



Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice

ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

SECOND QUARTER REPORT



Table of Contents

SECTION 1: Situation/Context Analysis	3
SECTION 2: Summary of Achievements attained during the Quarter	3
SECTION 3: Summary of Activities by Thematic Area	5
3.1 Social and Economic Rights	5
3.1.1 Act Ubumbano	5
3.1.2 Solidarity Hub	5
3.2 Public Finance Management	5
3.2.1 Strengthening Civic Participation in Economic Development	5
3.2.1.1 Economic Literacy Seminar	5
3.2.1.2 National Purse Updates (Radio Civic Education Program)	6
3.2.2 Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management ...	7
3.2.2.1 Public Finance Management Reform Indabas	7
3.2.2.2 Constituency Indabas	8
3.2.2.3 Social Accountability Training – Capacity Building for RAs & SEJAs	9
3.2.2.4 Rights Consciousness for Social Accountability Training	10
3.2.2.5 Open Budget Survey	11
3.3 Natural Resource Governance	12
3.3.1 Provincial Alternative Mining Indabas	12
3.3.2 District Alternative Mining Indabas	13
3.4 Trade Justice and Livelihoods	14
3.4.1 National Policy Dialogue Meeting on the Agricultural Policy Direction Economy in Transition Series	14
3.5 Movement Building	15
3.5.1 Southern Africa People Solidarity Network updates	15
SECTION 4 AHA MOMENTS	15
SECTION 5 Analytical Issues	15
5.1 Gender Equity and Disability	15
5.2 Lessons & Recommendations	16
5.2.1 Recommendation	16
5.3 Risk Assessment and Challenges	16

Table of Figures

Figure 1 Economic Literacy Seminars attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area.....	6
Figure 2 Composition of PFM Reform Indabas Attendance.....	7

Figure 3 Constituency Indaba attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area	8
Figure 4 Social Accountability Training attendance by Sex and Age	9
Figure 5 Rights Consciousness for Social Accountability Training attendance by Sex and Age	11
Figure 6 PAMI attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area	12
Figure 7 DAMI attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area	13
Figure 8 National Dialogue Meeting attendance by Sex.....	14

SECTION I: Situation/Context Analysis

Zimbabwe continues to witness the deepening of authoritarian politics, albeit a deteriorating socio-economic and politico environment. The government allegedly purchased arms to quell looming street protests against the government over the fast deteriorating political and socio-economic conditions. This indicates the government’s intention to stifle citizens’ rights to freedom of expression through demonstrations or petitioning the government as provided for in the Bill of Rights. This worrying trend of authoritarianism by the government is indicative of the fact that there is a perpetual erosion of the social contract in the country which is affecting social cohesion and trust.

Meanwhile, on the economic front, the country has not been fairing too well. Sharp increases in the prices of basic commodities, cash shortages, foreign currency shortages, scarcity of basic food commodities, low industrial productivity and high unemployment rate which is hovering above 90%; have been some of the major features of the Zimbabwean economy. Persistent budget deficits driven by fiscal indiscipline and corruption have led to an unsustainable domestic and external debt burden. Social insecurity and total economic meltdown continue to confront the majority of Zimbabweans who are finding it difficult to have access to three decent meals a day.

On the political front there have been discussions around a process of national dialogue convened by the incumbent President and involving opposition parties that contested in the 2018 elections. However, the decision by the MDC (the main opposition party) not to participate in the dialogue process and the absence of organised civil society and social movements from the same, has cast shadows on the prospects of a genuine and inclusive process that can solve the crises in the country. Therefore, as the social contract continues to disintegrate, Zimbabwe needs a genuine and all-inclusive process of national dialogue.

