has seen mixed and at times very uneven economic performance. The country recorded its strongest post-independence growth performance during 1980-1990 with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing by an average of around 5.5 percent, higher than the average for Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. However, economic growth slowed in the 1990s, falling sharply in the early 2000s on the back of declining agriculture production and structural challenges arising from de-industrialisation. Economic declines have also been caused by increasing dependence on primary commodities, high public debt, negative savings and depressed investment levels as well as fiscal imbalances. Between 1999 and 2008, real GDP fell by 49 % and hyperinflation led to a steep decline in social indicators. The economy recovered between 2009 and 2012 anchored by fiscal restraint, introduction of the multicurrency system though predominantly hinged on the US dollar, improved confidence and political stability under an inclusive government arrangement. Confidence began to fade in 2012 (coinciding with the end of the commodity super cycle, which particularly hit the mining sector) leading to a sharp decline in the investment-to-GDP ratio.<sup>82</sup> The economy recovered sharply posting 4.7% real GDP growth in 2017 and 3.5% in 2018 on the back of stellar performance in agriculture and mining sectors.

The Government of Zimbabwe estimated the country's GDP to have contracted by 6% in 2019 while the IMF projected an 8.3% contraction<sup>83</sup> due to continued structural deficiencies and the impact of climatic shocks such as Cyclone Idai and persistent drought among others (see Figure 2.4). The NDS projects at-least 5% real GDP growth throughout the 5-year period 2021 – 2025. In 2021, the government projects economic growth of 7.4%, based on an anticipated recovery in agriculture and mining. However, other forecasts are more modest. The IMF projects the economy to rebound in 2021 and register growth of 3.1% before declining by 4% in 2022 and thereafter plateauing at 2.2 percent until 2025<sup>84</sup>. The World Bank forecasts economic growth of 2.9% in 2021<sup>85</sup>.

The recent recession and modest growth projections over the medium-term threaten the achievement of sustained higher growth rates of at least 7% needed to meet the SDGs in developing countries.

### 3.2 INFLATION

Over the past twenty years, Zimbabwe has experienced high levels of inflation that turned into hyperinflation in June 2008 reaching 231 million % per annum. The country adopted the multicurrency system in 2009 bringing down inflation to single digit figures, where it remained until September 2018. Following the reintroduction of the Zimbabwe dollar on June 24, 2019, inflation peaked due to exchange rate depreciation. Inflation rose sharply to 521% at the end of 2019, reflecting steep exchange rate depreciation from the monetary overhang of past monetary financing of budget deficits and continued quasi-fiscal activities by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ). As part of COVID-19 response measures, in March 2020, the Central Bank announced a shift to a fixed exchange rate (ZWL\$25 to US\$1) and once again allowed domestic transactions in US dollars. Inflation continued to rise sharply reaching 838 % in July 2020 due to a deteriorating exchange rate on the parallel market. The fixed exchange rate system was eventually replaced with a foreign exchange auction system that started operating on 23 June 2020. The auction system had an immediate impact on stabilizing the exchange rate and bringing down inflation. Inflation decelerated from August 2020, reaching 194% in April 2021, down from 837.5% in July 2020. The country's inflation is stabilising due to monetary reforms and fiscal consolidation. Tight control on money supply and financial sector regulation resulted in sustained deceleration of inflation especially during the last quarter of 2020. The deceleration was also reinforced by the success of the foreign currency auction

<sup>82</sup> AfDB. 2019. Joint Needs Assessment for Zimbabwe Identifying Challenges and Needs. Africa Development Bank, World Bank, UN. [Online] Available at [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe\\_country\\_portal.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe_country_portal.pdf). [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>83</sup> IMF estimate

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/WEO/2021/April/English/text.ashx> [Accessed 03 May 2021]

<sup>85</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35342> [Accessed 03 May 2021]

The Government of Zimbabwe estimated the country's GDP to have

**contracted by 6%**

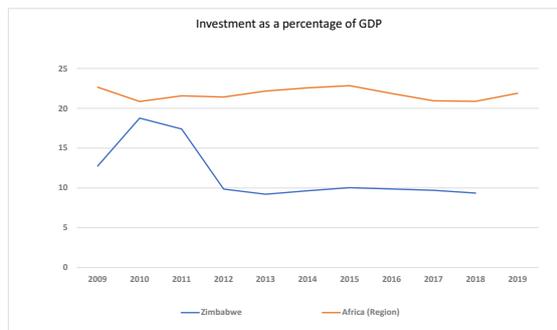
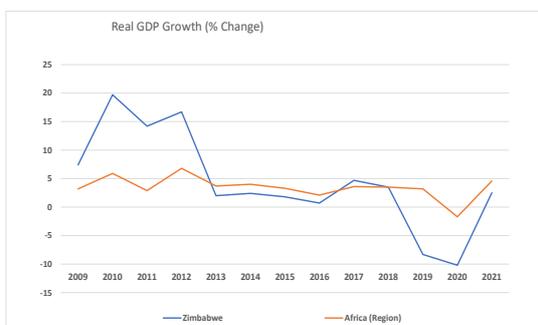
in 2019 while the IMF projected an 8.3% contraction<sup>82</sup> due to continued structural deficiencies and the impact of climatic shocks such as Cyclone Idai and persistent drought among others (see Figure 2.4)

**Figure 3.1 Zimbabwe's Recent Macroeconomic Development**

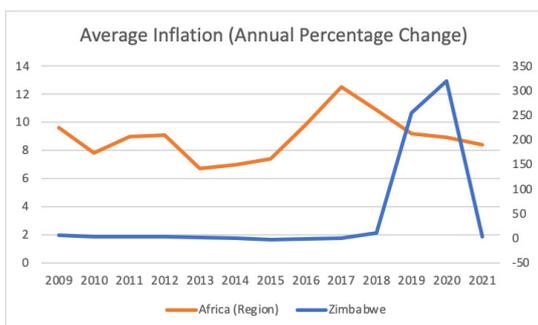
market system. Despite the recent decline, inflation remains relatively high, which negatively impacts economic activities, with the poor the worst affected. Over the years, inflation has wiped away people's savings and pension benefits. The major drivers of inflation have been high money supply growth, accompanied by sharp depreciation of the local currency. Stabilizing the economy will require continued fiscal discipline, and moderate base money growth. The Government of Zimbabwe aims to achieve single digit inflation over the course of NDS1.

### Zimbabwe: Key Economic Indicators

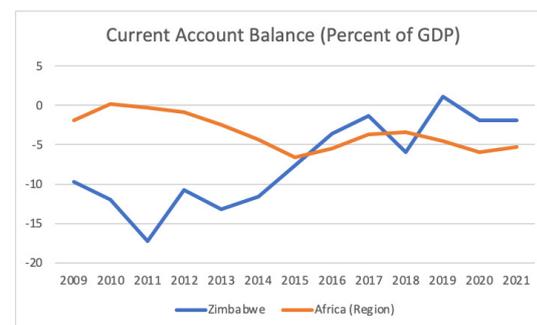
Growth has slowed more than in the region... .....as investment remained low.....



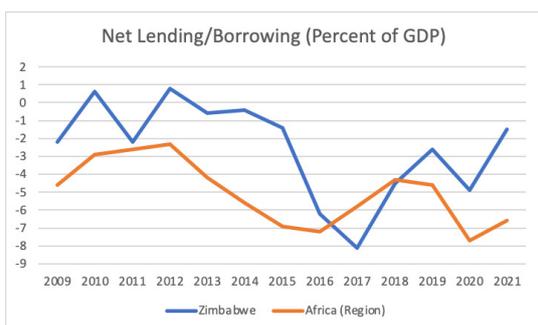
...and average inflation increased rapidly.



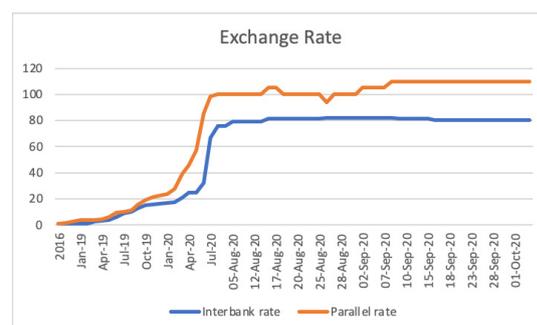
The current account has been improving...



...with government finances improving



...and exchange rate depreciation slowing.



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook Database, RBZ, own calculations.

### 3.3 EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

High levels of underemployment and vulnerable employment are some of the most pressing socio-economic challenges facing Zimbabwe. In line with the erratic economic growth over the years, the quality of employment has also declined. The agricultural sector remains the main source of employment, followed by the services sector. Despite significant contribution to exports and GDP, the industrial sector generates a

small share of jobs. Essentially, without having the choice to remain unemployed and as formal employment opportunities declined, Zimbabwean workers shifted towards low productivity, often subsistence activities in the rural and informal economies as they face decent work deficits. Between 2009 and 2018, the country was on an economic growth trajectory, but labour productivity remained 30% below the level observed in the year 2000.

In 2019, the national unemployment rate was 16%. However, the majority of the employed population is living in rural areas (63%) and working in informal jobs (80%).<sup>86</sup> Indeed, structural transformations have been occurring in reverse, with employment moving from urban to rural areas, and from high to lower productivity sectors, mainly in agriculture. These changes in the distribution of employment explain the collapse in labour productivity and earnings. The informal economy contributes over 60% to the GDP and this extent of informalization has caused a rise in vulnerable employment; with many workers in working poverty earning wages and salaries below equivalent of US\$100. The share of informal employment in total employment increased from 80 % in 2004 to 94.5 % in 2014<sup>87</sup> and stood at 76 % in 2019.<sup>88</sup> The majority of people employed in the informal sector work in unsafe working conditions without social security coverage. Young people are the most affected, due to little labour market experience, with 98% of people aged between 15–24 and 96% of 15–34-year-olds in informal employment.

The number of youths Not-in-Employment-Education-or Training (NEETs) has also risen to 45% of the youth population aged 15-24 years. Women and children also bear the disproportionate burden of unpaid work and child labour leaving themselves with limited time to engage in productive and educational activities. Meanwhile, 13% of employed persons have some form of functional disability. Persons with disabilities also face specific social and physical barriers to access employment and workspaces.<sup>89</sup> Creation of decent and wage employment has remained constrained by a weak operating environment for enterprises, obsolete equipment and lack of relevant skills.<sup>90</sup> Despite the high literacy rate, the supply-biased education and training system, is failing to meet the needs of the new economy, creating a mismatch between demand and supply especially in emerging sectors including digital and green economies.



The informal economy contributes **over 60%** to the GDP and this extent of informalization has caused a rise in vulnerable employment; with many workers in working poverty earning wages and salaries below equivalent of US\$100.

### 3.4 INEQUALITY

Zimbabwe faces significant levels of inequality with economic inequality high and increasing in recent years. In 2017, the country's expenditure Gini<sup>91</sup> was 0.44, representing an increase from 2011 after years of decline.<sup>92</sup> Seventy percent of citizens live below the national poverty datum line, while poverty in rural areas is at 86% and has been increasing since 2001.<sup>93</sup> Significant economic shocks – climate, economic and health – and rising informalization of the economy have played a major role in driving inequality in Zimbabwe. With deepening informalization, the majority of poor people rely on low-quality and low-wage work in the informal sector. Financial exclusion has also contributed to inequality in Zimbabwe. According to the 2014 Finscope Survey, 23% of Zimbabwe's citizens are financially excluded with only 69% served by the formal financial system.<sup>94</sup> Those in rural areas are far more likely to be excluded at 38% compared to 11% in urban areas.<sup>95</sup> In 2016, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development launched a National Financial Inclusion Strategy, which aims to achieve access to formal financial services of at least 90% by 2020, and 60% of adults with bank accounts.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>86</sup> According to the authors' computations using the LFS 2019 and ILO's informal sector definition

<sup>87</sup> Defined by the World Bank as contributing family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment

<sup>88</sup> The drop in 2019 was, amongst other, due to a methodological change (13th ICLS Resolution) that saw the removal of subsistence farmers from being counted as employed.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid

<sup>90</sup> Zimstat. 2019 Labour Force Survey – 84% of workers did not have any field of specialisation.

<sup>91</sup> The expenditure Gini is one way of measuring income inequality, using expenditure as a proxy for income.

<sup>92</sup> Zimstat (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency). Poverty Income Consumption and Expenditure Surveys.

<sup>93</sup> Zimstat (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency). (2018). Poverty Income Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report.

<sup>94</sup> FinMark Trust et al. (2014). FinScope Consumer Survey Zimbabwe 2014. FinMark Trust <http://finmark.org.za/finscope-zimbabwe-consumer-survey-2014/>

<sup>95</sup> Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. (2016).

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

Significant divides in access to essential social services on the back of under investment in the social sectors– education, healthcare and social protection – are exacerbating traps of disadvantage. Gender inequality is also high. Zimbabwe was ranked 129 out of 162 countries in 2019 with Gender Inequality Index (GII) score of 0.527, reflecting glaring differences in the economic, social and political status of women and girls.<sup>97</sup> The government's national priorities under the NDS 1 aim to stimulate growth, reduce poverty and inequality. The country's progressive tax policies, such as a 50% top tax rate for individuals and Valued Added Tax (VAT) exemption on foodstuffs, provides vital relief for the poor.

### 3.5 FISCAL POLICY

Zimbabwe's macroeconomic challenges are partly as a result of unsustainable levels of expenditure that contributed to high fiscal deficit over the years. The main drivers of expenditure have been employment costs and various subsidies including agriculture input support and grain procurement programs. Employment costs rose from 48% of total revenues in 2009 and peaked at 92% in 2017<sup>98</sup>, leaving little for operations and maintenance (O&M) and capital investments. With growing fiscal pressures on the back of constrained revenue base due to the slowdown of the economy, the Government resorted to domestic borrowing. By the end of 2019, domestic debt stood at ZWL\$9 billion. Fiscal deficits resulted in a huge public debt burden and had a crowding out effect on the private sector. However, under the Transitional Stabilization Programme (TSP), the Government made significant progress in reducing borrowing. The fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP declined from 10.5 % in 2017 to a surplus in 2019 and almost a balanced budget in 2020. The Public Wage Bill declined to 50% of total revenues by 2020. However, austerity measures and severe wage compression amid high inflation has had a negative impact on the welfare of civil servants, resulting in industrial action and protests with adverse impact on social service delivery.

Limited fiscal space has undermined economic and social sector allocations including infrastructure investment. Although spending on education averaging 11% of GDP is among the highest in the region, the country still has substantial infrastructure deficits, including a lack of adequate classrooms and laboratories and limited stock of learning materials and equipment. Meanwhile, budgetary allocation towards social protection coverage remains very low despite high poverty levels. As a share of GDP, non-contributory social protection budget stood at 1.2% in 2020, an increase from 0.7% in 2019. In the 2021 budget, the social protection sector, a key tool in the quest to leave no one behind, was the recipient of 2.28% of total budget, presenting continued under-provision despite the marginal increases. In light of the combination of factors of high unemployment, high poverty, and a highly informal economy, it is critical that adequate social safety nets are in place to protect the most vulnerable given the impact of these factors on the achievement of several SDGs. With a focus on post-COVID-19 recovery, the health and human capital sectors have been allocated 12% and 15% respectively of the total budget for 2021.

### 3.6 EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

Zimbabwe's external sector has been in a precarious position for more than a decade, although the current account has been improving, of late. The country's public and publicly guaranteed debt stands at US\$8.1 billion, constituting approximately 84% of GDP<sup>99</sup>, most of which is external and in arrears. Exports have largely stagnated over the past decade on account of a challenging economic environment and lack of investment in key export sectors. Meanwhile, imports continued to grow mainly driven by cheaper food imports, and rising energy and fuel demand. However, the country recorded a surplus of 6.3 percent of GDP in 2019, the first current account surplus since 2009. The surplus is mainly credited to falling imports (by 33 percent year on year) due to a sharp decrease in economic activity, import reduction measures, deterioration of disposable income exacerbated by foreign currency shortages. Similarly, exports fell by only 0.5% year-

<sup>97</sup> UNDP Human Development Reports. Gender Inequality Index 2017. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

<sup>98</sup> Government of Zimbabwe. 2020. National budget statement

<sup>99</sup>Government of Zimbabwe. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1)

on-year partly due to depreciation of the local currency, rising metal prices, and export incentives. Remittances have also remained relatively stable. However, the country also faces significant capital account vulnerabilities. Capital account inflows have remained weak due to depressed foreign investment. External loans to both the private and public sectors remained low due to the large public debt burden.

### 3.7 PUBLIC SECTOR

Zimbabwe's public sector—comprising the budgetary Central Government,<sup>100</sup> local governments, and the State-Owned Enterprises and Parastatals (SEP), account for approximately 50 percent of GDP.<sup>101</sup> The country has over 100 SEPs about 48 of which operate as commercial enterprises whilst the rest are categorised as non-commercial. Commercial enterprises are concentrated mainly in the energy, mining, transport, communications, financial and agricultural sectors while non-commercial SEPs are mostly regulators or licensors, research organizations, and tertiary education institutions.<sup>102</sup> The overall commercial SEP sector holds total assets worth about US\$ 17 billion, over 70 percent of which, are in the hands of SEPs wholly owned by the government. Although they are expected to play an important role in the Zimbabwean economy, poor financial and operational performance has limited their positive impact, as most of them incur significant losses<sup>103</sup>, losing equity and accumulating short-term debt and a web of arrears, they have become a source of significant explicit and implicit fiscal risk. Government has laid out a comprehensive reform agenda, including mobilizing private sector capital and expertise to enhance delivery of goods and services, promoting economic growth through enhanced SEP performance as enablers, and enhancing market structures. The landmark Public Entities Corporate Governance Act (June 2018) is a step forward in governance and transparency. It mandates improved procedures for board appointments, imposing term limits for boards and CEOs, and requires greater transparency of planning and reporting.

Local Authorities (LAs) play a crucial role in enabling economic growth and promoting social well-being in municipalities, cities, towns, and local boards by providing localized services such as housing and land management, local road networks, public lighting, solid waste disposal, water supply and sanitation systems, and health and education services. High levels of inflation, non-payment of services and declining revenue bases, have negatively impacted LAs' fiscal capacity to carry out all these mandates. Consequently, as LAs try to raise the majority of their own revenues internally, through various fees, levies, fines, permit and licensing charges, as well as property taxes and asset sales, their revenue inflows have neither been reliable nor sustainable. Increases in LAs' expenditure have substantially outpaced revenue, resulting in deficit spending. In addition to financial constraints, LAs have experienced considerable capacity erosion, skills flight, deteriorated infrastructure, outdated billing and accounting packages, and non-compliant internal planning and monitoring systems. The situation is exacerbated by the near collapse of their revenue base and country-wide debt write-offs. Repeated outbreaks of cholera and typhoid in major cities such as Harare in 2008/2009 and Chegutu in 2017 provide evidence of basic service delivery and social infrastructure deterioration. The effective implementation of Constitutional provision that mandates at least 5 percent of national revenues to be allocated to LAs through intragovernmental transfers, will be vital towards boosting local authorities' capacity to deliver their important mandate.

### 3.8 KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS

The Zimbabwean economy remains highly dependent on primary commodities. Since achieving independence in 1980, agriculture has been a significant contributor to economic growth, contributing an average of 16% to the GDP between 1980 and 2000 and accounting for over 70% of exports. Traditionally, the agriculture sector was the county's leading employer, accounting for between 60% and 70% of total employment. However, since the year 2000, the sector has underperformed owing to a number of challenges

<sup>100</sup> Not all entities currently categorized as SEPs are truly commercial enterprises, and discussions are ongoing to reclassify some of them as agencies under CG as part of ongoing SEP reforms.

<sup>101</sup> Government of Zimbabwe and World Bank. 2017a. Cross Cutting Issues. Vol. 1 of Zimbabwe Public Expenditure Review 2017. Washington, DC: World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27649>.

<sup>102</sup> AfDB, UN and WB. 2018. Joint Needs Assessment

<sup>103</sup> totalling about US\$280 million in 2015, though by 2018 commercial SEPs with a minority Government shareholding made a profit of \$183 million, more than exceeding the losses of \$150million among wholly owned commercial SEPs

including climate change and variability, security of tenure, underutilisation of productive land, declining productivity and access to finance. During this time, Zimbabwe also moved from being a net exporter to a net importer of basic food commodities including maize and wheat. By 2018, the agriculture sector's contribution to the economy had declined to 9.8% of GDP and 30% of exports (mainly tobacco). The decline in agricultural output negatively impacted the manufacturing sector, which derived about 60% of its inputs from the sector. In addition, weak fiscal capacity and declining investment in industry and infrastructure – urban development, energy, water, ICTs, and transport – undermined production and distribution of goods. The manufacturing sector is presently on the decline and estimated to contribute less than 10% of the GDP.



The mining sector's share of the GDP grew from an average of 3% in the 1990s to approximately **10%** by 2018 with just under US\$3 billion in revenues, 40% of which came from gold, representing about 60% of Zimbabwe's exports.

The mining sector's share of the GDP grew from an average of 3% in the 1990s to approximately 10% by 2018 with just under US\$3 billion in revenues, 40% of which came from gold, representing about 60% of Zimbabwe's exports.<sup>104</sup> Thus, the mining sector became the leading export sector, on account of elevated mineral prices and expanded production of platinum group metals (PGMs), diamonds and gold by both the formal and artisanal mining sectors. The artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) subsector is estimated to employ half a million people during its peak production period and provide livelihoods to many more directly and indirectly. In 2017, small scale miners became the leading contributor of gold production, accounting for more than 55% output. However, the supply chain for the ASM subsector is complex, largely informal, and undercapitalized, with many of the players reportedly operating illegally. Mining sector linkages with the wider economy remain weak<sup>105</sup> for a range of reasons, among them mostly stagnant mining tax base (fiscal linkages); sub-optimal backward linkages (local content) and forward linkages (beneficiation) as well as insufficient planning and development of ancillary mining infrastructure (spatial linkages). In addition to the weak linkages, the country is estimated to be losing millions due to Illicit Financial Flows (IFF).<sup>106</sup> Gold smuggling alone is estimated to be costing the country US\$100 million annually.<sup>107</sup> The national minerals development strategy has focused on creating a competitive environment for domestic and international private investors and also ensuring that the output from the ASM sector is brought into the formal marketing channel. Zimbabwe's NDS1 also adopted the SADC Protocol on Mining and the Africa Mining Vision to enhance mineral beneficiation and value addition. The sustainability of the sector is part of the new thrust where the sector is expected to grow to a US\$12 billion industry by 2030 and anchor transformation through the deepening value chains.

Sustained deindustrialisation of the formal sector during the last twenty years has resulted in the informalisation of the economy across agriculture, manufacturing, mining, trade and service sectors. It is estimated that the informal sector contributes 60.6% of GDP, making it the second largest in the world after Bolivia.<sup>108</sup> The informal sector is comprised of mainly low productivity household enterprises (MSMEs) that have weak incentives to formalize. Outside agriculture, they are often managed not by vocational entrepreneurs but by workers who, in the absence of wage employment, engage in low-productivity activities involving non-tradable goods and services.<sup>109</sup> Due to informal operations, the sector is not tapped into the mainstream economy and often lacks access to financial markets. Without broader engagement with enabling policies, private capital investors for skills, technologies and infrastructure, the informal sector is unable to achieve higher productivity and economic transformation.

Although the service sector has the largest share of GDP, registering about 40% in 2018, the sector contributes very little to the country's exports due to capacity challenges. The sector is unable to exploit regional opportunities and thus, remains domestically focused. The country has not been allocating significant fiscal support to facilitate the implementation of industrial development plans in synergy with the COMESA and SADC Industrialisation strategies. There are opportunities to harness local natural and

<sup>104</sup> Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe. 2019. State of the Mining Industry Report. Harare  
<sup>105</sup> AfDB. 2019. Joint Needs Assessment for Zimbabwe Identifying Challenges and Needs. Africa Development Bank, World Bank, UN. [Online] Available at [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe\\_country\\_portal.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe_country_portal.pdf). [Accessed on 18 November 2020]  
<sup>106</sup> Government of Zimbabwe. 2021 Budget Strategy Paper. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development  
<sup>107</sup> Minister of Home Affairs cited in the Chronicle newspaper available at <https://www.chronicle.co.zw/us100-million-gold-smuggled-out-of-zimbabwe/>  
<sup>108</sup> IMF. 2018. Shadow Economies Around the World: What Did We Learn Over the Last 20 Years?  
<sup>109</sup> ILO. 2021. Forthcoming

human resources with regional and global value chains and emerging opportunities in the digital and green economy initiatives. Increased capacity of the services sector to be competitive and exploit opportunities will be vital. In addition, few Zimbabwean financial institutions and insurance companies have ventured beyond the national boundaries. Overall, the limited economic diversification and the reliance on primary commodities exposes the economy to the fluctuations of the international commodity markets and shocks.<sup>110</sup>

### 3.9 TRADE AND EXPORT PROMOTION

Trade is recognized as one of the means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Agricultural commodities and minerals (led by tobacco, gold and nickel) account for nearly 90% of total merchandise exports. Under the NDS1, Zimbabwe targets an export-led growth by promoting value added export products and export markets diversification. This will be complemented by enhancing export promotion activities, market access negotiations, and institutional capacity building of trade promotion organisations.

Zimbabwe is also actively seeking to enhance beneficiation and value addition to its commodities before export to maximise benefits to the country. This can be achieved through creating an environment that supports public/private investment in infrastructure such as transport, logistics, sanitation and technology.

The country's membership in the various regional blocs offer expanded market opportunities for both raw materials and exports. These blocs include: African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), African Caribbean and Pacific States/ European Union Agreement (ACP/EU), and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The AfCFTA aims to create a single liberalised market for goods and services in Africa, facilitated by the free movement of persons across borders. Full implementation of the AfCFTA will contribute to the building of Africa's structural transformation, in the process reshaping markets and economies across the region. The Agreement will not only increase continental trade but will also help build regional value chains that boost productive capacities, thereby facilitating the production of African made goods. Africa's Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) will have an opportunity to engage more effectively in cross-border trade under the free-trade area in a market population of about 1.2 billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

In order to fully exploit regional trade opportunities, Zimbabwe should attract more FDI and increase manufacturing capacity utilisation, which has averaged 43.5%<sup>111</sup> over the past decade – less than half of total capacity – due to high costs of doing business and antiquated equipment. Zimbabwe's MSMEs need support to fully participate in regional and international value chains with products and services that meet market demands and standards.

The private sector, in partnership with, Trade and Investment Support Institutions (TISIs), such as Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA), should broaden their capacity to constantly monitor and improve performance.

### 3.10 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ECONOMY

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an additional layer of external shocks<sup>112</sup>, which is likely to derail the country's progress towards attainment of the SDGs. Globally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts GDP per capita growth will contract by –3% in 2020, worse than during the 2009 global financial crisis. In Zimbabwe, the pandemic exacerbated the social and economic challenges, on the back of pre-existing structural

<sup>110</sup> Kanyenze, G., Chitambara, P. and Tyson, J. 2027 The outlook for the Zimbabwean economy. Supporting economic transformation (SEP)

<sup>111</sup> Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI)

<sup>112</sup>The other notable exogenous shock being climate change related shocks such as the 2019 cyclone Idai

economic problems, climate-induced shocks and a weak social contract.

The pandemic has worsened unemployment and caused a general decline in incomes and economic output with differential effects on women and youth. In 2020, the economy was initially projected to grow by 3%. However, following the onset of the pandemic, government revised the estimate of economic growth to contraction of about -4.1%, due to COVID-19 induced disruptions and impacts of drought. Tourism, education, the services sectors, and the informal sector were the most affected. This was accompanied by increasing disputes between workers and employers, especially in essential services sectors, over low wages and occupational safety issues such as the provision of PPEs. A survey (Round 1) conducted by the national statistics authority (Zimstat) in collaboration with the World Bank showed that 21% of those who were working pre-COVID-19 no longer worked in July 2020. Meanwhile, 40% of urban wage workers that kept working had their wages reduced. The second round of the survey (Round 2) in October 2020, showed that households reported a further reduction in income from wages and non-farm businesses since the Round 1 interviews, although the proportion reporting this was smaller than when this question was asked in round 1.

The results from the surveys also showed that urban areas were more affected by COVID-19 direct economic shocks. Severe loss of incomes was more pronounced in the urban areas mainly due to closure of business activity both formal and informal, following lock down measures and their consequent impact. Border closures also had a significant impact on the livelihoods and coping capacities of many households in Zimbabwe that rely on cross border trade. Impact on the external sector was however, less than anticipated. Despite COVID-19, exports increased by 6% mainly on account of improved commodity prices, rather than increased production, most notably increased price of Platinum Group of Metals.<sup>113</sup> Meanwhile, imports increased by 5%, notwithstanding sharp declines in imports of energy, notably electricity and fuel, raw materials, and machinery due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions domestically and externally.<sup>114</sup> The increase in imports was driven by increased food imports, reflecting the impact of two consecutive droughts in 2018 and 2019. Better performance on trade is mainly on account of the fact that Zimbabwe's largest trading partner is South Africa and the land borders remained open for movement of goods throughout most of the lock down period. Remittances also remained resilient at 54% of foreign receipts and remain a significant source of foreign receipts.

<sup>113</sup>RBZ. 2020. Monetary policy statement. 18 February

<sup>114</sup> Ibid

# 4. PLANET



This section assesses progress made and challenges encountered by Zimbabwe that are related to SDGs 7, 13 and 15 on climate change, natural resources management and affordable, and clean energy respectively.

## 4.1 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS

Zimbabwe faces substantial environmental challenges including land degradation and deforestation, inadequate quantity and quality of water resources, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity and waste (including toxic waste).<sup>115</sup> The country is also vulnerable to climate change including extreme events such as drought, floods, heavy rainfall events and heat waves. Water supply, food security and nutrition, human settlements and health outcomes are all under threat due to the impacts of climate change.<sup>116</sup> Zimbabwe's climate is predominantly semi-arid and is extremely variable and prone to shifting rainfall patterns, droughts and periodic floods in some parts of the country, which has severe implications for climate-sensitive economic sectors and food security. These environmental challenges are inextricably linked to the economy, poverty, health, livelihoods and food security.

## 4.2 ENVIRONMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE

Zimbabwe's policy frameworks and the institutional arrangements for managing environmental challenges are extensive. The Constitution of Zimbabwe protects environmental rights, while promoting economic and social development. It provides for the right to a clean environment, access to safe water and prevention of pollution. The Environmental Management Act of 2002 also promotes environmental protection. In addition, there are several relevant Acts such as the Parks and Wildlife Management Act, the Forestry Act, the Communal Lands Forestry Produce Act and the Water Act, which promote an enabling legal and regulatory environment.

The country is a party to several international protocols and conventions including the Minamata and Stockholm conventions, the Kyoto Protocol and subsequently the Paris Agreement. Zimbabwe ratified the Paris Global Climate Agreement demonstrating its commitment to join the rest of the world in addressing climate change. The Agreement requires all parties to put forward their efforts through "Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)" to reduce emissions beginning in 2020. Under the agreement, Zimbabwe has committed to reduce its per capita energy emissions by 33% below the projected business as usual scenario by 2030 in the first NDC. Currently, the country is updating its NDC with increased ambition on both mitigation and adaptation. This is to be achieved through interventions such as increasing hydropower in the energy mix, ethanol blending and increased use of solar energy, among others. Zimbabwe is also a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. At national level, implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has been undertaken through various programmes, projects and strategies outlined in the country's National Adaptation Plan. At regional level, Zimbabwe adopted the SADC Climate Change Strategy, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The NDS1 mainstreams environmental protection, climate resilience & natural resource management as cross-cutting issues. The government coordinates Disaster Risk Management (DRM) through the Department of Civil Protection formerly the Civil Protection Unit, which includes agencies responsible for disaster early warning systems. The country has also drafted a Disaster Management Bill, which is yet to go through the approval process. The DRM Strategy is premised on the draft DRM Bill and draft DRM Policy, which will transform the Department of Civil Protection to the Department of Disaster Risk Management. The Draft DRM Bill and Draft DRM Policy give authority to the Department of Disaster Risk Management to establish and coordinate the development and implementation of a National DRM Strategy in order to minimize vulnerability to disasters triggered by natural, human made, environmental and radiological hazards.

Despite the existence of elaborate frameworks, there are challenges related to weak implementation and enforcement of existing international commitments, laws, policies and strategies as well as weak coordination and cross-sectoral cooperation. The country

<sup>115</sup> [https://sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se/digitalAssets/1725/1725303\\_zimbabwe\\_environment-cc\\_policybrief-2016-04-13.pdf](https://sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se/digitalAssets/1725/1725303_zimbabwe_environment-cc_policybrief-2016-04-13.pdf)

<sup>116</sup> Unganai, L., Gwitira, J., Manzungu, I., 2020. Understanding Climate Risks over Zimbabwe, pp. 7-8.



access in urban areas.<sup>121</sup> The country continues to invest in fossil fuels. However, this will exacerbate the climate change challenges, and the country will likely miss its climate change mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement through the NDCs. Currently, energy use is the country's largest source of GHG emissions. The sector's emissions are expected to increase to 26.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030 and 37.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 with increasing demand for power generation, transport and other uses of fossil fuels.<sup>122</sup> Zimbabwe's National Renewable Energy Policy seeks to ensure energy access to all in a sustainable manner by increasing the mix of renewable energy sources. In 2020, the Zimbabwe Electricity and Distribution Company invited bids for solar projects amounting to a total of 500MW. However, the country faces an uphill task to mobilise funding for the huge upfront investment typically required for the development and deployment of renewable energy projects. Currently, most funding is from the government and donors, while private funding is limited. Innovative financing mechanisms are urgently needed as is greater private sector engagement to crowd in funding and development of bankable proposals. The government and the private sector have identified several climate change mitigation measures including large hydropower projects (Batoka and Devils George) accompanied by other renewable energy measures such as solar projects at the commercial and residential scale. The investment opportunity presented by these measures amounts to approximately US\$7.88 billion, which could be potentially attracted from FDI and domestic private financing.<sup>123</sup>

#### 4.5 CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY

Climate change is believed to be increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, leading to intensifying droughts and worsening floods.<sup>124</sup> Over the past two decades, Zimbabwe was hit by Cyclone Eline in 2000, Cyclone Japhet in 2003 followed by Cyclone Dineo in 2017 and Cyclone Idai in 2019. All these events led to death, displacement of people, destruction of infrastructure, loss of crops, livestock, livelihoods, and devastation of the environment. In 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai, left more than 300 people dead, hundreds missing and 270,000 affected in Chimanimani, Chipinge, Buhera and Chiredzi Districts.<sup>125</sup> The cyclone left a trail of destruction estimated at US\$1.2 billion (6% of GDP), which in the process increased poverty and deprivation.<sup>126</sup>

Climate change is expected to worsen hardship and poverty, particularly among the most vulnerable, especially those living in rural areas. Women are disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of cyclones and floods, which increase the risk of gender-based violence and food insecurity.<sup>127</sup> Growing evidence suggests that climate change in Zimbabwe will likely affect human health through increase in incidences of floods, storms, fires and droughts with a knock-on effect on the rampant spread of infectious disease vectors. The erratic water supply in Zimbabwe has already contributed to a rise in water-borne diseases. A cholera epidemic in 2008, the most extensive outbreak in recent history, killed over 4,000 and affected over 100,000 people.<sup>128</sup> Disease epidemics compounded by chronic food and nutrition insecurity temper with households' resilience, rendering them vulnerable to shocks and stressors. By 2100, temperature and precipitation fluctuations are likely to alter the geographic distribution of malaria in Zimbabwe, with areas of dense human population becoming susceptible to transmission.<sup>129</sup> Hydropower is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Due to the persistent droughts and erratic rainfall patterns, low water levels at the Kariba dam resulted in reduced power generation and there is risk that in the future, this trend may continue. These threats highlight Zimbabwe's fragility and the difficulties it faces to cope with emergencies, which can

<sup>121</sup> National Renewable Energy Policy 2019

<sup>122</sup> LEDS 2020

<sup>123</sup> LEDS 2020

<sup>124</sup> Yale Environment 360 (2019). Climate Change is Making El Niños More Intense. <https://e360.yale.edu/digest/climate-change-is-making-el-ninos-more-intense-study-finds>. [Accessed on 29 January 2021]

<sup>125</sup> UNOCHA (2020). Cyclones Idai and Kenneth. [Accessed on 09 February 2020]

<sup>126</sup> World Bank. 2019. Zimbabwe Rapid Impact and Needs Assessment (RINA). World Bank, Government of Zimbabwe. Harare. [Online] Available at <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/714891568893029852/pdf/Zimbabwe-Rapid-Impact-and-Needs-Assessment-RINA.pdf>. [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>127</sup> CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6.

<sup>128</sup> WHO. 2008. Cholera in Zimbabwe: Epidemiological Bulletin number 1 15 December 2008. WHO. [Online] Available at [https://www.who.int/hac/crises/zwe/zimbabwe\\_cholera\\_epi\\_bulletin1\\_15dec2008.pdf](https://www.who.int/hac/crises/zwe/zimbabwe_cholera_epi_bulletin1_15dec2008.pdf). [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>129</sup> GoZ. 2015. Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy. Government of Zimbabwe. [Online] available at <http://www.climatechange.org.zw/sites/default/files/National%20Climate%20Change%20Response%20Strategy.pdf>. [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

quickly turn into crises. Low water levels at Kariba dam in 2019 forced both Zimbabwe and Zambia to reduce power generation.

Climate change and variability also pose a serious threat to energy security across the region. Countries that rely on hydropower are vulnerable to changes in rainfall patterns and the impact of land degradation on water sources. Deforestation will erode the natural protection of key water towers such as Zambezi, Kunene, Kavango, Cuando River Catchments.<sup>130</sup> Zimbabwe adopted the SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000); SADC Regional Water Strategy (2006); SADC Guidelines for Strengthening River Basin Organisations (2010). The SADC region is also bearing a heavy disease burden largely caused by vector-borne diseases that are influenced by climatic elements.<sup>131</sup> The new approach must therefore, break the silos and grow to coalesce around transboundary collaboration.

## 4.6 FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Access to finance is fundamental for creating momentum and raising ambition on climate action. However, countries continue to face challenges in securing financial resources needed to fulfil their commitments and obligations. Zimbabwe has shown leadership in utilising the international climate finance mechanisms as evidenced by securing funding from the Green Climate Fund for two resilience projects worth US\$57.8 million as well as readiness activities worth US\$3.6 million. The country's entities have also been accredited for both the Green Climate Fund (UNDP, WFP and IDBZ in the process) and the Adaptation Fund (Environmental Management Agency). However, there is still a yawning gap between available financing and the required investments to support renewable energy development, resilience and adaptation, implementation of the NDC and the LEDS. Notwithstanding, there are important multilateral financing and technical support opportunities available. Many of these are under the international frameworks, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

In addition, other multilateral and bilateral donors are increasingly devising their own funds and mainstreaming climate into their development support programmes. The Government of Zimbabwe has made strides engaging support institutions and mobilizing the necessary resources. To date, CTCN has supported the development of a Climate Smart Agriculture Manual, Energy and Water Use Efficiency Audits among other initiatives. The GCF has approved two adaptation projects while GEF has been supporting other climate change adaptation initiatives at community level. Efforts are underway to tap into the Adaptation Fund following the accreditation of the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in 2019. The Climate Change Management Department is also raising awareness and engaging Treasury towards enhancing budget allocations for climate change programming in line with the National Climate Policy, which provides for the establishment of a National Climate Fund, expected to mobilize domestic resources and leverage incoming climate finances for climate action in Zimbabwe.

## 4.7 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the postponement of the COP 26, but the global commitment to strengthen resilience and cut greenhouse gas emissions remains. This seeks to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. As economic activity reopens, carbon emissions and the pressure on the natural ecosystems is likely to re-bounce, hence Zimbabwe should keep focus on the climate action and sustainable environment and biological diversity management ambitions. The COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant challenge for Zimbabwe but presents opportunity for the country to steer development on a path that tackles climate change, protects the environment, reverses

<sup>130</sup> SADC. 2012. SADC Policy paper on climate change: Assessing the policy options for member states [online] available at: [https://www.sadc.int/files/9113/6724/7724/SADC\\_Policy\\_Paper\\_Climate\\_Change\\_EN\\_1.pdf](https://www.sadc.int/files/9113/6724/7724/SADC_Policy_Paper_Climate_Change_EN_1.pdf)  
<sup>131</sup> Ibid



# 5. PEACE



This section analyses the country's progress and challenges towards the attainment of SDG 16 on inclusive societies.

Zimbabwe's Constitution provides for the promotion of democratic governance, rule of law and human rights. In principle, the doctrine of separation of powers is espoused in the checks and balances imposed upon the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of Government under the Constitution. The Declaration of Rights enshrines fundamental rights and freedoms, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as special rights for women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. SDG 16 articulates the critical role that the rule of law and governance play in promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. As an enabler goal, progress on SDG 16 is critical to progress on all the other SDGs and in ensuring sustainable development while bringing forward those furthest behind.

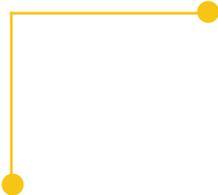
## 5.1 KEY POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The Constitution, provides for the establishment of six independent Commissions in Chapter 12 and 13<sup>132</sup> and lays out a set of common objectives to guide their operations namely: support and entrench human rights and democracy, protect the sovereignty and interests of people, promote constitutionalism, promote transparency and accountability in public institutions, secure the observance of democratic values and principles by the State and all institutions and agencies of government and government-controlled entities, and ensure that injustices are remedied. The enabling legislations setting out the respective mandates of the Commissions in respect of the promotion and protection of human rights, management of elections, media freedoms and anti-corruption have been enacted.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission is in full compliance with the Paris Principles and currently enjoys A status.<sup>133</sup> It generally enjoys a degree of credibility within the population and has demonstrated a willingness to exercise its independent voice to scrutinize government actions and seek accountability. Collectively and individually, the independent commissions engage with the public regularly and contribute to policy reforms through research, complaints handling, monitoring and investigating abuses. The effectiveness of these institutions also depends on how they leverage each other's expertise and experiences, explore strategies for collaborating and coordinating efforts towards supporting and entrenching human rights and values of democracy around key democratic processes in the country.