SECTION 2: Summary of Achievements attained during the Quarter

- Consistent sharing of community stories Action Ubumbano platform has amplified citizen voices on environment, economic and social justice demands.
- The economic literacy seminars which improved women and youth awareness and knowledge on key PFM principle
- Six (6) episodes of Radio Civic Education program where broadcast by ZiFM reaching to approximately 3.5 million listeners with key educational and awareness messages on PFM, debt and constitutional provision on PFM and Debt
- The PFM indabas reached to approximately 5.585 million people through radio, 46.395 people through Tweeter and 24.142 people through Facebook
- Constituency Indabas platforms promoted the engagement between the electorate and their solution holders on challenges affecting the constituency and solution thereof.
- Social Accountability training for RAs and SEJAs raised social accountability consciousness in RAs and SEJAs on their oversight role on local authorities and government
- Social Network promoted self-mobilisation among the social groups so as to strengthen social accountability monitoring among women and youths
- ZIMCODD contact with mining communities through conducting DAMIs and PAMIs has improved citizen knowledge on their rights and responsibilities. This has in turn improved citizen resistance to exploitative machinations of the mining companies. <https://youtu.be/FwwtrZLAS9g> ; <https://zimmorningpost.com/marange-villagers-threaten-demonstration-against-minister-and-zcdc/>
- During the four Indabas, which were conducted between (dates), it was noted that the country's PFM system is marred with corruption and abuse of public funds, there was widespread call for speedy detection of breaches in relation to the safeguarding of public funds and public property. Specifically, the PFM Reform Indabas strongly recommended for the Amendment of Section 2 of the PFM Act to strengthen the safeguarding of Public funds and property;
- Corruption and misuse of public funds by government ministries and local authorities attracted public interest including state and private media calling for stiffer penalties to persons responsible for any such breaches and, where appropriate, the conviction of the offenders and setting up of a commercial crimes court which is important in the recovery of misappropriated funds or property. For detailed information follow the links below:
<https://www.herald.co.zw/set-up-commercial-crimes-court/>,
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/04/local-authorities-slammed-for-poor-financial-management/> and <https://www.263chat.com/abusers-of-public-funds-should-be-held-accountable/>

SECTION 3: Summary of Activities by Thematic Area

3.1 Social and Economic Rights

3.1.1 Act Ubumbano

10 community stories on environmental, economic and social justice issues affecting different communities were posted on Ubumbano Community Voice App, by ZIMCODD, the moderator. The progress is largely attributed to the training workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of activists in developing and sharing community stories conducted during the 2019 first quarter. ZIMCODD consolidated the Community Voice App training database and shared with ACT Ubumbano team.

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/05/communities-abused-by-mining-companies-stand-up-for-their-rights/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/05/training-workshop-on-climate-change-and-environment-in-sophia-town/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/05/illegal-mining-activities-destroy-houses-in-newcastle/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/05/crime-in-schools/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/05/water-scarcity-in-some-parts-of-mogashoa-village/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/04/environmental-crisis-dialogue-in-mpumalanga-highveld/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/04/coal-mining-companies-exploiting-communities/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/04/march-by-affected-communities-by-ikhwezi-mine/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/04/by-xolelwa-pona-in-east-london-eastern-cape/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/04/art-exhibition-for-visual-arts-and-crafters/>

3.1.2 Solidarity Hub

ZIMCODD participated at the Solidarity Hub hosted by ACT Ubumbano in Johannesburg from 21-23 May 2019 which ran under the theme, “*Environmental Justice: A question of survival.*” Three (3) ZIMCODD staff members participated actively during the discussions at the hub including making presentations. Review and reflection of activism strategies.

3.2 Public Finance Management

3.2.1 Strengthening Civic Participation in Economic Development

3.2.1.1 Economic Literacy Seminar

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) conducted an Economic Literacy Seminar in Kwekwe on the 11th of May, Seke on the 13th of June and Domboshava on the 17th of June 2019. The meetings purposively targeted women and youths so as to improve their inclusion in economic development. The seminar was implemented under the project Strengthening Civic Participation in Economic Development through enhanced Economic Literacy and was well attended as 128 (103 females and 25males) participants were trained. The youths constituted the large proportion of the attendants in all the trainings, however few male youths included in the trainings.

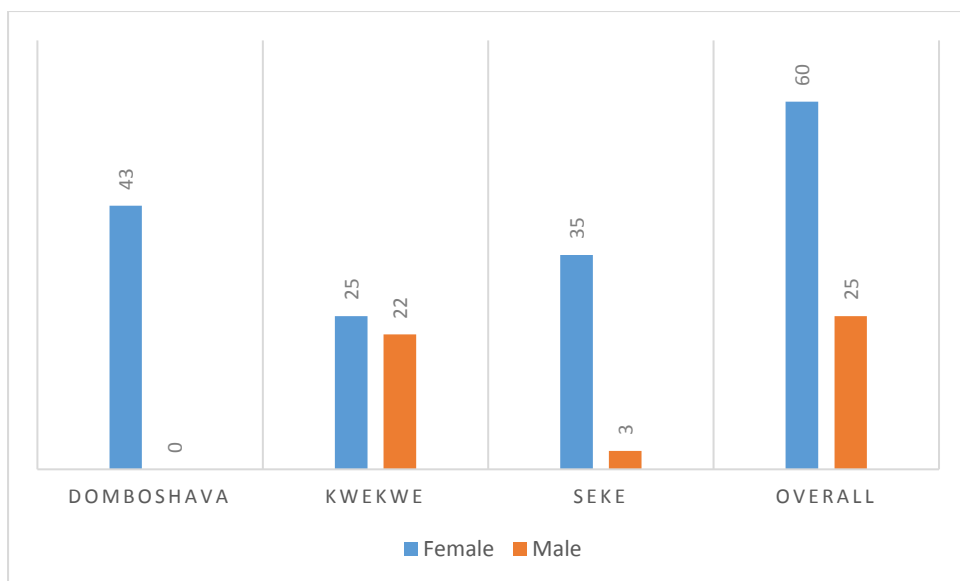


Figure 1 Economic Literacy Seminars attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area