In 2020, three Chapter 12 Commissions<sup>134</sup> entered into a Joint Investigations Collaboration Agreement to strengthen the conduct of investigations, referral, tracking of cases and capacity development needs. However, these independent Commissions continue to face multiple challenges, which have hampered the effective discharge of their mandates including, limited funding, inadequate operational independence, weak implementation and enforcement of their recommendations and those of other oversight institutions such as the Auditor General and ad hoc commissions of inquiry.<sup>135</sup> There is a need to provide these Commissions with the requisite authority, resources and technical capacity to ensure their independence and full operationalisation so that they can fulfil their respective constitutional mandates.<sup>136</sup> Further, capacity and resources are needed to ensure their services are decentralised across the country.

The Parliament of Zimbabwe established six thematic committees that monitor implementation of SDGs along thematic areas including: Gender and Development, HIV/AIDS, SDGs, Human Rights, Peace and Security, Indigenisation and Empowerment.<sup>137</sup> The Human Rights, Gender and Development, Peace and Security thematic committees also



The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission is in **full compliance** with the Paris Principles and currently enjoys A status. It generally enjoys a degree of credibility within the population and has demonstrated a willingness to exercise its independent voice to scrutinize government actions and seek accountability.

<sup>132</sup> The institutions are the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Electoral Commission, Human Rights Commission, Gender Commission, Media Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission.

<sup>133</sup> See Chart of National Institutions accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions available at <https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/GANHRI/Accreditation/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart%20as%20of%2020%2001%202021.pdf>

<sup>134</sup> ZHRC, ZGC and NPRC

<sup>135</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, A/HRC/44/50/Add.2.

<sup>136</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>137</sup> Thematic Committees are mandated to examine government policies that fall under or relate to the designated theme or themes, or any other matters falling under their jurisdiction as the Standing Rules and Orders Committee determine. The SDG thematic committee supports and monitors SDGs implementation in the country.

play an important role in ensuring institutional accountability on SDG implementation in the country.<sup>138</sup> Parliamentarians not only have a constitutional responsibility in monitoring and ensuring accountability for the effective SDG implementation, but also act as an interface between the people and the State to promote pro-people policies and ensure populations furthest behind are prioritised.

The Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Reference Group established in 2017 convenes dialogue on the SDGs and facilitates consultations between the Government and communities on localising and contextualising SDG implementation in the country. The Reference Group collaborates with the Government to drive sustainable development efforts through community-based interventions at the local level.

## 5.2 HUMAN RIGHTS, ELECTIONS, PEACE AND SOCIAL COHESION

Zimbabwe has made progress towards meeting its domestic and international commitments to promote and protect human rights in law, policy, and practice through the ratification of key UN and AU instruments, conventions and protocols on governance and human rights (see Table 1.2). This normative framework compliments national foundations for the rule of law in line with international norms and best practices. However, these constitutional and international commitments while critical, in practice, they have not always translated into the full realisation and protection of human rights.

**Table 5.1 Status on the ratification of UN conventions, AU Regional human rights and governance instruments**

UN Core Human Rights Treaties ratified <sup>139</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</li> <li>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)</li> <li>The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)</li> <li>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)</li> <li>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the two Optional Protocols</li> <li>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</li> </ul>
AU Human Rights instruments Ratified <sup>140</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights</li> <li>African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child</li> <li>Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa</li> <li>OUA Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa</li> <li>African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)</li> </ul>
Governance and Peace Instruments/ Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance</li> <li>African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption</li> <li>Accession to the African Peer Review Mechanism</li> <li>Maseru Declaration on a Framework for Peaceful Development in Southern Africa (2013)</li> <li>The UNSCRs on Women, Peace, and Security (including resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960) are applicable to the Zimbabwean context.</li> </ul>

<sup>138</sup> They support partnerships and participation through inclusive political processes supporting global and regional exchanges of experiences between countries to identify solutions for planning, budgeting, executing and tracking expenditure to curb corruption and assess the impact of initiatives on the lives of people – especially women and members of marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

<sup>139</sup> Zimbabwe has not ratified the following core treaties: UN Convention against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED). Optional Protocols accepting individual complaints procedures: 1st Optional Protocol to CCPR; Optional Protocol to CESCR; Optional Protocol to CEDAW; Optional Protocol to CRC, and 2nd Optional Protocol to CCPR on abolition of the death penalty.

<sup>140</sup> Zimbabwe has signed but not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



According to the January 2021 Bill tracker, of the remaining 63 laws, twenty bills are complete of which 14 have been signed into law and 43 laws are yet to be aligned with the Constitution.

The country took steps to align existing legislation with provisions of the Constitution as well as to domesticate international and regional obligations. Through the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on the Alignment of Legislation to the Constitution (IMT), laws that are similar and have overlapping issues were simultaneously aligned.<sup>141</sup> According to the January 2021 Bill tracker, of the remaining 63 laws, twenty bills are complete of which 14 have been signed into law and 43 laws are yet to be aligned with the Constitution.<sup>142</sup> Progress towards full alignment of all laws to the Constitution has been regrettably slow, considering that the Constitution came into force in 2013. Consequently, gaps remain in some of the applicable laws for instance those to do with eliminating violence and discrimination against women, prohibiting torture, early and forced marriages, and upholding freedom of expression, association and assembly.<sup>143</sup> Additionally, human rights and gender budgeting are yet to be institutionalised in the national budgeting process. It is therefore, critical that the Government accelerates the process of reviewing and aligning its domestic legislation with the Constitution and incorporate its international commitments into the domestic laws.<sup>144</sup>

The Government formally invited six (6) Human Rights Council Special Procedure Mechanisms to Zimbabwe. In 2019, the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the Right to Food and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, visited Zimbabwe following which they presented their reports to the Human Rights Council in 2020. They came up with over 50 recommendations to the Government of Zimbabwe. The country submitted its periodic report on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in 2019. The Committees on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) issued their observations following Zimbabwe's presentation of its national periodic reports on the implementation of the CRC and CEDAW in 2016 and 2020 respectively. The country participated in two cycles of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2011 and 2016. Of the 260 recommendations issued during the second cycle review, Zimbabwe supported 151 recommendations, supported six (6) in part and noted 103.<sup>145</sup> In 2019, Zimbabwe submitted a mid-term report on the implementation of the UPR recommendations<sup>146</sup> and is due to submit another report during the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the UPR. Precise data on the status of implementation of the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including the special rapporteurs, is lacking while reporting under both UN and AU mechanisms is often untimely.<sup>147</sup> The inter-ministerial committee on human rights and international humanitarian law established to report and follow up on recommendations from human rights mechanisms is faced with challenges, which have affected its effective functioning. Further, this structure does not formally interface with the SDG reporting structures.

The country continues to struggle with negative perceptions around democratic and civic space constrained by restrictions and limitations to the rights to free expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association and collective bargaining, which are guaranteed by the Constitution. The newly enacted Maintenance of Peace and Order Act, which replaced the Public Order and Security Act in an effort to align it with the provisions of the Constitution still contains provisions that place restrictions on the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. This needs to be reconsidered in full consultation with all relevant stakeholders.<sup>148</sup> Zimbabwe in 2019 legislated the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) bringing together government, business and workers through the enactment of the TNF Act. This signalled intention to negotiate a social contract to manage key labour market and economy-wide matters including wages, and collective

<sup>141</sup> Centre for Applied Legal Research (CARL). (2017). CALR. Retrieved from Cluster approach key in aligning laws with the Constitution: [ca-lr.org/cluster-approach-key-aligning-laws-constitution](http://ca-lr.org/cluster-approach-key-aligning-laws-constitution)

<sup>142</sup> IMT Bill Tracker, January 2021, Available at: <http://www.ca-lr.org/download/imt-bill-tracker/>

<sup>143</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>144</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>145</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>146</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>

<sup>147</sup> The next report on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is overdue with the last reported having been submitted in 2014. Reports on the UNCRPD, ICERD have been drafted but are yet to be adopted by Cabinet for submission to the respective treaty bodies. Existing drafts of reports on the implementation of the ICCPR and ICESCR lapsed and must be updated.

<sup>148</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, A/HRC/44/50/Add.2

bargaining. A re-invigorated social contract is essential to building a shared and human-centred national vision that strengthens respect for human rights and provides more space for actors to hold each other accountable.

Allegations of intimidation and harassment of people holding dissenting political views, trade union leaders and civil society actors and organisations working on human rights issues by State agencies have blighted the Government's human rights record.<sup>149</sup> Yet civil society organizations are crucial in filling a vacuum often left by the Government in providing basic service delivery needs such as social welfare, water, sanitation, health, education as well as free or subsidized legal services to those in need. They also play a critical role in mobilizing various citizen interest groups to engage Government on their priority issues and to participate in civic engagement processes and continuously advocate through their activities, for constitutionalism, transparency, and accountability in governance. Facilitating an enabling space including through establishing a progressive legal framework for civil society actors and human rights defenders to participate in policy dialogue and in the development of national policies is key to building a better legal, political, economic and social environment that addresses the most basic needs of the poorest and most marginalized groups.<sup>150</sup> The Private Voluntary Organisations Act needs to conform to international human rights standards.<sup>151</sup> Security agencies are accused of human rights violations including intimidation, harassment, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and detentions, which appear to go without investigation and of failing to anticipate and prevent the escalation of violence in a timely and peaceful manner. Weak oversight and transparency along with the lack of clear mechanisms to redress alleged violations and abuses by security forces give the impression of a culture of impunity and deepen mistrust in the rule of law institutions in general, with long-lasting implications for governance more broadly. Operationalisation of Section 210 of the Constitution, which provides for the establishment of an Independent Complaints Mechanism is key to ensuring accountability of security agencies. This is in addition to efforts to strengthen the capacity of officials within the security sector and particularly those involved in law enforcement official through training in human rights law and the rule of law.<sup>152</sup>

Zimbabwe has a history of conducting regular elections. Eight Parliamentary elections and five presidential elections were held between 1980 and 2013<sup>153</sup>, and two constitutional referendums occurred in 2000 and 2013. The outcome of elections in the country have historically been contested, however, the country has continuously sought to improve its electoral management processes. In the recent 2018 elections, most Election Observer Missions (EOMs) noted the improved pre-election environment, where all parties were generally able to campaign freely, elections conducted in a peaceful manner, and well managed.<sup>154</sup> However, they also noted challenges that need to be addressed for future elections including, results management, state media bias, allegations of intimidation, and uneven playing field and the post-election violence, which resulted in fatalities. The independence of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission remains a lingering concern among some electoral stakeholders who also feel that current electoral laws are not fully aligned to the Constitution. Critics also highlight limited implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Motlanthe (post-election) Commission despite the appointment of an inter-ministerial taskforce to address issues arising from its findings.<sup>155</sup> There is need for dialogue among electoral stakeholders before the 2023 elections to consider issues around electoral reforms.

Apart from intense political contestations, episodes of social unrest and violence throughout the history of the country exposed a culture of intolerance across the political

<sup>149</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, A/HRC/44/50/Add.2

<sup>150</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, A/HRC/34/8

<sup>151</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>152</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>153</sup> Local Authority, Parliamentary and Presidential Elections occurred separately until 2008 when they were synchronized/ harmonized.

<sup>154</sup> See: Zimbabwe Electoral Commission National Multi-stakeholder post-election review conference on the 2018 harmonised elections <https://zec.org.zw/pages/reports#>

<sup>155</sup> Veritas Commissions Watch 3/2021 23 February 2021



Zimbabwe's foreign policy places importance on relations and cooperation with the region. The relationship between the AU, SADC and Zimbabwe is perhaps best expressed in the role that both bodies played in mediations that led to the 2008 Global Political Agreement (GPA) following post-election violence.<sup>161</sup> Whilst entry points to align programmes with regional action plans and strategic documents to support the implementation of human rights and governance commitments exist, limitations to full implementation continue to exist as sub-regional entities seem to pursue quick wins in a bid to prevent conflicts from spilling over into neighbouring territories.

Zimbabwe's foreign policy position is often based on pan African values and most recently is characterised by the desire to re-engage with the West with a view to securing the removal of sanctions and encouraging investment. In this, it has received the backing of the AU and SADC states.<sup>162</sup> For example, in 2019, the SADC proclaimed a day of solidarity calling upon the international community to unconditionally lift sanctions.<sup>163</sup>

Through the AU, Zimbabwe is also party to several processes of engagement with other regional blocs and countries. Zimbabwe remains an influential actor in regional peace, security and conflict prevention initiatives. In May 2020, Zimbabwe (as the chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation) convened an extra ordinary Organ troika summit to review the political and security situation of terrorism and armed attacks in the Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique, which, if not addressed quickly, poses a threat to the prevailing peace in the region.<sup>164</sup>

At continental level, Zimbabwe as a member of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union in 2019, championed key issues to be addressed on the agenda. These included the threat of natural and other disasters, the state of foreign military presence in Africa and implications for the African Common Defence and Security Policy, cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the PSC and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms (RECs/RMs) on peace and security and the impact of popular uprisings on peace and security on the continent.<sup>165</sup> Zimbabwe has also participated in the UN's peace-keeping operations.

Zimbabwe's 2019 Rule of Law Index had a value of 0.4, implying that the country still needs to take significant steps to enhance rule of law and administration of justice.



## 5.4 RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

An efficient and effective justice delivery system is the cornerstone of democracy. Zimbabwe's 2019 Rule of Law Index had a value of 0.4,<sup>166</sup> implying that the country still needs to take significant steps to enhance rule of law and administration of justice.

There are on-going efforts to decentralise services across the judiciary. The number of courts at district and provincial level has increased over the last decade with notable investment in courts infrastructure in Harare, Bulawayo, Gwanda and Lupane. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) decentralised High Courts to every province and Magistrate's Courts to every district. Where it is not possible to have a resident court, a circuit court has been established. However, the provision of legal aid remains a challenge. Legal aid centres established by the Legal Aid Directorate need to meet minimum standards of service delivery and decentralise services for women, youth, and persons with disabilities to district level.

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has also completed the separation between the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court as envisaged by the Constitution. The formal separation of the Constitutional Court from the Supreme Court is an important step in improving the disposal of matters in both courts. In addition, other efforts to promote

on 6 November 2020

<sup>161</sup> AU Assembly Resolution 1 (XI) of July 2008 and the subsequent SADC intervention

<sup>162</sup> Research article, Zimbabwe's Foreign Policy Under Mnangagwa Henning Melber, Roger Southall, 2021 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0021909620986579>

<sup>163</sup> The SADC Heads of State and Government held in Tanzania in August 2019, declared 25 October as the day to stand in solidarity with Zimbabwe, an event in which SADC Member States collectively voice their disapproval and condemnation of sanctions against the Republic of Zimbabwe through various activities and platforms until sanctions are lifted. ([www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int))

<sup>164</sup> SADC Communique of the Extraordinary Organ Troika plus Republic of Mozambique Summit of Heads of State and Government Harare, Zimbabwe 19 May 2020 Zimbabwe has recently been calling for the SADC and AU to take urgent action on the situation in Mozambique. According to OCHA as at the end of October there were 355000 internally displaced persons in Mozambique. This has created a humanitarian crisis.

<sup>165</sup> International Institute for Security Studies Peace and Security Council Report, Issue 116, August 2019 <https://issafrica.org>

<sup>166</sup> The index ranks country performance on a scale ranging from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating highest adherence to the rule of law.

access to justice include: migration to an electronic case management system, review, and rationalisation of legal costs, simplification of court procedures and improving access to the courts by PWD.

However, the country continues to face challenges, including undue delays in the completion of the hearing of cases, delivery of judgements, and growing perceptions of corruption and patronage, which have a bearing on the independence of the judiciary. Children interacting with the juvenile justice system are faced with specific access and process challenges. These include weak intra-system coordination, limited reach of rehabilitative programmes like pre-trial diversion and weak capacity of court intermediaries who are supposed to work with children through the court processes. However, the pre-trial diversion programme for juvenile offenders, which was introduced in 2013, has been rolled out in all 10 provinces and has been handling over 50 cases a month since its inception. In 2020, a total of 797 cases of juvenile offenders were diverted. The diversion programme is however, only implemented in 33 districts and needs to be expanded to cover all 65 districts in the country. Furthermore, there is need for an integrated case management system, establishment of virtual courts as well as continuous training of judicial officers to handle cases involving children. Several bills such as the Children's Amendment Bill, Child Justice Bill and the Harmonized Marriages Bill that will address child rights concerns such as early marriage and raising the criminal age of responsibility from the current 7 to 12 years are currently going through the legislative processes.

There are also concerns about the manner in which JSC members are appointed. Eight of the thirteen members are either directly appointed by the President or are ex-officio members of the Executive, a development that is perceived to compromise their independence. Further, the National Prosecuting Authority, which plays a critical role in the justice delivery system remains under resourced and requires institutional, technical, and functional capacities for effective prosecutorial functions. This situation was exacerbated by the Civil Service Commission freeze on recruitment, which necessitated the secondment of military and police prosecutors, a perceived impingement on the Prosecuting Authority's independence. These challenges resulted in limited access to and delivery of justice. However, in a bid to address the human resource constraints, Government has disengaged the services of the seconded members of the security sector and permitted the Prosecution Authority to proceed with the recruitment of 300 prosecutors. In order to ensure equal access to justice and fight impunity, measures to strengthen the justice administration system such as adopting policies to guide the equitable use of the performance and accountability systems of the justice institutions and strengthening professional training of judges and prosecutors need to be implemented.<sup>167</sup>

Overcrowding in prisons and poor prison conditions is also a concern, while punitive criminal policies, as well as a shortage of social protection services in the community, continue to contribute to the growth of the prison population. Numerous international instruments recommend a rationalization in sentencing policy, including the wider use of alternatives to prison, aiming to reduce the number of people being isolated from society for long periods. Use of non-custodial sanctions and measures is still very limited in Zimbabwe. National legislation and rules relating to the management of prisons are in need of reform to ensure compliance with international standards such as United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service contributed to development of SADC Corrections/Prisons Strategic Action Plan (2021-2025).

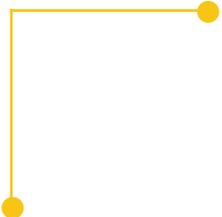
## 5.5 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEVOLUTION

The Constitution enshrines values and principles for public administration, devolution of governance and provides multiple and intersecting opportunities for human rights implementation, application of the rule of law and good governance. The country has acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which promotes democracy

<sup>167</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2.

and responsive governance consistent with the AU's Agenda 2063. The APRM fosters the adoption of policies, standards and practices that promote political stability, economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through voluntary participation. Accession entails undertaking to submit to periodic peer reviews, as well as to facilitate such reviews, and be guided by agreed parameters for good political governance and good economic and corporate governance.

The country has a centralized governance system with the Office of the President and Cabinet at its apex. The public sector comprises of central, provincial and/or metropolitan and local government, state enterprises and parastatals. The Constitution provides for the devolution of power and responsibilities to lower tiers of government with a view to promote decentralisation, inclusive and accountable governance, preservation of peace and national unity. In 2020, the Government launched the Devolution and Decentralisation Policy to operationalise devolved governance systems to sub-national levels. However, this policy is yet to be fully implemented. Under the Transitional Stabilisation Programme, Government implemented initiatives aimed at modernising the public sector for greater efficiency in service delivery including biometric registration of civil servants to eliminate ghost workers. The Mo Ibrahim Index score for public administration shows a recovery from the low point of 12.5 in 2008 to 46.1 in 2019 (on a scale from 1 to 100), with a rate of 7.4% improvement between 2010 and 2019.<sup>168</sup> Gains are attributable to legislative and institutional reforms. The WB's 2019 CPIA, similarly shows that the country's rating has marginally increased from 2.8 in 2018 to 3.0 in 2019 (mainly due to public sector reforms).



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Despite reforms being implemented, there remain substantial governance vulnerabilities in public administration including in the procurement of public goods and services. The absence of a single web portal for publishing procurement plans and notices, absence of standard sector-specific procurement documents and contracts, lack of data collection system on procurement activities, prevalent use of direct contracting and limited competition undermine governance in public procurement. This negatively impacts value for money, transparency, accountability, and integrity. Key Public Finance Management (PFM) functions need improvement, particularly in accounting and financial reporting systems, processes, and capacities, as identified by the recent 2017–18 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability report.<sup>169</sup> Local governments have experienced considerable capacity erosion, skills flight, deteriorated infrastructure, outdated billing and accounting packages, and non-compliant internal planning and monitoring systems.