The seminars focused on the Constitutional awareness and Constitutionalism, social and economic rights awareness and tax, taxation and tax justice. Presentations, discussions and role modelling were done to deliver the training in a manner that gave each participant enough time to contribute to the process. The use of edutainment through dramatizing key issues in public finance management enhanced the learning outcome within the participants. Furthermore, the meetings improved the participant’s awareness and knowledge of their social accountability role. As such they have committed to petition Parliament of Zimbabwe on their respective demands. Participants pledged to attend budget consultative meetings as called for in their communities so that they are aware of developments in their respective areas. These improved attitudes will enhance effective monitoring of government and local authorities spending.

3.2.1.2 National Purse Updates (Radio Civic Education Program)

During the quarter under review, ZIMCODD recorded 6 episodes of the National Purse radio programme on ZiFM stereo. The radio programme which is part of a broader project on “Strengthening Civic Participation in Economic Development through Enhanced Economic Literacy Project” saw the episodes being run consecutively on a weekly basis. Topics discussed include state of public finance management in Zimbabwe in relation to corruption and the Auditor General’s Reports, understanding the budget process, monitoring the National Purse (role of Parliament and social accountability monitoring), tax justice, Zimbabwe public debt and constitutional provisions safeguarding the National Purse. Participants were drawn from government departments, parliament and civil society and such diversity brought in a rich discussion. The discussions reached many people with ZiFM stereo having over 70% national coverage with an estimated listenership of over 3.5 million listeners countrywide and given that the programme was aired on prime time (1930hrs-2000hrs).

https://drive.google.com/open?id=IFLqChS0IdN_JYFe3s_I8cUNDyVzdeEyl

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=IVfi3BxrF-kPYfD-EXNLRLBWrguQ-Xu3v>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=I-9BM8BusbeNoIKXlyI8yV-CxKPM6EAiB>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=I2muVUnmTOph545EbhfI8SRckliG3IALS>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1a93QNT49VgQjGUL9qIN9D0jhzUuf5hMK>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1d19TzCh9QjBFuG9BIDOCcRpxrFTIfVUP>

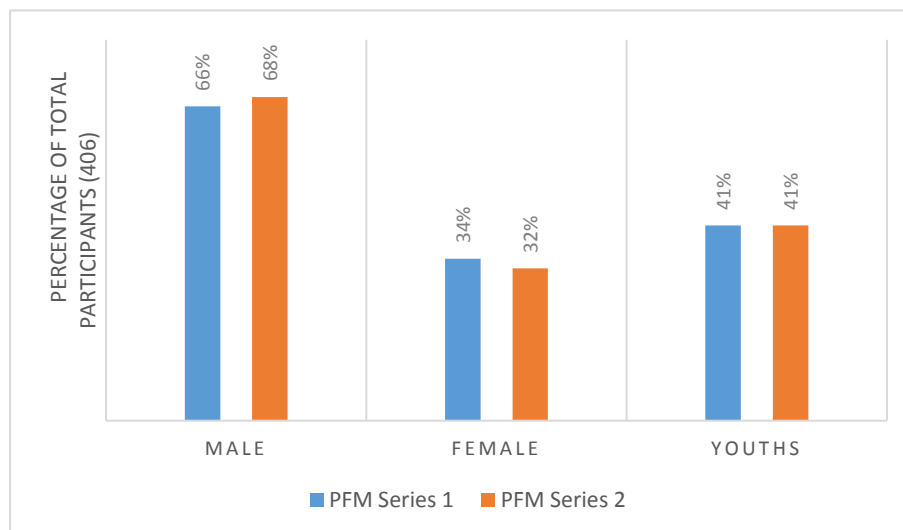
3.2.2 Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management

3.2.2.1 Public Finance Management Reform Indabas

During this quarter, ZIMCODD conducted eight (8) Public Finance Management Reform Indabas. The first series was conducted between 3 and 16 April 2019 in Mutare, Bulawayo, Harare and Gweru while the second series was conducted during period 6 to 12 May 2019 in Hwange, Bulawayo, Gweru and Mutare. The focus of the first PFM Indaba series was on alignment of PFM legislature to the constitution while the second PFM Indaba series was on section 301 of the Constitution which provides for allocation of revenues between provincial and local tiers of government; and, Chapter 14, Section 264 regarding devolution of government powers and responsibilities in order to advance the legislative and institutional reforms for the operationalization of devolution in Zimbabwe. The PFM reform Indabas brought together members of Parliament, councilors, mayors, technocrats, citizens and other key opinion leaders in respective communities to deliberate on public finance management in the context of devolution.