## 5.6 CORRUPTION

Corruption, both in the public and private sectors, has slowed down development in the country. In March 2007, Zimbabwe ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In 2013, the country underwent the implementation review of the UNCAC. The review acknowledged that Zimbabwe has an elaborate institutional infrastructure to combat corruption including the Office of the Auditor General, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC), National Prosecuting Authority, the Special Anti-Corruption Unit (SACU) in the Office of the President, and the recently established specialised Anti-Corruption Courts. However, corruption remains a very high risk for companies operating in Zimbabwe. The sectors that are more prone to corruption include the natural resource sector, public procurement, customs administration, tax administration, land administration and public services such as licencing, permits and utilities.<sup>170</sup> The legacy of persistent corruption harms the country's institutions and state-society relations. The country's Corruption Perception Index for 2020 was 24/100 and ranked 157 out of 180 countries (Transparency International 2020).

<sup>168</sup> UNECA. 2019. The Africa regional integration index Report 2019. UNECA. [Online] Available at <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/arii-report2019-fin-r39-21may20.pdf>. [Accessed on 21 November 2020]

<sup>169</sup> PEFA. 2018. 2017–18 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability report. PEFA. [Online] Available at <https://www.pefa.org/node/356>. [Accessed 18 November 2020]

<sup>170</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/index.html?ref=menuaside>

The Afro-barometer and Global Corruption Barometer showed that in 2019, 60% of Zimbabweans reported increased corruption levels in the past 12 months.<sup>171</sup> In the same year, ZACC received and investigated 820 cases, 64% of which were cases related to criminal abuse of duty, 36% of cases were reports of fraud, money laundering, corrupt impersonation and use of false documents.<sup>172</sup> The offence of criminal abuse of duty relates to corrupt practices in the public sector. Most of these cases were committed by officials within government ministries, parastatals, local authorities and grant-aided institutions. In addition to lack of adequate resources, ZACC does not have prosecution powers, which severely constrains its ability to pursue cases timeously. The Commission is on record advocating for prosecutorial powers. Corruption undermines public confidence in government, fair access to social services and attendant human rights, delivery of public services and viable economic activity. The poor and the most vulnerable remain disproportionately impacted through poor public and social service delivery.

In addition, significant amount of illicit financial outflows deprives the country of the resources so much needed for the immediate development needs. Although Zimbabwe has demonstrated progress in Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT), the country is still on 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The latter has identified several strategic deficiencies in Zimbabwe's AML/CFT regime and put the country under increased monitoring since 2017.<sup>173</sup> Zimbabwe needs to upscale its national AML/CFT efforts to establish adequate risk mitigation measures, ensure that competent authorities have access to timely and up-to-date beneficial ownership information and address remaining gaps in targeted financial sanction framework. There is a need for stronger efforts in addressing illicit financial flows, including through more efficient national illicit assets forfeiture and management mechanisms, as well as active participation in relevant regional and continental cooperation initiatives. The UN can further support Zimbabwe to comply with international standards related to financial sanctions and combating illicit financial flows established under various UN Security Council resolutions, such as resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1988, relevant UN conventions and FATF recommendations.

## 5.7 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious risks for effective governance. Time lost to illness, as well as COVID-19 response measures, such as extended lockdowns, remote working and manpower reduction at work, negatively affected delivery of governance and public service. In addition, measures introduced to contain the spread of the virus affected lives and livelihoods and access to basic services such as water and sanitation and health care. The measures also limited access to justice, work and incomes, education and a wide range of democratic and civil rights such as the right to peaceful assembly, free movement and access to information.

Democratic processes were limited under the lockdown, including the suspension of by-elections to fill vacancies in Parliament and Local Authorities. Consequently, the smooth functioning of these key democratic institutions was disrupted. The pandemic also fuelled misinformation on social media, which deepened polarization. On the positive side social media was also used to share useful information such as measures that citizens should observe to avoid coronavirus infections.

COVID-19 exposed deficiencies in the health and education sectors as well as in the integrity of Government procurement systems. The outbreak presented opportunities to strengthen governance systems and increase investment in public services, such as health delivery, water and sanitation facilities and the informal sector.

<sup>171</sup> MO Ibrahim Foundation. 2020. 2020 Ibrahim Index of African Governance Index Report. MO Ibrahim Foundation. [Online] Available at <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/sites/default/files/2020-11/2020-index-report.pdf> [Accessed on 21 November 2020] Public sector entities such as the National Social Security Authority, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), MoHCC, Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), and ZIMDEF have been reported in allegations of graft involving millions of dollars. The Auditor General (AG) in her annual reports to Parliament documented massive abuse of public funds but few (if any) of the senior officials involved appear to have been prosecuted – weakening state-people relationships. For instance, the social services sector lost USD 102 333 955 in different forms of leakages in the 2018 reporting period by the AGs office. In 2018, Transparency International Zimbabwe reported that tax administration is inefficient, marked by a porous corruption system, with loopholes in the tax collection system and slow tax clearance at borders.

<sup>172</sup> ZACC Annual Report 2019 <https://zacc.online/>

<sup>173</sup> <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/high-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/documents/increased-monitoring-february-2021.html>

# 6. PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS



The ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without the cooperation and partnerships between multiple actors across a broad range of areas. This section assesses the country's progress on SDG17, which seeks to 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development', across different areas including finance, technology, capacity building, trade, and systemic issues.

Zimbabwe requires significant resources in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. While there is no estimate of the quantum required to meet all the SDGs, it is estimated that the country requires about

**US\$15 billion**

to finance growth over the 5-year period from 2020-2025, the majority of which, will go towards infrastructure improvements (US\$10.6 billion).

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## 6.1 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Government's NDS1 pledges to support the Sustainable Development Goals theme of "leaving no-one and no place behind [leveraging]... technical and financial support from both the Private Sector and Development Partners..." Under NDS1, Zimbabwe targets to repair strained relationships with the international community and the IFIs. Sanctions and restrictive measures imposed by the western international community targeting individuals and companies is believed to have reputational costs and negative investment risk perceptions. Access to international capital markets is constrained by outstanding arrears with bilateral and multilateral creditors. Integral to strengthening the 'means of implementation' of the NDS1, are strategies focusing on the mobilization of adequate resources, fair and equitable trade and technological progress for sustainable development and capacity building, delivered through partnerships based on accountability and solidarity.

In view of the changing global perspective on development cooperation, the Government, in consultation with key stakeholders among them, local and international development partners, reviewed and updated the 2009 Aid Coordination Policy. This culminated in the development and launch of the Development Cooperation Policy (2019),<sup>175</sup> through which Government domesticated global commitments, including those on effective development cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "The Future We Want", with its emphasis on "Leaving No-One Behind". The Development Cooperation Policy seeks to strengthen development cooperation, linkages between national planning processes (budget) and support provided by Development Partners (Bilateral and Multilateral), reduce fragmentation, overlapping interventions and inefficiency. The new policy seeks to establish operational coordinating structures and to provide guidelines for the mobilization and management of development cooperation. This will strengthen the role of the Ministry of Finance in the management and coordination of development assistance. This includes negotiations and commitments with development partners. The policy also seeks to strengthen Government's ability to monitor and manage development cooperation and use available resources effectively and efficiently. Meanwhile, Government is finalising the Aid Information Management System (DevPromis) – a platform that will operationalise the harmonised reporting and sharing of information.

Although Zimbabwe has settled the International Monetary Fund debt of US\$107.9 million, the country is yet to clear its arrears with the World Bank (US\$1.33 billion), African Development Bank (US\$689 million), and the European Investment Bank (US\$329 million).<sup>176</sup> The UN SDG Framework encourages developed nations to assist developing countries in achieving long-term debt sustainability through policies that foster debt financing, relief, restructuring and addressing external debt of highly indebted countries

<sup>174</sup> AfDB. 2019. Joint Needs Assessment for Zimbabwe Identifying Challenges and Needs. Africa Development Bank, World Bank, UN. [Online] Available at [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe\\_country\\_portal.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2020/01/14/zimbabwe_country_portal.pdf). [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

<sup>175</sup> Available at [http://www.zimtreasury.gov.zw/index.php?option=com\\_phocadownload&view=category&id=2:policy-documents&Itemid=760](http://www.zimtreasury.gov.zw/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=2:policy-documents&Itemid=760)

<sup>176</sup> The 2021 National Budget Statement

to reduce debt distress. The country has been in dialogue with bilateral and multilateral creditors to implement debt management plan, the Lima Debt and Arrears Clearance Strategy.

## 6.2 EXTERNAL FINANCING

The country is in debt distress with public and publicly guaranteed debt amounting to US\$8.1 billion, which is about 84% of Zimbabwe's GDP.<sup>177</sup> With limited access to concessional external funding, there are allegations that the few lenders to Zimbabwe either charge high interest rates (country risk premium) or demand collateral in the form of future mineral receipts (<https://www.mining.com/web/zimbabwes-mineral-backed-loans-may-complicate-talks-creditors-imf-says/>). It is argued this would be tantamount to mortgaging the country's future. Opportunities remain under existing multilateral financing for climate protection. Funding is available under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the climate change programmes of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund, including the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds and bilateral initiatives.<sup>178</sup> In the context of COVID-19 and debt forgiveness, the UN has advocated for a multi-lateral debt settlement agreement with debt re-structuring linked to green debt swaps and buyouts to help countries preserve biodiversity, move away from fossil fuels and curb global warming.

## 6.3 FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has remained depressed over the years. Zimbabwe's FDI inflows amounted to US\$1.7 billion over the period 1980 to 2013, compared to its neighbours Zambia (US\$7.7 billion) and Mozambique (US\$15.8 billion).<sup>179</sup> FDI inflows were estimated at US\$591 million in 2015, compared to annual averages of US\$6 billion for South Africa, US\$2 billion for Zambia, and US\$1.8 billion for Botswana. In 2019, according to the World Bank development indicators, FDI net inflows (percentage of GDP) in Zimbabwe stood very low at 1.3%. The country remains unattractive to FDI due to factors including lack of respect for property rights, policy inconsistency, currency instability, red tape when starting a business, erratic power supply, poor contract enforcement and the difficulty of trading across borders. However, progress is being recorded through the Government's ease of doing business initiatives. The 2020 World Bank Doing Business report ranked Zimbabwe 140 out of 190 countries with a Doing Business Score of 54.5, which means that the country remains unattractive for FDI.

## 6.4 OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) FROM BILATERAL DONORS

The largest share of ODA to Zimbabwe has been provided in the area of health, followed by other social and infrastructure services and humanitarian aid. As a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI), Zimbabwe received net ODA of 2.6% in 2018 compared to 3.8%, 12.9%, 4.4%, 7.3%, and 12.0%, for Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda, respectively. These numbers include support from multilateral institutions.<sup>180</sup> For 2017-18, the United States of America was the leading source of ODA, followed by the Global Fund, the United Kingdom, and the EU institutions (see Figure: 6.1). Given the gloomy global economic conditions, ODA might be depressed further with adverse impact on already constrained domestic financing space.

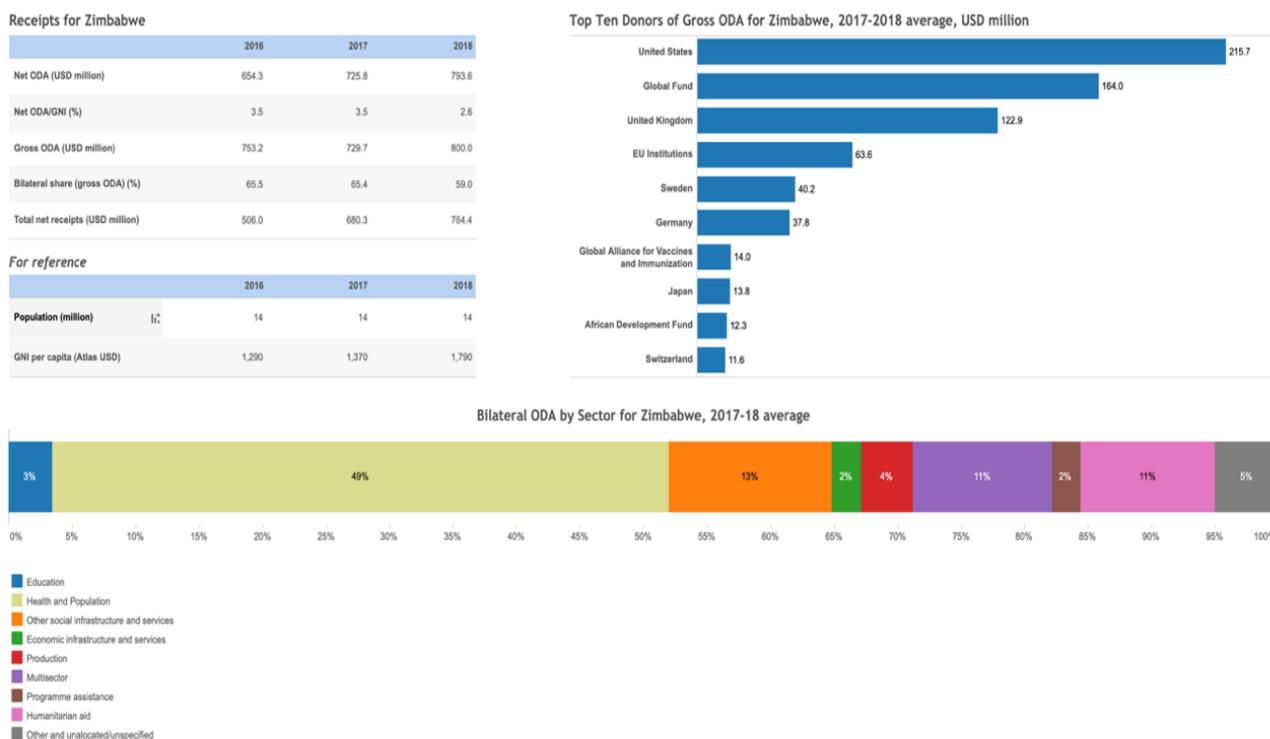
<sup>177</sup>Government of Zimbabwe. 2020. National Development Strategy

<sup>178</sup>UNCTAD. 2009. Financing the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Measures in Developing Countries [Online] Available at [https://unctad.org/en/Docs/gdsmdp2420094\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/en/Docs/gdsmdp2420094_en.pdf). [Accessed 24 November 2020]

<sup>179</sup>Kanyenze, G., Chitambara, P. and Tyson, J. 2027 The outlook for the Zimbabwean economy. Supporting economic transformation (SEP)

<sup>180</sup>OECD. 2020. Development Finance data. OECD. [Online] Available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/> [Accessed on 5 December 2020]

**Figure 6.1: Zimbabwe's Official Development Assistance**



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

## 6.5 REMITTANCES

With a large diaspora population, remittances have increasingly become an important source of foreign receipts. Zimbabwe receives an estimated US\$1 billion from its diaspora community annually. In 2019, remittances constituted 54% of total international receipts. The bulk of these, are however, consumptive and are transmitted through informal channels in order to avoid both high transaction charges and foreign currency restrictions in Zimbabwe. The key challenge is to ensure more remittances via formal channels and leveraging this important stream of resources towards a more developmental role. Although the COVID-19 induced restrictions limited human movement across borders since early 2020, formal remittances increased by 45% between January and September 2020, according to the Central Bank.

## 6.6 DOMESTIC FINANCING

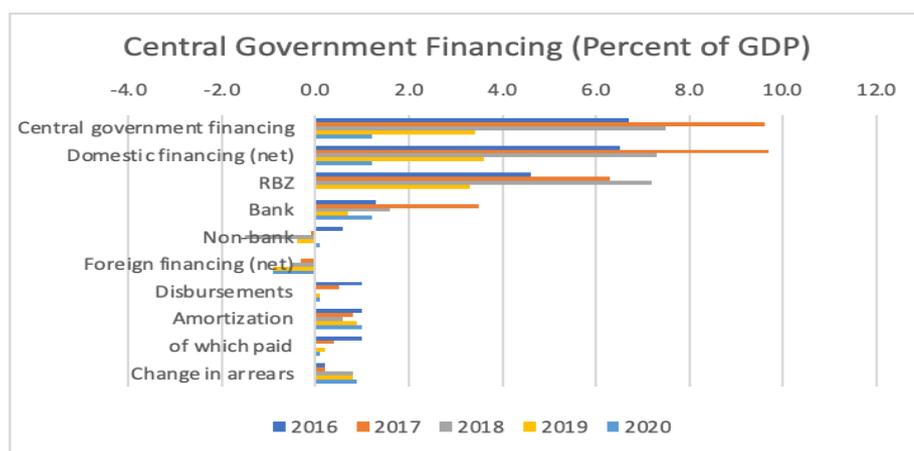
There are ongoing efforts to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation by instituting reforms to improve the business environment. The country launched the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) in December 2020, with a specialised mandate to spearhead the country's efforts to attract local and foreign direct investment. While Zimbabwe ranked 140 out of 190 economies on the World Bank Doing Business Index, in 2019, the country was among the World Bank's top 20 most improved economies. The implementation of the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency Act (Chapter 14:37) is expected to reduce red tape and bottlenecks impeding investment in the country. Under ZIDA, a One-Stop Investment Services Centre (OSISC), has been established to promote investment and coordination, assisting investors, and facilitating entry and implementation of investment projects.

The ZIDA Act also aims at facilitating private sector participation in infrastructure development, against the backdrop of budgetary resource limitations. Under the Public-Private Partnerships, the Government is targeting to recapitalise the National Railways of Zimbabwe and key road infrastructure such as dualization of<sup>181</sup> Chirundu-

<sup>181</sup> GoZ. 2018. Towards an Upper-Middle Income Economy by 2030 "New Dispensation Core Values: New York presentation" Government of Zimbabwe.



**Figure 6.3 Zimbabwe Government Financing**



Source: IMF Article IV Consultation<sup>185</sup>

Going forward, the country needs to strengthen efforts towards re-engagement with IFIs and intensify efforts towards domestic revenue mobilization, from traditional and non-traditional sources, while instituting measures to promote prudent financial management for enhanced delivery of the SDGs. Importantly, more innovative financing models that blend development objectives with commercial considerations will be required in order to catalyse financing for SDGs. In addition to bolstering Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) and re-engagement with IFIs, the country could also leverage its relationship with countries such as China, in promoting trade and development cooperation. China has emerged as Zimbabwe's largest aid, investment, and South–South cooperation partner in the last decade.

<sup>185</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2020/03/19/Zimbabwe-2019-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-Staff-Report-and-Statement-by-the-49283>.

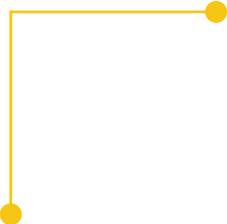
# 7. POPULATIONS FURTHEST BEHIND IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

A close-up photograph of a man with dark skin, wearing a green ribbed shirt, focused on weaving a basket. He is holding several strands of light-colored, dried plant material. The background is blurred, showing other woven baskets and a wooden chair. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the weaving.

Drawing from the preceding analyses, while Zimbabwe has made some progress across the 5Ps of sustainable development, there remain segments of the population that are marginalised and socially excluded. Exclusion could be as a result of geographical location, population group, migratory status, age, ethnicity, religion, gender, education level, socio-economic status, or the nature of their job. Ensuring that these inequalities are addressed is crucial in preventing the growth of feelings of frustration and anger, which can create a fertile ground for radicalising the population into violent extremist and other conflicts. The following analyses identify, which specific populations are left behind in Zimbabwe's development trajectory and how. The analyses also demonstrates that there are vital commonalities across population groups lagging behind in development progress.

## 7.1 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Doma people in the north-central region, and the Tshwa (also known as the San), in the western part of the country are examples of marginalised indigenous groups, consistently associated with more significant deprivation. In Zimbabwe, the population of the San is around 2,500.<sup>186</sup> The existence of many San is precarious, as San households face chronic poverty and perennial hunger. Although the Government recognises their exclusion, it does not consider them indigenous peoples as all Zimbabwean tribes are seen as indigenous peoples and thus, the San are neither recognised in the Constitution nor reflected in the Zimbabwe census.<sup>187</sup> However, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has stated that the concept of indigeneity in Africa refers to those communities in Africa whose cultures and ways of life differ considerably from the dominant society, and whose cultures are under threat, in some cases to the point of extinction, the survival of their particular culture depends on access and rights to their traditional lands and the natural resources thereon. Further, these are groups who suffer from discrimination as they are regarded as less developed and less advanced than other more dominant sectors of society, who live in inaccessible regions, often geographically isolated, and suffer from various forms of marginalization, both politically and socially, who are subjected to domination and exploitation within national political and economic structures that are commonly designed to reflect the interests and activities of the national majority, and who identify themselves as indigenous.<sup>188</sup> The Doma people have remained largely unintegrated and out of the socio-economic system, in their enclave despite Government efforts since independence. With their nomadic lifestyle curtailed by settlements around them including the development of national parks, the Doma rely on handouts and subsistence farming on the Zambezi floodplains where their crops are threatened by wildlife.



The Doma people have remained largely unintegrated and out of the socio-economic system, in their enclave despite Government efforts since independence. With their nomadic lifestyle curtailed by settlements around them including the development of national parks, the Doma rely on handouts and subsistence farming on the Zambezi floodplains where their crops are threatened by wildlife.

Indigenous groups like the San and Doma are invisible in national data and statistics, making it harder to understand their socio-demographic profiles. The majority are impoverished with limited access to essential services.<sup>189</sup> The majority of indigenous groups live on communal land and, therefore, do not have legal rights to the land they occupy. The lack of recognition of their collective rights increasingly create a fertile ground for disenfranchisement, loss of territories and natural resources resulting in complex forms of poverty, deprivation, conflict, including violent extremism. The survival of their way of life depends on access and rights to their traditional lands and the natural resources.

The rights of indigenous people is a matter of international concern and the UN system in Zimbabwe has a pivotal role to play in promoting and protecting these rights, as articulated in the African Commission's Resolution on indigenous populations/communities in Africa,<sup>190</sup> the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (articles 19 and 20) and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). Many of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are relevant for indigenous people and the overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda, which contains numerous elements that can go towards articulating their development concerns.

## 7.2 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The country's disability prevalence is 9%, and it is higher among females (10%) than males (8%). Manicaland and Mashonaland Central provinces have the highest prevalence of 13% while Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South have the lowest rates (4%).<sup>191</sup> Throughout the country, children with disabilities, especially those with intellectual or psychosocial impairments, are subjected to more significant abuse, violence, stigma, and exclusion, particularly in rural areas. Early diagnosis of the impairment and support is

<sup>186</sup> Hitchcock, R. K. 2016. The San in Zimbabwe: Livelihoods, Land, and Human Rights. [Online] Available at <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/296828038> [Accessed on 3 December 2020]

<sup>187</sup> IWGIA. n.d. Indigenous peoples in Zimbabwe. <https://www.iwgia.org/en/zimbabwe/980-indigenous-peoples-in-zimbabwe.html> ((accessed 5 November 2020).

<sup>188</sup> Report of the African Commission's Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities (2005) accessible at [https://www.iwgia.org/images/publications/African\\_Commission\\_book.pdf](https://www.iwgia.org/images/publications/African_Commission_book.pdf)

<sup>189</sup> Cultural Survival., Observations on the State of Indigenous Human Rights in Zimbabwe Prepared for United Nations Human Rights Council: March 2016 2nd cycle of Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe 26th session of the Human Rights Council.2016.

<sup>190</sup> ACHPR/Res.334 (EXT.OS/XIX)2016.

<sup>191</sup> ZimSTAT and UNFPA. 2017. Inter-Censal Demographic Survey, 2017. ZimSTAT. [Online] Available at <https://zimbabwe.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Inter%20Censal%20Demography%20Survey%202017%20Report.pdf> [Accessed on 18 November 2020]

difficult to obtain, particularly for children from low-income families. The experience of overlapping and intersecting inequalities – such as disability, being a woman or a girl, living in a rural area and belonging to a low-income family – can heighten the chances of being ‘left behind’.<sup>192</sup> Analysis of development indicators in Zimbabwe, particularly poverty indicators show that persons with disabilities, particularly females in rural areas from disadvantaged households, have the highest levels of malnutrition, the fewest years of schooling, often excluded from opportunities to participate fully in their communities, have fewer employment opportunities, are more vulnerable to violence and abuse, and have very limited access to justice and SRHR services.

Harmful cultural and religious norms remain persistent,<sup>193</sup> resulting in stigmatisation and exclusion of persons with disabilities from all spheres of participation and basic services. In situations of disaster, persons with disabilities remain excluded from first aid, recovery, and reconstruction programmes as well as the disaster risk reduction system. They have limited access to inclusive education and well-trained teachers, school infrastructure, curriculum, and programmes. Access to mainstream Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions is also hampered by the common prejudice that persons with disabilities should do crafts and manual work, thus preventing them from developing skills, improving their livelihoods and access to decent employment, and exercising their agency and voice, as enshrined in the CRPD.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe cites disability as one of the grounds prohibited for discrimination under section 56 and under section 22(4) and calls for agencies to take measures to ensure accessibility by persons with disabilities to all buildings, environments and transportation to which other members of the public have. Under section 83, the Constitution provides for elaborate rights of PWDs (including rights to enable them to become self-reliant, protect them from all forms of exploitation and abuse). In 2021, the National Disability Policy was adopted while a draft legislation that should be compliant with the CRPD is soon to be tabled before Parliament for debate. The Government has drafted its first national report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Going forward, the country should prioritise adopting a human rights-based approach to addressing issues and concerns of persons with disabilities. Stakeholders, including the UN and Government should dedicate efforts to combat intersectional discrimination and gender-based violence against girls and women with disabilities, while also facilitating their access to SRHR services and justice. The allocation of sufficient resources to implement and strengthen disability policies and programmes is paramount, as it will ensure equitable access to basic social services. The UN and its partners should continue to influence changes in attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms towards disability and to conduct systematic close consultation with, and active involvement of, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).

### 7.3 RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS

The empowerment of rural women and girls and the realization of their human rights and gender equality are essential to the achievement of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Goal 5) in rural areas is linked to all other Goals and targets, including ending poverty in all its forms (Goal 1), eradicating hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture (Goal 2), achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all (Goal 8) and taking action to combat climate change (Goal 13). These Goals and targets encompass several rights that are essential to the livelihoods, well-being and resilience of rural women and girls in Zimbabwe. Such rights include the right to land and land tenure security, food and nutrition of adequate quality and quantity, live a life free of all forms of violence, discrimination and harmful practices, the highest attainable standard of health, including SRHRs, and quality, affordable and accessible education throughout the life cycle.

<sup>192</sup> UNESCO, Amplifying the voices of women and girls with disabilities in Zimbabwe: a comprehensive study, UNPRPD, 2020. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374388>. [Accessed on 16 December 2020]

<sup>193</sup> UNESCO, Harmful cultural beliefs and practices, stigma and discrimination towards women and girls with disabilities: a toolkit for change, UNPRPD, 2020. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375021?posInSet=3&queryId=f0307a9c-901b-4f8b-acb2-bdde3584c9ab>. [Accessed on 16 December 2020]

Rural women have limited access to formal credit and loans. The credit made available through the women-centred financial institutions, i.e. the Women's Microfinance Bank is inadequate. Rural women are more likely to be economically disadvantaged during the COVID-19 pandemic because their enterprises have become redundant.



The rights and wellbeing of rural women and girls have been overlooked or insufficiently addressed in laws, policies, budgets, and investments. Although they comprise majority of the women, rural women suffer disproportionate levels of poverty. Rural women's access to land, especially the right to inherit land, is impeded by harmful cultural practices. In addition, they have limited access to education, health, justice, housing, water, sanitation and to formal credit and loans.<sup>194</sup> They lack infrastructure and services, decent work, and social protection, and are left more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Government continues to promote women's equal and full access to economic resources, including the right to ownership of land, property and credit. Agriculture is the backbone of the Zimbabwean economy and is relied upon by the majority rural population. Approximately 68% of Zimbabwean women live in rural areas, and 60% of people who produce agricultural commodities are women living in the rural areas, whose work is essential for food security. Most women are unpaid family workers. Rural women work 16 to 18 hours a day, spending at least 49% of their time on agricultural activities and about 25% in unpaid care work and domestic activities.<sup>195</sup> Gender responsive investment for rural women ought to support women's productive and unpaid work, which intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basic public infrastructure and services must be extended and expanded to rebuild rural women's lives after the pandemic and to increase their resilience to be better prepared to face future crises.

The CEDAW Committee, in its review of Zimbabwe's report on the status of implementation of the convention, commended Zimbabwe for its effort to facilitate access to land by women through Statutory Instrument No. 53 of 2014, which deals specifically with agricultural land settlement. Through this subsidiary legislation, the Government recalled old land permits and provided for registration of joint land ownership by both spouses. However, harmful cultural practices that impede rural women's access to land still persist. The Committee was particularly concerned about the inability of such women to inherit land. The CEDAW Committee recommended that access to inherited land by women be facilitated by penalising actions by both public institutions and private individuals that deprive rural women of their rights to land. Support to the work of the Zimbabwe Land Commission (ZLC) and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) should be strengthened.

Rural women have limited access to formal credit and loans. The credit made available through the women-centred financial institutions, such as the Women's Microfinance Bank, is inadequate. Rural women are more likely to be economically disadvantaged during COVID-19 due to the impact of the pandemic on their enterprises. In this regard, access to affordable credit must be facilitated for rural women. Such facilitation includes provision of free and accessible financial literacy trainings as well as promoting the establishment and scaling-up of small enterprises. It is also critical to improve rural women's access to justice, education, employment, health, housing, safe water and sanitation, electricity and other infrastructure.

## 7.4 POPULATIONS HARDEST HIT BY DISASTERS AND CLIMATE SHOCKS

Specific groups hardest hit by hazards and climate shocks (cyclones) merit attention due to the disadvantage and challenges they face—for instance, living in rural areas, subject to climate shocks and having a history of deprivation and poverty. In March 2019, heavy precipitation and riverine flooding from Cyclone Idai damaged infrastructure, properties, and the livelihoods of over 270,000 people across seven districts in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces.<sup>196</sup> A year after the cyclone, 128,270 people still needed humanitarian assistance across the 12 affected districts in the two provinces.<sup>197</sup> The cyclone exacerbated the already negative impacts of the El Niño-induced drought, ravaging large tracts of agricultural land and further heightening the emergency levels of food insecurity

<sup>194</sup>CEDAW, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6

<sup>195</sup>FAO. 2017. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Zimbabwe: Country Gender Assessment Series. Harare.

<sup>196</sup>GoZ. 2020. Zimbabwe Revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2020. Harare. [Online] Available at [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Zimbabwe\\_Revised\\_2020\\_HRP\\_with\\_COVID19\\_Addendum.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Zimbabwe_Revised_2020_HRP_with_COVID19_Addendum.pdf) [Accessed on 3 December 2020]

<sup>197</sup> Zimbabwe National Development Strategy [Accessed on 3 December 2020].

for over one million people. The disproportionately adverse effects of cyclones and floods on women and girls, and persons with disabilities, as in the case of Cyclone Idai, increase women's risk of gender-based violence, food insecurity, exclusion from the humanitarian programmes, and non-inclusive rebuilding and recovery.

Going forward, there is need to strengthen national climate change response strategy including gender dimensions and the participation of women at all development and planning stages. There is need to prioritise assessing and addressing the impact of Cyclone Idai on women and girls ensuring the integration of a gender dimension into the planning, budgeting, development, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes on disaster risk reduction and climate change.<sup>198</sup>

## 7.5 SEXUAL MINORITIES AND SEX WORKERS

By adopting the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States pledged to leave no one behind and to reach those left furthest behind, first. This commitment includes sexual minorities such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, who are, in many societies, among the most marginalized and furthest behind. There is a growing recognition for the need to respect, protect and fulfil human rights of all people including LGBTI people. This includes a number of statements by the UN Secretary-General,<sup>199</sup> the adoption of three Human Rights Council resolutions<sup>200</sup> against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the appointment of an Independent Expert to identify causes for violence and discrimination, assess implementation of human rights instruments, engage in dialogue and foster measures for the protection of all people against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

LGBTI persons in Zimbabwe experience a climate of intimidation, stigma and discrimination, which may exclude them from society, affect their access to public services and job opportunities. Public attitudes towards LGBTI persons are generally intolerant, thus LGBTI persons generally do not openly express their sexuality or gender identity in their workplaces, or within their families. Criminalization of same sex relations creates a hostile environment for LGBTI people and has a hampering effect on national initiatives for the realisation of health-related development goals for the nation. This factor coupled with religious leaders' rhetoric, which singles out and targets LGBTI communities specifically, further exacerbates this. In addition, criminalisation of same sex relations has a severe negative effect on the mental health of the LGBTI community, which often results in depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidal ideation. Laws and policies, which are not LGBTI inclusive, further alienate them from full and active citizenry.

The commitment to leave no one behind also extends to sex workers who remain among the populations left furthest behind. A 2017 study estimated that there were approximately 44,500 Female Sex Workers (FSW) across Zimbabwe, with 58% living with HIV.<sup>201</sup> A 2015 modes of transmission study estimated that 4,000 new HIV infections occur among sex workers every year. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of HIV infection in the general female population that is attributable to sex work is estimated to be 17.8%.<sup>202</sup> Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) 2015 found that 30% of men aged 30-49 reported having sex with a sex worker. There are HIV prevalence and incidence disparities within the FSW community - prevalence among young FSWs below 25 years is 21.3% and it rises to 49.9% for those above 25. Level of education seemed to be a contributing factor among young FSW- HIV prevalence was 40% for those who had no/incomplete primary education compared to 25.2% among those who had up to

<sup>198</sup> CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6

<sup>199</sup> See the Statement by the UN Secretary-General on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia of 17 May 2020, Available: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-05-17/secretary-generals-message-the-international-day-against-homophobia-biphobia-and-transphobia>.

<sup>200</sup> Human Rights Council Resolution on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (adopted 30 June 2016) - A/HRC/RES/32/2; Human Rights Council resolution - Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (adopted 17 June 2011) - A/HRC/RES/17/19 and Human Rights Council resolution - Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (adopted 26 September 2014) - A/HRC/RES/27/32.

<sup>201</sup> Cowan, F.M., Davey, C., Fearon, E., Mushati, P., Dirawo, J., Chabata, S., Cambiano, V., Napierala, S., Hanisch, D., Wong-Gruenwald, R. and Masuka, N., 2018. Targeted combination prevention to support female sex workers in Zimbabwe accessing and adhering to antiretrovirals for treatment and prevention of HIV (SAPPH-IRE): a cluster-randomised trial. *The Lancet HIV*, 5(8), pp.e417-e426.

<sup>202</sup> [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/UNAIDS\\_FactSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_FactSheet_en.pdf) [Accessed on 30 March 2021]

secondary education. Starting sex work at a younger age (10-14 years) was also linked to higher HIV prevalence of 33.7% compared to 29.4% for those who started sex work between 20–24 years.<sup>203</sup> The prevailing economic situation characterised by crippling high inflation, unemployment, and shortages of food, medicine and foreign currency has had a huge impact on the entry of women and girls into sex work. In the face of dwindling household incomes, food insecurity and abject urban and rural poverty, sex work has become a livelihood strategy for poor rural and urban women.

The legal and social environment continues to criminalize and stigmatize sex work, making it difficult to reach younger and newer sex workers who are at higher risk of HIV infection, or to break the systemic barriers of social stigma. Young people are engaging in sex work for survival and are less likely to access services because they do not identify as sex workers and are less likely to present to sex work-specific clinics. There is limited knowledge of the sex work life cycle – that is understanding when people transition into sex work and at what point a sex worker is most at risk of HIV infection or HIV-related morbidity and how this information can be used to inform programming.

The right to health includes access to adequate HIV prevention, treatment and care, support services as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health. It therefore, remains critical to purposefully address structural barriers that hinder access to services such as stigma and discrimination, gender-based violence and criminalisation. The identification of Female Sex Workers and other key populations, which include sexual minorities as important groups and their inclusion into Zimbabwe's National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan since 2006 was an important step. Addressing key challenges for these groups will require strengthening of individual, organizational, and national systems capacities at both national and subnational levels and ensuring a sustainable funding base. It will also require the adoption of legislative measures geared towards eliminating all forms of discrimination, stigmatisation and enhancing the promotion of respect of the rights of all persons by society.<sup>204</sup>

## 7.6 REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

In 2021, Zimbabwe recorded 22,168 refugees and asylum seekers. The majority of refugees and asylum seekers (79%) are from the Democratic Republic of Congo, fleeing conflict, sexual violence, and other indiscriminate attacks, while smaller proportions are from countries including Burundi, Rwanda, and Angola. Refugees and asylum seekers in Zimbabwe need international protection and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance to enable them to live in safety and dignity. Although Mozambican asylum-seekers are profiled in the country's humanitarian response, an estimated 6,546 living among Zimbabwean host communities in Manicaland province are yet to get biometric registration.<sup>205</sup> Children born in Zimbabwe to parents of indeterminate nationality are often denied the right to have their birth registered and to acquire Zimbabwean nationality, which impedes their access to health care, education, and other social services.<sup>206</sup>

While Chapter 3 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe safeguards refugees against statelessness, there are some glaring gaps in granting Zimbabwe nationality status to children who are born to stateless parents. There is an absence of legislative provisions to guarantee that children born stateless in Zimbabwe acquire a nationality. Refugees are protected under the Zimbabwe Refugee Act (1951 and 1969), and the Zimbabwe Refugee Committee is the national eligibility commission that conducts refugee status determination, with the UNHCR sitting in sessions as an observer.<sup>207</sup> Going forward, the country needs to invest in ambitious policies targeting service delivery, better anti-discrimination laws and legal reforms – including more inclusive institutions—that are most likely to deliver better outcomes for the poorest and most socially excluded refugees. Existing legislation needs to be amended to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe

<sup>203</sup> NAC, 2020. Key Population Thematic Report for End Term Review of the Extended Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan III (2015 – 2020)

<sup>204</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

<sup>205</sup> GoZ. 2020. Zimbabwe Revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2020. Harare. [Online] Available at [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Zimbabwe\\_Revised\\_2020\\_HRP\\_with\\_COVID19\\_Addendum.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Zimbabwe_Revised_2020_HRP_with_COVID19_Addendum.pdf) [Accessed on 3 December 2020]

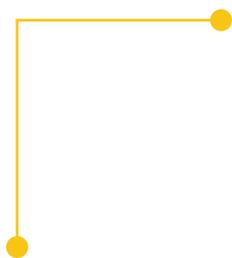
<sup>206</sup> Macrotrends. 2020. Zimbabwe Refugee Statistics 1990-2020. Macrotrends. [Online] Available at <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/ZWE/zimbabwe/refugee-statistics> ((Accessed 12 November 2020).

<sup>207</sup> UNHCR. 2016. Universal Periodic Review: 2nd Cycle, 26th Session. UNHCR. [Online] Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ZWIndex.aspx> [Accessed on 30 November 2020]

regardless of their parents' origin are issued with birth certificates and efforts to issue all children with birth certificates need to be scaled up.<sup>208</sup> Zimbabwe is encouraged to meet the seven (7) commitments made at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness, including acceding to the 1961 Convention, aligning the Citizenship Act and Birth and Deaths Registration Act with the Constitution and developing a National Action Plan by 2022 to end statelessness by 2024.

## 7.7 OLDER PERSONS

Older people constitute 5.8% of the population in Zimbabwe.<sup>209</sup> According to data from Poverty and Income and Expenditure Survey (PICES) of 2017, 24.9% of older persons were poor and 2.9% were extremely poor. Older persons without pension are twice likely to be poor and four times likely to be extremely poor compared with those that are receiving pension benefits. Extreme poverty incidence is even higher with older persons in rural areas 10 times likely to be extremely poor than those in urban areas. Many older persons have over the years lost their contributory pension assets due to high levels of inflation.<sup>210</sup> With emergent hyper-inflation since 2017, which peaked at 837.53% in July 2020, pensioners and those preparing for retirement face yet another round of pension assets depletion.<sup>211</sup> There are policies in place such as the Old Persons Act (2011), that provide for the wellbeing of older persons and stipulate certain exemptions for the elderly, which include for paying subsidised fees for services. However, older people experience multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities, including inadequate access to services, healthcare, social security support, all of which are further amplified by COVID-19.<sup>212</sup>



The increasing costs of health care, already out of reach for the majority of citizens, the shortage of drugs in public hospitals and supplies and the reliance on patients out of pocket costs for medicines and supplies, the lack of trained human resources for health in public hospitals exacerbate suffering among the elderly.

The increasing costs of health care, already out of reach for the majority of citizens, the shortage of drugs in public hospitals and supplies and the reliance on patients out of pocket costs for medicines and supplies, the lack of trained human resources for health in public hospitals exacerbate suffering among the elderly. The Government needs to prioritise coverage of and access to health care for older persons by allocating sufficient budgetary resources to finance the establishment of health institutions especially in remote rural areas. Additionally, social protection and pension benefits for the elderly, along with implementing policies on free access to free health care and transport services for the elderly, should be considered to ensure realisation of the right to social protection for the aged as outlined in section 21 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

## 7.8 MIGRANTS

Migrants such as those forcibly displaced and trapped in protracted crises, those with irregular migration and employment status and those with increased exposure to risks, such as women and children, live in precarious situations. Migrants with less material, financial, natural, or social assets are vulnerable to relatively minor shocks and more likely to suffer intractable poverty following shocks. Migrants face specific vulnerabilities, at all stages of the migration process: pre-migration, in transit, in host countries, and on return.

Zimbabwe has a long history of migration as a source, transit and destination country for migrants. Since the year 2000, the country has experienced social, economic and political challenges that have resulted in many Zimbabweans migrating to other countries in the region and further afield in search of better economic and livelihoods opportunities. Primary destination countries are South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, the United Kingdom, USA, Australia and New Zealand. According to the Zimbabwe Inter Censal Demographic Survey 2017,<sup>213</sup> 19% of households in Zimbabwe were reported to have at least one or more family members who are migrants residing outside Zimbabwe. Majority (87%) of the emigrants were in South Africa, 8% were within other countries in the Southern Africa region (Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia). In terms of population profile, 62% of the emigrants from Zimbabwe are male, while 32%

<sup>208</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2.

<sup>209</sup> Kimani, J.K. 2014. Don't leave us behind: Older people in Zimbabwe call for a society for all. [Online] Available at <https://www.helpage.org/blogs/john-k-kimani-24292/dont-leave-us-behind-older-people-in-zimbabwe-call-for-a-society-for-all-7777-cookie-policy/cookie-policy/> [Accessed on 3 December 2020]

<sup>210</sup> MPSLSW, 2020, Zimbabwe social pension feasibility study, 2020.

<sup>211</sup> Ibid.

<sup>212</sup> E. Njovana., Feedback on Dialogue with Help Age Zimbabwe, 2020

<sup>213</sup> Inter-Censal Demographic Survey 2017 (zimstat.co.zw)

are female and 78% are young people aged between 15-34 years. Zimbabwe is also considered as a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor and domestic servitude. By close of 2020, 168 female Victims of Trafficking had been assisted to return to Zimbabwe from Kuwait.

Due to its strategic central geographic location within Southern Africa and its position on the North-South migration corridor, Zimbabwe has also experienced a marked increase in mixed migration and irregular migration flows including; asylum seekers, undocumented migrant workers, unaccompanied and separated migrant children (UMC) and victims of trafficking who become vulnerable at various stages of the migration process. Most of the migrants in these flows are from the Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa. Primary reasons for migrating include search for economic and livelihoods opportunities as well as peace and security. It is estimated that Zimbabwe hosts 254,000 migrants, of which 30,000 are labour migrants.<sup>214</sup> Mozambique had the highest proportion (56.9%) of labour migrants followed by Zambia with about 16%, and Malawi with nearly 13%.<sup>215</sup> In 2019, the immigrant Employment to Population Ratio (EPR) was 30% for labour migrants, and the majority (45%) engaged in agricultural, forestry and fishing industry. The majority of labour migrants were in rural areas (54.2%).

Migrant populations, often poor and without reserves, may adopt forms of adverse coping mechanisms. Migrant workers are more likely to work in precarious forms of employment. In particular, women migrants tend to work in low-paid, less visible, and regulated sectors, such as domestic work, and consequently face an increased risk of exploitation, abuse, and poor working conditions. Without assets to form the basis of effective coping strategies and resilience, migrants in Zimbabwe experience catastrophic declines into persistent poverty, face increased morbidity and reduced life expectancy. The Government has developed a Draft National Migration Policy based on the guidelines and principles of the African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa. Zimbabwe is also an active member of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MDSA) whose objective is to enhance inter-state cooperation among SADC Member States and improve migration governance in the region through discussion of migration issues, sharing of experiences and challenges, and finding solutions collectively.

## 7.9 YOUTH (INCL. ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW))

In terms of Zimbabwe's Constitution, anyone between the ages of 16 and 35 years is considered a youth.<sup>216</sup> The country has a relatively young population with 62.9% (31.7% females and 31.2% males) of an estimated total population of 14.8 million, being under the age of 24 years.<sup>217</sup> Statistics and trends hardly convey the magnitude of the current challenges faced by Zimbabwe's youth who constitute the bulk of the population. Young people face multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities including high unemployment rates, limited access to health care, limited civic engagement opportunities, high HIV prevalence rates, violence, drug use, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and parenthood.

However, describing youth in Zimbabwe as vulnerable or as a population left behind masks the fact that individuals and categories of youth may be differentially vulnerable. Youth in rural areas experience higher levels of poverty compared to those in urban areas. Youth vulnerability and marginalisation varies with demographic characteristics such as disability, educational levels, geographic location, and marital status among others. Many youths are not in employment, education and or training which sets them-off on a life of struggles to access decent employment and realise their full potential. Young people, in particular women and girls with disabilities, experience intersectional discrimination which affects their access to basic services and limits the exercise of their rights to participate

<sup>214</sup> Zimstat. 2020. 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey Report. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency. Harare. [Online] Available at <http://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Economic/Employment/Labour-Force-Report-2019.pdf>. [Accessed on 17 November 2020]

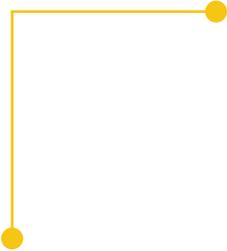
<sup>215</sup> Zimstat. 2020. 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey Report. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency. Harare. [Online] Available at <http://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Economic/Employment/Labour-Force-Report-2019.pdf>. [Accessed on 17 November 2020]

<sup>216</sup> Section 20(1) of the Zimbabwe Constitution.

<sup>217</sup> Zimbabwe National Development Strategy (January 2021 - December 2025).

in public life. Inadequate financial support, poor representation in decision making, and unavailability of necessities such as information in accessible formats and sun cream for youths with Albinism are indicative of the intersecting forms of deprivations. Furthermore, young women and girls are subjected to harmful practices that perpetuate discrimination, including forced and early marriage.

In 2019, 7.1% of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 were married before the age of 15. Most women who get married at a younger age are often in intergenerational marriages, thus increasing their vulnerability to poor health outcomes due to early childbearing and abuse owing to unequal power dynamics. The prevalence of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse against adolescent girls and young women, children with disabilities, child migrants and children living in poverty combined with the underreporting of such violations exacerbates their vulnerability. The lack of knowledge about support services for victims of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse combined with inadequate resources and inefficiencies in the justice system results in the extremely low conviction rates of alleged perpetrators. In keeping with its international commitments, the Government needs to take concrete steps to combat violence against girls and young women and amend all its statutory and customary laws to establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years and develop and implement a comprehensive national plan of action to combat the practice of child, early and forced marriages.<sup>218</sup>



For those aged 15-24 years, HIV incidence among females is **4 times higher** than their male counterparts.

Adolescents have poor access to HIV services. For those aged 15-24 years, HIV incidence among females is 4 times higher than their male counterparts. In this same age group, only 52% know their HIV status, and they suffer a significant loss of 24% between diagnosis and enrolment into care. Access to HIV services is hampered by stigma and discrimination from health care workers in health facilities and low-risk perception and poor health-seeking behaviour. It is estimated that 20-25% of HIV infections in AGYW is due to SGBV. Zimbabwe has committed to ending AIDS among adolescents (10-19 years) and young people (20-24 years) by 2030. This means preventing new HIV infections and reducing morbidity and mortality among Adolescents and Young People (AYP), especially the Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) cohort. Appropriate programming for this cohort requires that interventions be evidence-based, cost-effective, efficient, sustainable, contextualised, and well-targeted to ensure impact. There is a growing body of evidence on what works in terms of prevention, care and treatment - calling for strategies that support the design and implementation of evidence-based, high impact combination prevention (biomedical, behavioural and structural) interventions and tailored approaches for treatment retention and adherence.

## 7.10 WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

In some Zimbabwean communities, religious affiliation hinders women and children's access to essential health and basic education. This is in addition to the influence of religious and social beliefs in driving child marriages. These beliefs are also known to prevent access for maternal and new-born healthcare, as well as the high rates of undernutrition.

## 7.11 DATA GAPS

The COVID-19 crisis in Zimbabwe, exposed several critical data gaps and particularly the lack of timely, open, complete, and disaggregated, social, and economic data to monitor COVID-19 and how to reach marginalized populations. On matters that affect PWD, orphaned children, the elderly, female sex workers, women, and girls, too often, there is limited data, or data is not sufficiently disaggregated, or timely. Advocates, and policymakers in Zimbabwe face barriers in effectively using the existing data, with emphasis often more on production of data than its uptake and use.

Over the years, the Zimstat, sector ministries and NGOs have responded quickly and with good progress setting up mechanisms to ensure operational continuity by adapting and innovating data production methods towards the availability of comparable statistics for SDG monitoring. However, data gaps remain in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness,

<sup>218</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/HRC/34/2

and the level of disaggregation by ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, gender, location, and disability across the social, economic, and environmental development sectors. Challenges remain in compiling and disseminating metadata to document the data quality of SDG indicators at sub-regional/district levels. Data deficits for monitoring SDGs are also significant in areas related to 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure' (SDG 9) 'Sustainable Production and Consumption' (Goal 12) and 'Climate Action' (Goal 13), making it harder to monitor progress, identify trends and gaps. In addition, the Zimstat-linked SDG open-data portal for Zimbabwe has significant indicator gaps and time lags on the few SDG indicators that are available (see the Zimbabwe Data Portal for SDGs<sup>219</sup>). Over half of the indicators are missing, particularly for peace, justice, and strong institutions (Goal 16). There is no comparative data for indicators on gender equality (Goal 5) and sustainable cities (Goal 11).

COVID-19 is jeopardizing the production of data essential to tracking the achievement of the SDGs in the country. COVID-19 containment measures resulted in the disruption of field data collection, limiting the ability to deliver official periodical statistics necessary to track progress on the SDGs. COVID-19 is not only creating setbacks in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but it is also exacerbating data inequalities. Investments in digitized data collection over traditional paper-based methods as well as the application of human rights-based approaches to data are critical to ensuring that no one is left behind. Such investment will guarantee consistency, comparability and quality of data produced to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Zimbabwe.



<sup>219</sup> Zimstat, GoZ. 2020. Zimbabwe open data portal for Sustainable Development Goals. Zimstat. Harare. [Online] Available at <https://zimbabwe.opendataforafrica.org/sdg>. [Accessed on 17 November 2020]

A photograph showing a woman in a white lab coat, likely a healthcare worker, administering a vaccine to a young child in a blue shirt. The woman is smiling and looking at the child. The child is looking up at the woman. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image is framed by a white border.

## 8. CONCLUSION: ACHIEVING AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The CCA report has analysed the country's progress towards SDGs, highlighting areas where progress has been recorded, as well as areas where the country is lagging behind, groups left behind or at risk of being left behind, multi-dimensional risks and the financial landscape challenges and opportunities to accelerate towards the 2030 Agenda. Notably, the root causes impacting development progress are multi-faceted and require innovative and strategic responses by all stakeholders: Government, communities, private sector, humanitarian, and development actors.

Moving forward, the objective of an inclusive middle-income country by 2030 and achieving the SDG targets will require significant domestic and international resources. Careful prioritization will be required given the limited resources envelope available to the Government to anchor foundations for transformative change. Importantly, resources would first be required to maintain and reform systems and institutions to ensure vulnerable groups are protected, and additionally, investments would be required to promote transformative change and generate inclusive economic growth.

For the UN System in Zimbabwe, the focus on sustainable development cooperation to accelerate the country's progress towards Vision 2030 and achievement of SDGs will need to build on the progress made while at the same time protecting the development gains achieved. While developing the Cooperation Framework, it is imperative that the UN acknowledges and sensitively responds to root causes, the intersecting economic, environmental, political and social drivers of inequalities and vulnerabilities experienced among different groups of people. The UN should leverage on opportunities to strengthen developmental partnerships and innovative collaborations across Government, development partners, private sector, civil society, and communities. The UN system will need to shift from assistance to collaboration as a core principle in its new cooperation framework. Guided by the national priorities expressed in the National Development Strategy<sup>1</sup> (2021–2025), UN should focus on catalysing development actions that are transformative, grounded in human rights principles and standards, evidence-based, people-centred, equity-oriented, resilience-responsive and risk-informed, focusing first on people furthest behind.

## 8.1 EMERGING PRIORITIES AND ENTRY POINTS

The pathway to the goal of transformative change embodied in several key policy instruments of the Government of Zimbabwe such as Vision 2030 and the NDS<sup>1</sup> requires an increased and intensive focus on socio-economic and political empowerment. Socio-economic and political empowerment in turn, requires the strengthening of human capabilities and the generation of sustainable economic opportunities, while harnessing innovation to accelerate attainment of the SDGs.

Embodying this empowerment approach are principles of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability that consider mutual and dynamic interactions between social, political, cultural, economic, and ecological factors in context. People's empowerment is strongly influenced by their economic opportunities and capabilities of all types: human (health, education), social (social belonging, a sense of identity, leadership relations) and psychological (self-esteem, self-confidence, the ability to aspire to a better future). Also important are people's collective assets and capabilities, such as voice, organisation, participation, representation, and identity. Key opportunities for engagement and catalysing change are articulated below:

- (i) **Human development and well-being:** Constrained delivery of essential social services (education, health, water, and sanitation) and the provision of social protection, food and nutrition security along with borderline efforts for strengthening gender equality in the wake of COVID-19 are devastating the most vulnerable and pushing them further behind. In order to build long-term resilience, the focus should be on strengthening systems and catalysing collaborative and transformative partnerships, not only with the Government but also with critical players including development partners, local authorities, the private sector, civil society, and communities. Potential opportunities and accelerators include the following:
  - Ensure equitable access to quality comprehensive basic social services especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized including those with disabilities. Emphasis should be placed on advancing education and foundational skills with a focus on innovation and technology as well as advancing health (including in the areas of HIV/AIDS, SRHR, strengthening capacities to deal with global threats and pandemics among others).

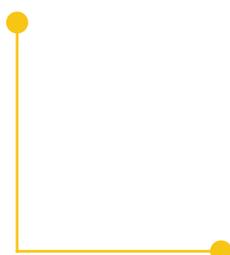
- Material wellbeing and poverty eradication through strengthening and scaling up social protection systems, services, and safety nets to ensure that increased numbers of people especially the most vulnerable and marginalized benefit from adequate social protection.
- Strengthening protection systems particularly to address SGBV, harmful practices, SEA, and all forms of violence, including violence against children
- Advancing gender equality and women and girls development.
- Developing human capabilities and systems strengthening to ensure that they deliver required services and are resilient to shock.

**(ii) Climate resilience, natural resources management and sustainable food systems:**

Environmental protection, climate change and natural resources management is one of the cross-cutting priorities under the NDS1. Livelihoods and food security especially for the most vulnerable are increasingly impacted by climate shocks, amplified climatic variability and sub-optimal environmental management. Climate change and variability is expected to continue to exacerbate hardship and poverty, particularly amongst the most vulnerable including women, children, and people with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas. Developing and strengthening policies and interventions that promote climate resilience, resilient infrastructure, sustainable food systems, climate-smart agriculture, circular economy, clean energy and technologies, integrated water resource management, good governance in natural resources management, sustainable forest management, and the preservation of ecosystem services provide key entry points. Other potential entry points and accelerators include:

- Development and implementation of a Just Transition Strategy.
- Promote appropriate climate smart land-use options for the drier natural regions where cattle production and wildlife ranching are the most suitable land-use options.
- Strengthen the effectiveness of Trans-frontier Conservation Areas as a mechanism for sustainable biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.
- Promote and strengthen biodiversity conservation management and the integrity of natural ecosystems by using an ecosystem-based approach to adapt to climate change.
- Innovative financing mechanisms including blended finance mechanisms.
- Capacity Building for: Adaptation and mitigation, climate change communication, research, and development and climate financing.

Zimbabwe's structural economic challenges have hindered opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods and employment.



**(iii) Economic transformation, equitable and inclusive growth:**

Economic transformation under the 2030 Agenda is conceived as “fundamental changes in the economy that raise the overall productivity level while ensuring adequate quantity and quality of employment, equitable distribution of income and wealth, access to quality public services and protection of the environment.”<sup>220</sup> Zimbabwe's structural economic challenges have hindered opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods and employment. Collaboration in strengthening MSMEs, deepening value chains and reinforcing the nexus between employment and economic growth while catalysing investments in infrastructure and green investments is fundamental to sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. Potential accelerators for deepening economic transformation and accelerating achievement of SDGs include:

- Support the country to unlock its agriculture potential by climate proofing agriculture in the face of climate change and variability, investing in key drivers of agricultural growth such as extension services, irrigation, research and development and support infrastructure to stimulate real agricultural growth and development, developing and/or strengthening agricultural value chains,; and creating a platform for the transferability of

<sup>220</sup> UNSDG. 2020. Economic transformation companion piece

land to unlock investment and productivity in the sector.

- Support value addition and beneficiation of key value chains and linkages as anchors of industrialization, mining and agriculture development to enhance the export of value-added products.
- Improve the mining fiscal framework through the introduction of resource rent taxes to optimize returns from the sector and also enforce sharing of benefits with communities through community development programmes
- Support the country to articulate development strategies on sustainable infrastructure including financing options. Such strategies need to address opportunities for improvements in key infrastructure sectors, such as urban development, transport, water, and energy.
- Support MSMEs through initiatives aimed at transitioning the informal economy towards formalization, which would include facilitating access to finance, skills upgrade and markets for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Including enterprises owned by women and the youth will be critical to stimulating decent employment and socio-economic development.
- Facilitate the enhancement of the capacity of the services sector to be competitive to exploit opportunities offered by the new trade environment under SADC FTA, COMESA FTA, the Tripartite FTA and the AfCFTA.
- Strengthen DRM, both as a long-term path to sustainable development finance and anchoring re-engagement with IFIs.
- Implement innovative financing solutions including innovative financing models that blend development objectives with commercial considerations so as to catalyze financing for SDGs.

**(iv) Transformative, accountable, and inclusive governance:** Governance is one of the cross-cutting priorities under the NDS1. The transition in leadership ushered new opportunities to rebuild trust and social contract to reinforce national unity by addressing key structural challenges related to exclusion, corruption, adherence to the rule of law and normalising relations with the international community. Working with the government and all partners to strengthen the capacity of key governance institutions to promote dialogue, citizen participation, rule of law, free, fair and transparent electoral processes, human rights, fight corruption, deliver equitable justice and public services will be vital to anchor foundations for transformative and sustainable change. Potential entry points and accelerators include:

- Full alignment of laws and policies with the Constitution and international standards to promote full realization of constitutional values and rights.
- Strengthening the capacities and independence of key governance and rule of law institutions, including accountability mechanisms and systems, oversight institutions and bodies and institutions in the justice, law, and order sector.
- Conflict prevention and peace building through deepening foundations for peace and social cohesion and enhancing national and community dispute resolution and consensus building mechanisms and strengthening electoral processes.
- Digitalization—strengthened use of ICTs to improve governance, including transparency and citizen engagement.

**(v) Cross-cutting issues:** The CCA identifies several cross-cutting issues that can enhance the effectiveness of the interventions including, devolution, resilience building, partnerships, gender, data strengthening and ICTs.

- Devolution: Chapter 14 of the 2013 Constitution and the Devolution and Decentralisation Policy provides for strengthening provincial, metropolitan, and local governments and decentralising social service delivery. Thus, the UN system should promote a coherent and common approach to

localisation and decentralisation and adopt flexibility in its programming to support the rollout.

- Resilience building: Strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, systems and structures and building capacity to bolster resilience to shocks including health, climate, and economic shocks.
- Partnerships: Strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia, think tanks and research institutions to deliver innovative and sustainable programming. Forge more partnerships with rights-based CSOs that have a robust presence at grassroots level and understand the local issues and specific vulnerabilities that certain population groups may be facing. And, expand regional and international collaboration and knowledge-sharing through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Data and information strengthening: There is need for continuous improvement in the collection, analysis, synthesis and use of high quality, timely and correct data, disaggregated by gender, location, disability, and other relevant variables that ensure no one is left behind. Capacitate Zimstat to address the data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Strengthen quality statistics for evidence-based decision-making, ensuring a human rights-based approach to data beyond disaggregation based on geography and age to include gender, disability and, others, targeted at district and ward level to identify groups furthest behind in development and where they are.
- Youth: Support the country to reap benefits of its demographic dividend through targeted and strategic investments – in health, education, economy, and governance to unlock the economic potential of its large youth population.
- Gender: Ensure strengthened gender mainstreaming and deliberate approaches to empower women and girls to participate fully in all facets of life including, social, economic, and political spheres and to realise their full potential and effectively contribute to national development.
- ICTs: The UNCT should take advantage of ICTs to advance social inclusion, expand the reach and effectiveness of interventions including, in healthcare, education, agriculture, access to markets, environmental preservation, and governance.

## 8.2 MULTI-DIMENSIONAL RISKS

The damage triggered by threat events, shocks, natural hazards, and stressors are not only due to the severity of the event, they are also shaped by social, political, economic, and environmental development decisions. Adopting the 12 inter-disciplinary dimensions of the UN SDG-based Risk Framework, the CCA captures the existing and potential multidimensional risks that may impact Zimbabwe's development trajectory and particularly on populations furthest behind. Specifically, the risk analysis sheds light on the various elements that threaten national efforts to reduce the patterns of inequality, exclusion, disenfranchisement, and discrimination of populations left behind. The risk analysis captures dynamics at the subnational, national, regional, and global factors. New and emerging threats in Zimbabwe include climate change, economic and financial instability, political volatility, and conflict, which simultaneously interact with development policies and actions, to undermine gains (see Table 8.1).

**Table 8.1 Multi-dimensional risk analysis**

Risk area	Description / Analysis of Risk	Assessment	Impact
Democratic space	Impunity for human rights violations and shrinking democratic and civic space for civil society, human rights defenders, activists and citizens undermines inclusive and sustainable development progress.	High	Extensive
Corruption & Accountable Institutions	Corruption undermines good governance, human rights, public and social service delivery, and economic progress.	High	Extensive
Justice and the rule of law	Continued perception of bias in justice and the rule of law sectors, weak mechanisms to protect human rights, intrusive surveillance, lack of accountability for violations of human rights undermine political stability and threaten the rule of law.	High	Extensive
Economic Stability	High levels of inflation, and far-reaching austerity measures constitute a significant risk on economic and social stability. A substantial informal economy along with de-industrialization continue to threaten jobs in the wake of a youth bulge and increasing poverty levels.	High	Extreme
Food security, agriculture, and land	The main threats to food security include population growth with its increased demand for food security. Lack of resources and capacity for smallholder farmers to fully utilize the land, to produce diverse crops, risks food poverty and food insecurity. Drought threatens food security in two ways. First, it risks reducing agricultural production; climate change and weather variability and low yields, with a knock-on effect on food prices threatening a precarious supply-demand balance that will make markets more prone to volatility. Second, it increasingly disrupts food systems destabilizing tighter markets and exacerbating volatility, imperiling transport infrastructure and triggering local food crises. The fierce competition for water, on the back of a shift in production towards intensive systems that rely on groundwater sources for irrigation, along with the current growth in demand for water-intensive animal products, agriculture becomes even thirstier. Unresolved land issues particularly security of tenure, risks conflict.	High	Extensive
Infrastructure and access to health, education, and sanitation services	The deterioration of health care infrastructure, loss of experienced health sector personnel, health workers industrial action due to poor working conditions and low remuneration along with an eroded infrastructure with ill-equipped hospitals, and a lack of essential medicines and commodities risks reversal of health gains. Absence of digitalised surveillance tracking or investigation systems threatens evidence-based decision-making. Lack of trained teachers, infrastructural pressure and double session schooling threatens quality education. These factors risk pushing vulnerable children further into poverty, destitution and deprivation. Teachers and schools are ill-equipped to educate and account for students with disabilities, therefore, most dropouts by third grade, pushing people with disabilities behind development progress in Zimbabwe. In recent years, teachers have gone on long industrial action with others leaving the profession owing to low salaries and poor working conditions. This threatens reversing educational gains made in the past decades. In the past decade, capacity for domestic power generation fell far below demand as a result of lack of maintenance of ageing generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, as well as disruptions in the supply of coal for generation. The recent erratic electricity supply in Zimbabwe continue to threaten efforts to turn the economy around and achieve sustainable economic and social growth in the medium- and longer-term.	High	Extensive

Risk area	Description / Analysis of Risk	Assessment	Impact
Environment and Climate	Inadequate Early Warning Systems risks poor predictive capacity for proactive, evidence-based information to aid decision-making in disaster prevention and management in times of crises. Floods, cyclones and the increased frequency and scale of drought accompanied by rising deforestation and variability risks environmental sustainability.	Medium	Intermediate
Displacement and Migration	Climate change impacts are a primary driver of displacement of people, as climate migrants are rapidly becoming the human face of climate change. Internally displaced people (IDPs) are often the poorest, as many leave work and belongings behind and increase the cost for host communities and aid providers on food security, health, WASH, education, and social protection. Displacements risk an increase in gender-based violence, inequality and discrimination, informal settlements, poverty, and unsustainable use of natural resources.	Medium	Intermediate
Regional and Global Influences	Targeted sanctions by the western international community negatively impacts on investor perception.	High	Extensive
Social Cohesion, equality, and non-discrimination	Prejudice based on gender, sexuality, and disability along with power imbalances based on social norms risk increased social exclusion, stigmatization, and poverty among populations furthest behind in development progress. Mainstreaming gender and disability inclusion remain core to ensuring social cohesion, equality, and non-discrimination.	High	Intermediate

These threats share many distinct characteristics; they are interconnected, cross borders, have both transitional and transformative impacts, and co-occur. The rationale thrusts on informing a resilient-oriented, well-coordinated, systems-responsive, people-centred, and integrated Cooperation Framework that reduces risks. Most critically, risk-informed development facilitates a risk-based decision-making process that enables the UN system and the government to understand multiple concurrent threats and complex risks that arise from development decisions spurring action based on that knowledge.

# 9. ANNEXURES



## ANNEX 1: THE CCA METHODOLOGY AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The CCA draws on a systematic secondary review of the latest available evidence, statistics, analyses, reviews, research, capacities and resources from within and outside the UN system along with views of over 100 participants from Government, Civil Society Organisations (CSO's), and the UN system in and outside Zimbabwe. To the extent possible, data were analysed and presented by disaggregation not only by income, sex, geography, and age but also on other grounds of discrimination prohibited under international law such as disability, gender, and nationality. Social, cultural, economic, political, legislative, and other systemic drivers of exclusion were examined and described.

The CCA analysed existing evidence and data gaps for the Country's SDG indicators, transcending beyond official national statistics to big data, updated Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) 2018/19 sector notes, national surveys, assessments, and targeted surveys. The conceptual framework embedded in the 2030 Agenda's vision for sustainable development grounded in international human rights standards guided this analysis. The framework placed emphasis on equality and non-discrimination at the centre of its efforts clustered around the UN principles of Cooperation Framework's integrated programming approach<sup>221</sup>. These principles referred to both the process as well as content—in line with the "5P's" of the 2030 Agenda (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships): People (the social dimension), Planet (the environmental dimension), Prosperity (the economic dimension), Peace (the ethical dimension emphasizing ideals and values of equality, freedom, human dignity and justice) and Partnership (underscoring the importance of collaboration and cooperation).<sup>222</sup> The overarching conceptual and analytical principles included:

- The CCA adopted **the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)** as a normative framework for the process of sustainable development, based on principles of international human rights standards and as operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. The CCA anchored its analyses on national development plans, ratifications, policies, and processes within a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law, including all civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, and the right to development. To guide the CCA, the HRBA focused on equality and non-discrimination, participation and accountability principles earmarking opportunities for both 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations and 'rights-holders' to claim their rights.
- Guided by the United Nations System Shared Framework for Action on **Leaving no one behind (LNOB)**<sup>223</sup>, and the UNSDG operational Guide for UNCTs on LNOB,<sup>224</sup> the CCA analysis engenders discrimination and inequalities (often multiple and intersecting) to understand barriers that undermine the agency of people as holders of rights, including on gender<sup>225</sup> and **persons with disabilities responsive analyses**.<sup>226,227</sup> LNOB analysis not only entailed consideration of who was furthest behind in development progress, but also analysed efforts in combating discrimination and rising inequalities and their root causes within Zimbabwe and beyond. The LNOB diagnostic approach encompassed inclusion of both disaggregated data and qualitative analysis to identify who is being excluded or discriminated against, how and why, as well as who is experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities in outcomes and opportunities in law, policies and practice.
- The UNCT System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and the

<sup>221</sup> UNSDG, 2019. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework - Internal Guidance. Geneva. [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019\\_1.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019_1.pdf)

<sup>222</sup> UNSDG, 2019. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework - Internal Guidance. Geneva. [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019\\_1.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019_1.pdf)

<sup>223</sup> United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. 2017. Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development - The United Nations System Shared Framework for Action. New York. [Online] <https://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB%20equality%20framework-A4-web-rev3.pdf>

<sup>224</sup> UNSDG. 2019. Leave No one Behind: A UNSDG operational Guide for UN Country Teams. New York. [Online] <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/Interim-Draft-Operational-Guide-on-LNOB-for-UNCTs.pdf>

<sup>225</sup> UN system-wide priorities for action include the UN system-wide action plans (UN-SWAPs) on Gender, Youth, and for the inclusion of Persons with disabilities.

<sup>226</sup> UN. 2020. United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. Geneva. [Online] [https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/assets/documentation/UN\\_Disability\\_Inclusion\\_Strategy\\_english.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/assets/documentation/UN_Disability_Inclusion_Strategy_english.pdf)

<sup>227</sup> International Disability Alliance. 2019. Disability SWAP. A System-wide approach for making the United Nations fully inclusive of persons with disabilities. [Online] [https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/disability\\_swap\\_onepager.pdf](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/disability_swap_onepager.pdf)

Empowerment of Women<sup>228</sup> guided the **Gender equality and women's empowerment** dimension. Gender equality was central to analyses with attributes assessing gender mainstreaming programming to take into consideration the needs, experiences and concerns of men, women, boys, and girls in all development sectors. Consideration of aspects driving the active and meaningful participation of both women and men, and apprising notions of empowering women and girls, in line with the commitments and obligations made through the GEWE international continental and regional conventions and protocols. The methodology and practical tools were adapted from the Resource Book for Mainstreaming Gender in UN Common Programming, at the Country Level<sup>229</sup>

- **Resilience/Multidimensional risk analyses:** Guided by the UN Resilience Framework,<sup>230</sup> the CCA analysed risks as those associated with natural and human-induced hazards, conflict, epidemics and pandemics, financial systems, and food price fluctuations. Determinants driving risks were assessed and particularly how they act together to unleash cascading impacts across multiple dimensions, causing loss of life and livelihoods, and setting back progress towards productive, sustainable, and peaceful societies.<sup>231</sup>
- **Stakeholder analysis and Political economy analysis:** The CCA embeds a Political economy analysis (PEA) framework across the UN's 5Ps of sustainable development. The approach helps to discern drivers of political behaviour, how power dynamics fuel economic arrangements and vice versa, the influence of group interactions on political developments and how these shape rationale and mechanisms of decision-making over resource allocation and action prioritisation. The PEA framework used in the CCA employed a two-level analytical approach: (1) a global level analysis – on the regional and transboundary aspects mapping institutional arrangements, actors, and processes with implications for development progress in Zimbabwe. **A stakeholder analysis** framework was used to map and analyse the role-pattern and influence of actors and institutions critical for development progress in the country. (2) Combining the country and sector level analyses – factored the overlaps of country-level influences on sectoral and actor decision-making. The aim was to deconstruct nuances in the role of actors, partners and stakeholders along with decision-making, based on some of the critical problems identified in the CCA and mapping the structures, institutions, and entry points of the UN in shaping transformative development in Zimbabwe.

## CCA PREPARATION PROCESS

The process of developing the CCA in Zimbabwe was guided by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). In September 2020, the UNCT endorsed a roadmap elaborating the methodology, Terms of Reference (TORs) and engagement strategy including participation of national, regional and international stakeholders (See Annex 1). The preparation process was managed by the Programme Management Team (PMT) through the PMT Ad hoc Committee with support of the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). The CCA development process built on a number of processes including cross participation in the preparation of Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025). The UN, AfDB and WB jointly updated the Joint Needs Analysis (JNA) sector notes as part of the tripartite support towards the development of the National Development Strategy. The updated Joint Needs Analysis sector notes provided a useful baseline. The CCA also used outcomes of national assessments including the, 2020 Zimbabwe Progress Review Report of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the evaluation of the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF 2016-2020), progress on implementing the 2016-2018 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP), the 2016 National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) on poverty eradication and inclusive growth and the 2017 Zimbabwe Voluntary National Review (VNR)

<sup>228</sup> UNSDG, 2016. UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. [Online] <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-system-wide-action-plan-gender-equality-and-empowerment-women>

<sup>229</sup> UNDP, 2019. Resource Book for Mainstreaming Gender in UN Common Programming at the Country Level. [Online] <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/Resource-Book-Mainstreaming-Gender-UN-Common-Programming-Country-Level-web.pdf>

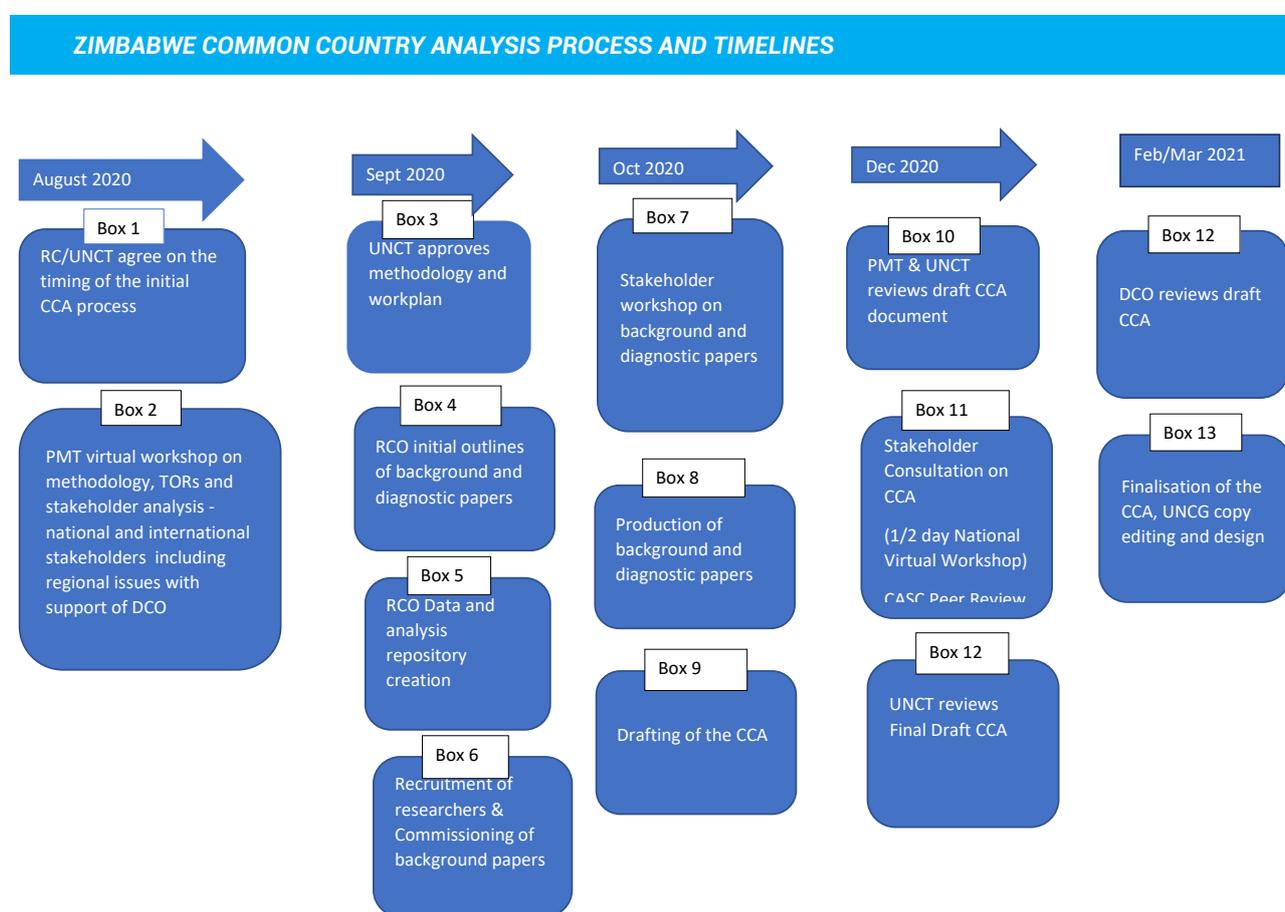
<sup>230</sup> The "UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies" of the High-Level Committee on Programme of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (draft of December 2018) supports RCs and the UN development system in integrating the resilience principle. See <http://www.fao.org/in-action/kore/webinar-archive/webinar-details/en/c/1200187/>

<sup>231</sup> UNSDG, 2019. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework - Internal Guidance. Geneva. [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019\\_1.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019_1.pdf)

ahead of the 2021 VNR of SDGs for the high-level political forum. Four independent consultants were engaged to provide support and background diagnostics papers on substantive topics: Fortunate Machingura (Lead consultant) who complemented and produced the synthesis report, Eunice Njovana, led the Social Exclusion, Leaving No-one Behind (LNOB) and Environment analysis, Sandra Bhatasara, led the Human rights and Governance analysis, and Rudo Chitiga, led the analysis of Regional and sub regional factors. A virtual consultative workshop was held in October 2020 with a broad range of stakeholders including civil society, international NGOs, trade unions, organisations representing youth, women, children, people with disabilities. The Draft report was subjected to a political economy analysis in a two-day workshop held with the PMT in December 2020. UNCT reviewed the draft report and developed a coherent storyline around which the CCA is hinged. An inter-agency team comprising representatives from RCO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNWOMEN was constituted to lead the development of the CCA around the '5Ps' of Sustainable Development with RCO overseeing overall integration and drafting.

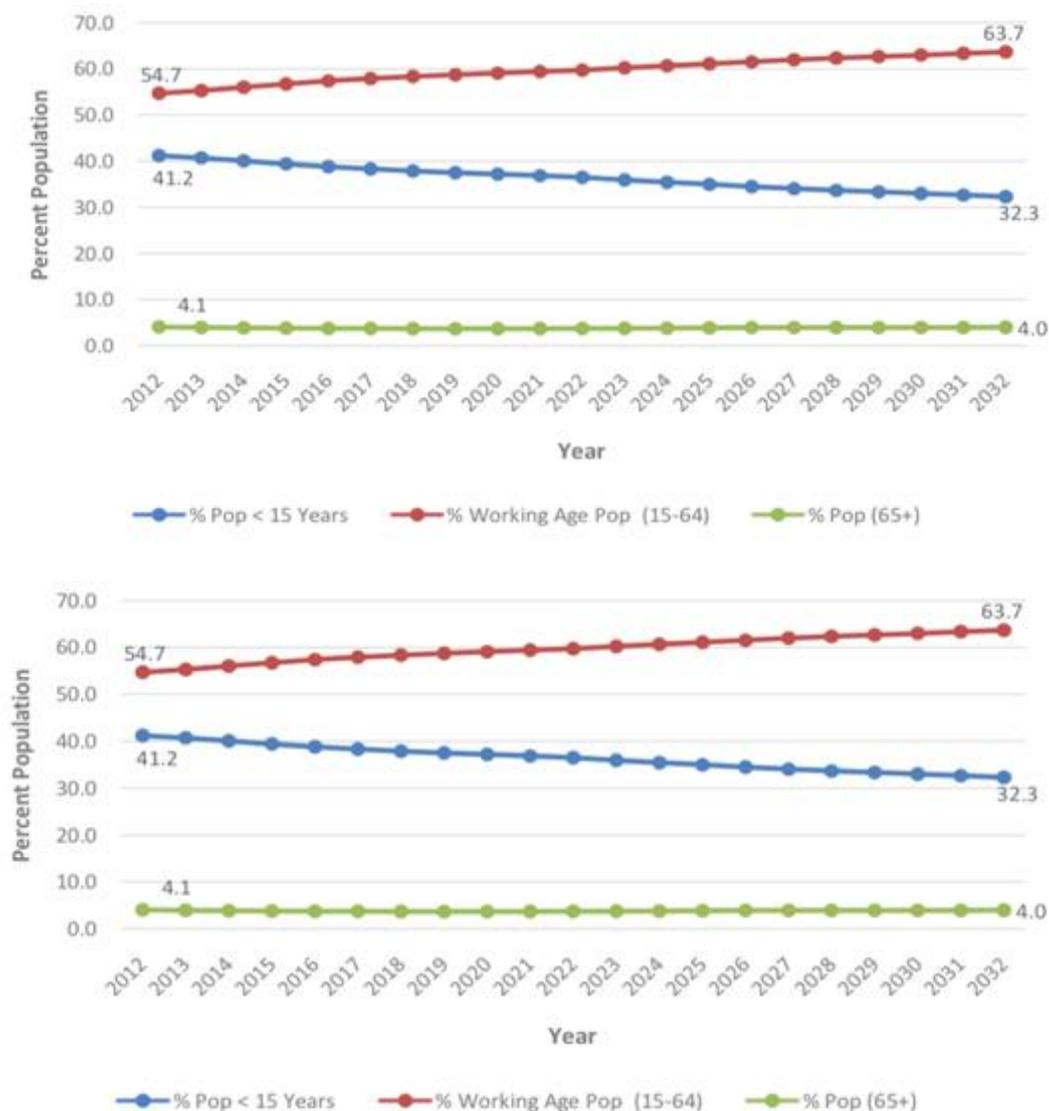
## ANNEX 2: CCA PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Figure 9.1 Zimbabwe CCA Process and Timeline



## ANNEX 3: EVOLUTION OF KEY AGE STRUCTURE

Figure 9.2 2012-2032: Evolution of key age structure indicators, Zimbabwe 2012



## ANNEX 4: REGIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL SECTOR ANALYSIS

### Trade

Zimbabwe is one of the four SADC Member States along with Eswatini, Namibia, and South Africa that deposited their instruments of ratification with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA and its Protocols on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes, were adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, at its 10th Extra-Ordinary Session held in Kigali, Rwanda in 2018. The agreement envisions the eight African Union (AU)-recognised Regional Economic Community (REC) in Africa, of which SADC is one of them, as its building blocks. The AfCFTA will support financially integrated region that has high levels of financial inclusion, integrated financial markets and systems to attract foreign-direct and intra-regional investment while strengthening the private sector. Challenges, however, include loss of revenue owing to the removal of tariffs.

Leveraging the estimated US\$2.5 trillion<sup>232</sup> and 1.2 billion-person African market, and consolidating gains made by African economic communities, AfCFTA presents the greatest regional opportunity available to Zimbabwe. Exploitation of the opportunity, will however, necessitate consideration of some important contextual issues. These include the country's large informal sector, which contributes an estimated 60% to GDP. To exclude the sector from regional opportunities, will therefore, effectively exclude the greater part of the economy. Due to the unregistered, undocumented and largely disengaged from formal opportunities nature of the informal sector, regularisation will be an essential pre-requisite for AfCFTA engagement, as will be the linking of the informal to the formal sector. In addition, maximisation of AfCFTA opportunities will require an increase in manufacturing capacity utilisation, which has averaged 43.5%<sup>233</sup> over the past decade – less than half of total capacity largely dragged down by the economic decline and a high cost structure, which remains one of the major threats to the competitiveness of the sector, and the country's products as a whole. Pegging of goods and services in the US Dollar has also tended to compound competitiveness deficits as it has rendered Zimbabwe's products more expensive compared to regional competitors who have weaker currencies.

Because of its low production levels, Zimbabwe is largely a trading economy across both formal and informal sectors, contributing only 0.2%<sup>234</sup> to world exports and the same in imports.

Because of its low production levels, Zimbabwe is largely a trading economy across both formal and informal sectors, contributing only 0.2%<sup>234</sup> to world exports and the same in imports. However, given the wealth in natural and human resources, and the value addition potential of the country, export growth is achievable, particularly in the context of AfCFTA. The need to shift Zimbabwe's focus from primarily raw export products to higher value processed goods is now more critical than ever, with the key growth sectors of agriculture and mining holding great promise within the context of NDS1, which has set the acceleration of value addition and beneficiation in the two sectors as a key objective over the next five years.

Meanwhile, the country's geo location presents a competitive advantage with regard to positioning as a Southern African hub for transport, logistics and trading. Although some passenger and goods traffic do flow through the country, prospects for hub status have largely been damaged by political and economic factors along with infrastructural deficits (transport, power, IT and others), with South Africa currently playing the hub role.

The Zimbabwe cooperation framework should consider support to the government to review its competition and other relevant policies to benefit from the free trade agreement optimally. The leading trading partner for Zimbabwe is South Africa. Trade with South Africa makes up 40% of Zimbabwe's imports and 75% of its exports.<sup>235</sup> South Africa ranks Zimbabwe 5th in its exports markets and 7th in the import market globally. Other top trading partners for exports are the UAE, China, Mozambique, and Indonesia. AfCFTA provides an opportunity to broaden volumes of exports and export destinations.

### Mining

Zimbabwe's NDS1 adopts the SADC Protocol on Mining and the Africa Mining Vision<sup>236</sup> to enhance mineral beneficiation and value addition in minerals.<sup>237</sup> The focus is on exporting beneficiated minerals by supporting local processing of Zimbabwe's diverse mineral resource endowment harnessing the potential of artisanal, small scale miners and cooperatives to grow the mining sector. These priorities are in tandem with SADC's Regional Mining Vision and Action Plan along with its antecedent RISDP 2020-2030 blueprint. These instruments aim to maximise the developmental impact of mineral resources extraction that benefit from cross-border cooperation in transport or energy infrastructure and input supply. SADC focuses on the development of major mineral

<sup>232</sup> UNECA, 2020

<sup>233</sup> Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI)

<sup>234</sup> Statista, 2019

<sup>235</sup> SADC.2018. SADC Facts and Figures. SADC secretariat. [Online] Available at <https://www.sadc.int/about-sadc/overview/sadc-facts-figures/#Trade> [Accessed 5 November]

<sup>236</sup> AU. 2009. Africa Mining Vision. African union. [Online] Available at [http://www.africaminingvision.org/amv\\_resources/AMV/Africa\\_Mining\\_Vision\\_English.pdf](http://www.africaminingvision.org/amv_resources/AMV/Africa_Mining_Vision_English.pdf) [Accessed on 7 December 2020]

<sup>237</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

beneficiation projects and promoting collaborative formalisation of artisanal mining activities with the intention of integrating activities into value chains while promoting policies specific to natural resource exploitation, including the provision of resource-specific skills and infrastructure.

### Water resources and energy

Zimbabwe shares the Zambezi, Limpopo and the Save Trans-Boundary Water Resources and thus is, subject to the implementation of the SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000), SADC Regional Water Strategy (2006), SADC Guidelines for Strengthening River Basin Organisations (2010) and Climate Change Adaptation in SADC. Implemented within the SADC Infrastructure Vision 2027 and the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, Zimbabwe will benefit from the Kunene, Lomahasha/ Namaacha and Chirundu Water Supply Project. SADC seeks to advance the development of the large hydropower schemes including the Grand Inga Dam in the DRC, Batoka Hydroelectric Scheme jointly developed by Zambia and Zimbabwe, Mpanda Nkuwa and HCB North Bank in Mozambique. Also included is the Rufiji Hydropower (Stiegler's Gorge) earmarked for generating an excess of 50,000 megawatts (MW), which will increase the power capacity for the region. The Batoka Hyro Power Transmission Network is a driver of improved access to modern energy in Zimbabwe's NDS1 (2021-2025).<sup>238</sup> Zimbabwe acceded the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) generation, and transmission plan (SAPP Pool Plan) to contribute to the enhancement and stabilisation of electricity. Zimbabwe lies at the epicentre of the SAPP transmission grid, with most of the power coming from the north to the south through the country's Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company network.<sup>239</sup>

### Roads

The country's 2021-2025 plans for implementing reforms in the roads sector align closely with the requirements of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.<sup>240</sup> The NDS1 targets the increase in the number of kilometres of road network to meet Southern Africa Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) standards from 5% to 10% by 2025 and to upsurge the number of kilometres of road network in good condition from 14 702km to 24 500km by 2025.<sup>241</sup> SADC's measures on roads especially target the vehicle load management, which entail harmonisation of axle load limits across the region, harmonised road user charges to minimise delays at border posts, Coordinated Border Management as a pre-cursor to the implementation of One-Stop-Border Posts, Market liberalisation in respect of licensing for operation across borders, and Vehicle Regulations and Standards to address vehicle driving testing, inspection, registration and training.<sup>242</sup> The SADC road measures aim to provide an integrated, efficient, cost effective road transport, spurred by developing interlinked transport networks.

### Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

The SADC Regional Information Infrastructure programme has seen Zimbabwe benefit from the cross-border transmission links using optical fibre technology to promote the development of regional optic fibre links, terrestrial backhauls and backbone access networks and migration to an IP Network.<sup>243</sup> Resultantly, more excellent connectivity in the country will improve further once the implementation of the SADC shared Geo-Stationary Orbit satellite communications network commences. Zimbabwe intends to have internet access at the village level by 2030, through the extension of the fibre optic backbone, and last-mile connectivity. In its NDS1 planning horizon, the country targets to increase internet penetration rate from 59.1% in 2020 to 75.42% by 2025 accompanied by an increased mobile penetration rate at 100% by 2025.<sup>244</sup>

<sup>238</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

<sup>239</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

<sup>240</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

<sup>241</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

<sup>242</sup> SADC. 2020. RISDP 2020-2030 Blueprints- 4th draft. [Online] Available at [https://imanidevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/4th-Draft\\_RISDP-2020-30-Blue-Prints2.pdf](https://imanidevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/4th-Draft_RISDP-2020-30-Blue-Prints2.pdf) [Accessed on 7 December 2020]

<sup>243</sup> SADC. 2020. RISDP 2020-2030 Blueprints- 4th draft. [Online] Available at [https://imanidevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/4th-Draft\\_RISDP-2020-30-Blue-Prints2.pdf](https://imanidevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/4th-Draft_RISDP-2020-30-Blue-Prints2.pdf) [Accessed on 7 December 2020]

<sup>244</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

### Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

Zimbabwe is party to the SADC Protocol on Health that coordinates regional effort on epidemic preparedness, mapping prevention, control and where possible the eradication of communicable and non-communicable diseases. This Protocol provides for common regional strategies to address the health needs of women, children, and other vulnerable groups. In line with the SADC HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework and the "Regional Strategy for HIV and Prevention, Treatment and Care and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights among Key Populations", serves as a guide to Member States in designing and implementing appropriate Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV prevention, treatment and care programmes for key populations focusing on the major issues that need to be addressed at policy, legal, institutional and facility levels. The strategy aims to address the unique challenges in providing equitable and effective HIV and SRHR services to key and vulnerable populations. Zimbabwe benefits from the Cross-Border Initiative Project implemented by the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the National Aids Council, PSI, USAID and the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research. It targets long-distance truck drivers, sex workers and established 32 wellness centres to ensure sustainability and continuity of services.<sup>245</sup>

### Gender and Women's Economic Empowerment

Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy NDS1(2021-2025) aligns its gender priorities with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.<sup>246</sup> Specifically, the NDS1 strategies to achieve gender mainstreaming include Youth and Women Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity for All Program, Promoting Women into Positions of Influence, Promoting Equality at all levels of Society, Advancing Women Political Representation, Youth and Women Advocacy Initiatives, and Enhancing Access to Financing for Women in Business.<sup>247</sup> To support the protocol on gender and development, SADC developed the Gender Mainstreaming Resource Kit (2008) and the Regional Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines to institutionalise the SADC Gender Mainstreaming Framework and strengthen gender technical capacity at both national and regional level. The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development<sup>248</sup> provides a framework to support the empowerment of women, to eliminate discrimination and achieve gender equality through responsive legislation, policies and programmes. Overall, if implemented well, the protocol deepens regional integration, strengthens community building, and catalyses the attainment of sustainable development.

### Migration

SADC developed the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005), SADC Protocol on Trade in Services for services market liberalization and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for professional services, the Protocol on Employment and Labor (PEL), and the Protocol on Education and Training (PET). However, of these four protocols, only the PET is in force. SADC also adopted the Labour Migration Action Plan (2020-2025), SADC Common Regional Policy Framework on Refugees and Asylum Seekers (2019), SADC Guidelines on Coordinated Border Management (2011), the SADC Regional Strategy to Combat Illegal Migration, Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (2016-2020), and the SADC-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Action Plan (UNHCR) (2020-2024). There is progress on the implementation of the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADC QF), which strives to increase the development of human resources in SADC to increase the availability of educated and highly skilled personnel through comparable standards in education and training systems of Member States.

<sup>245</sup> CeSHHAR. 2020. Executive Summary CeSHHAR Annual Report 2018-2019. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. [Online] Available at <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/CeSHHAR%20Annual%20Report%20Exec%20Summary%202018-19%20FINAL.pdf> [Accessed on 7 December 2020]

<sup>246</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

<sup>247</sup> GoZ. 2020. National Development Strategy 1 January 2021 – December 2025: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. Government of Zimbabwe. Harare

<sup>248</sup> SADC protocol on Gender and Development 2008

## Governance

Zimbabwe acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which promotes democracy and responsive governance consistent with the AU's Agenda 2063. The APRM fosters the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through voluntary participation. Accession entails undertaking to submit periodic peer reviews, as well as to facilitate such reviews, and be guided by agreed parameters for good political governance and good economic and corporate governance.

## Statistics

SADC is prioritising improved production, management, standardisation, and harmonisation of statistical approaches in the region through the development and adoption of a SADC Statistics Protocol. The SADC Pan-African Statistics Programme with the AU Commission, national and regional training workshops on the SADC Template of Trade in Services Statistics, and training for focal persons on technical validation of economic and social statistics for the SADC Statistics Yearbook are earmarked at improving production and management of statistics. In its RISDP 2020-2030 blueprint, SADC prioritised improved production and management of statistics by the region through the development and adoption of a SADC Statistics Protocol towards the standardization and harmonization of statistical approaches in the region.

## ANNEX 5: ZIMBABWE: SDG PERFORMANCE BY INDICATOR 2017, 2019, 2020

Table 9.1 SDG performance by indicator 2017 -2020

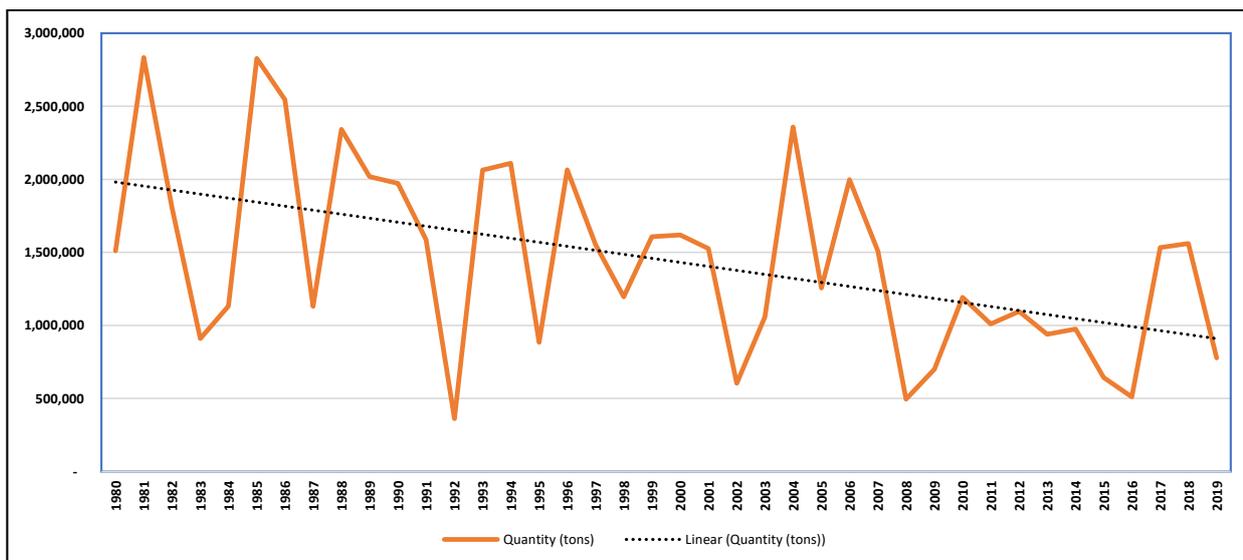
	Value 2017	Value 2019	Value 2020		Value 2017	Value 2019	Value 2020
SDG1 – End Poverty				SDG9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure			
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population) *	37.4	NA	NA	Population using the internet (%)	16.4	27.1	27.1
Poverty headcount ratio at \$3.20/day (% population) *	NA	NA	NA	Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	39	41.3	
Projected poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day in 2030 (% population)	33.1	NA	NA	Quality of overall infrastructure (1= extremely underdeveloped; 7= extensive and efficient by international standards)	3.1	NA	
Proportion of population living below the national poverty line	NA	NA	NA	Logistics performance index: Quality of trade & transport infrastructure (1=low 5=high)	3.1	1.8	1.8
Population covered by Social Protection (%)	NA	NA	37.5	Times Higher Education Universities Ranking, Average score of top 3 universities (0-100)	NA	NA	NA
SDG2 – Zero Hunger				Number of scientific and technical journal articles (per 1,000 population)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Prevalence of undernourishment (% population)	33.4	46.6	51.3	Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (1=low to 5=high)	3.1	1.8	1.8
Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age (%)	27.6	26.8	26.8	Research and development expenditure (% GDP)	0.0	0.0	NA
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	3.3	3.2	3.2	SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities			

	Value 2017	Value 2019	Value 2020		Value 2017	Value 2019	Value 2020
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% adult population)	10.5	15.5	15.5	Gini Coefficient adjusted for top income (1-100)	43.2	43.1	43.1
Cereal yield (t/ha)	0.8	0.6	0.6	Palma ratio			
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index	1.1	1.1	NA	<a href="#">SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities</a>	2.2	NA	NA
Human Trophic Level (best 2-3 worst)	NA	2.2	NA	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns of diameter (PM2.5) in urban areas (µg/m3)	19.8	22.3	22.3
<a href="#">SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being</a>				Improved water source, piped (% urban population with access)	74.4	71.0	NA
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	443	443	458	Satisfaction with public transport (%)	NA	78.0	27.6
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	23.5	22.4	20.9	<a href="#">SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production</a>			
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	70.7	50.3	46.2	Municipal Solid Waste (kg/day/capita)	0.7	0.5	0.7
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	242	221.0	210	E-waste generated (kg/capita)	0.3	0.9	0.9
New HIV infections (per 1,000)		3.1	2.8	Production-based SO2 emissions (kg/capita)	7.5	7.5	3.9
Age-standardised death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease in populations age 30-70 years (per 100,000 population)	19.3	19.3	19.3	Imported SO2 emissions (kg/capita)	-2.2	-2.2	1.5
Age-standardised death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	138.9	133	133	Nitrogen production footprint (kg/capita)	NA	NA	NA
Traffic deaths rate (per 100,000 population)	28.2	45.4	34.7	Net imported emissions of reactive nitrogen (kg/capita)	NA	NA	NA
Life Expectancy at birth (years)	52.1	61.4	61.4	<a href="#">SDG13 – Climate Action</a>			
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	108.9	105.8	86.1	Energy-related CO2 emissions per capita (tCO2/capita)	0.9	0.8	0.9
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	80	78.1	78.1	Imported CO2 emissions, technology-adjusted (tCO2/capita)	0.3	0.3	0.3
percentage of surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	86	89	88	People affected by climate-related disasters (per 100,000 population)	NA	179.3	NA
Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0-100)	76.8	50.2	54	CO2 emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	NA	5.4	13.1
Subjective Wellbeing (average ladder score, 0-10)	3.7	3.6	2.7	<a href="#">SDG14 – Life Below Water</a>			
<a href="#">SDG4 – Quality Education</a>				Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	NA	NA	NA
Net primary enrolment rate (%)	85.9	84.8	94.1	Ocean Health Index Goal-Clean Waters (0-100)	NA	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (%)	NA	64.6	NA	percentage of Fish Stocks overexploited or collapsed by EEZ (%)	NA	NA	NA
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, both sexes (%)	91.8	90.4	90.4	Fish caught by trawling (%)	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">SDG5 – Gender Equality</a>				<a href="#">SDG15 – Life on Land</a>			

	Value 2017	Value 2019	Value 2020		Value 2017	Value 2019	Value 2020
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% women married or in unions aged 15-49)	NA	85.2	84.8	Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	85.9	85.9	85.9
Female to male mean years of schooling, population age 25+ (%)	88.8	NA	84.4	Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity (%)	79.0	79.0	NA
Female to male labour force participation rate (%)	92.9	88.3	88.4	Red List Index of species survival (0-1)	0.8	0.8	0.8
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	31.5	31.5	31.9	Permanent Deforestation (5 year average annual %)	NA	0.3	0.3
<b>SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation</b>				Imported biodiversity threats (per million population)	0.2	1.1	1.1
Population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	76.9	66.6	64.1	<b>SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b>			
Population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	36.8	38.6	36.2	Homicides (per 100,000 population)	6.7	6.7	6.7
Freshwater withdrawal as % total renewable water resources	17.9	24.3	33.5	Unsentenced detainees (%)		0.2	NA
Imported groundwater depletion (m <sup>3</sup> /year/capita)	4.8	4.8	NA	Population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live (%)	56	48.7	45.1
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	NA	10.4	0.0	Property Rights (1-7)	2.9	2.8	NA
<b>SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy</b>				Birth registrations with civil authority, children under 5 years of age (%)	32.3	43.5	38.2
Access to electricity (% population)	32.3	38.1	40.4	Corruption Perception Index (0-100)	22.0	22	24
Access to clean fuels & technology for cooking (% population)	29.6	29.1	29.1	Children 5-14 years old involved in child labour (%)	50.0	NA	NA
CO2 emissions from fuel combustion / electricity output (MtCO <sub>2</sub> /TWh)	1.2	1.3		Transfers of major conventional weapons (exports) (constant 1990 US\$ million per 100,000 population)	0.0	0.0	NA
<b>SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>				Freedom of Press Index (best 0-100 worst)	NA	40.5	42.2
Adjusted Growth (%)	-6.9	-6.2	NA	<b>SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals</b>			
Prevalence of Modern Slavery (victims per 1,000 population)	NA	6.7	6.7	Government Health and Education spending (% GDP)	8.4	9.4	9.2
Adults (15 years +) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (%)	23.8	55.3	55.3	International concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% GNI)	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment rate (% total labor force)	5.1	5.0	NA	Government Revenue excluding Grants (% GDP)	NA	20.4	NA
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (deaths per 100,000)	NA	0.1	NA	Tax Haven Score (best 0-5 worst)	0	0	NA

## ANNEX 6: TRENDS IN MAIZE PRODUCTION IN ZIMBABWE (QUANTITY (TONS))

Figure 9.3 Trends in maize production in Zimbabwe (tons)



Data Source: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QC>



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**ZIMBABWE**



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