A total of 406 participants attended the PFM reform Indabas (Males 273, Females 133). The first series had 201 participants while the second series had 205 participants. Of the 406 participants, 174 (42%) were youths.

Figure 2 Composition of PFM Reform Indabas Attendance



The total attendance increased by 2% from the first PFM Indaba series. The participation of females dropped by 2% during the second series while male participation increased by 2%. The participation of youths remained constant and such active involvement of

youths ensure sustainable citizen oversight on duty bearers and solution holders.

The indabas created a platform for rural and urban citizenry in the project areas to discuss the laws, practices and systems, identify gaps and propose legal and institutional frameworks based on best practice. In these PFM Indabas participants interrogated the framework proposed in the 2019 national budget in order to provide an inclusive and sustainable

framework, explored barriers and opportunities brought by devolution in the context of the current systemic and structural challenges associated with bureaucracy.

The PFM reform discourse was illuminated to a wider audience through broadcasting of the PFM reform indabas through community radio stations and live-streamed through various social media platforms which enriched the discussions. This was attributed to the participation of various media houses and journalists due to the nature of issues which were pertinent and therefore ignited public interest. Radio broadcasts for the 8 Indabas reached 5, 587 000 while Facebook for the same reached 24, 142. Total Tweet Impressions from 66 tweet samples for the 8 Indabas reached 46,395 people.

The 8 Indabas made the following observations and recommendations: The Public Finance Management Act should be aligned to the 2013 constitution; the PFM reforms should provide for financial information disclosure for local and central governments; the success of devolution lies in the effectiveness of the PFM reforms that addresses the current irregularities and the political will to develop and implement a framework for devolution; the proposed composition of provincial committees comprising of local Members of Parliament is likely to compromise the oversight role of Parliament; and that the Minister of Finance & Economic Development should reconsider the revenue sharing model and a sign weight to the different principles in the devolution formulae.

3.2.2.2 Constituency Indabas

The Constituency Indabas convened by ZIMCODD in Hwange (21 June 2019), Mutare (25 June 2019) and Gweru (28 June 2019) presented an opportunity for the electorate in the respective constituencies to interface with their ward councillors and Members of Parliament. These constituency indabas reached out to 296 out of the targeted 300 participants in all the three respective areas. 47 percent were female whilst youth constituted 39% of the participants who tabled social and economic issues affecting them as a community and proposed possible ways of improving social service delivery.

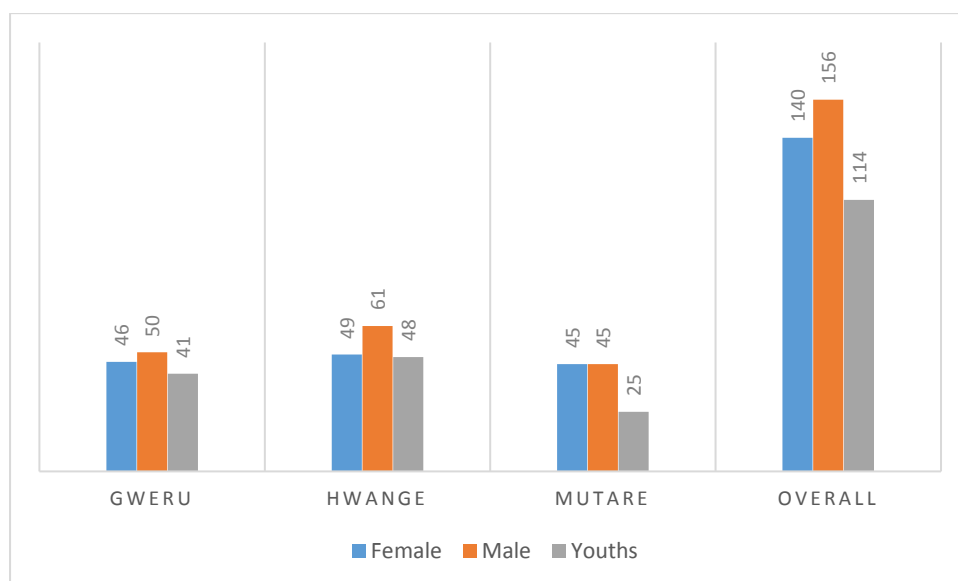


Figure 3 Constituency Indaba attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area

The participants to the Indabas embraced the platform and utilised the chance to express themselves. Some of the participants were meeting their councillors and MPs for the first time, especially women who are normally alienated from the development processes in their constituencies.

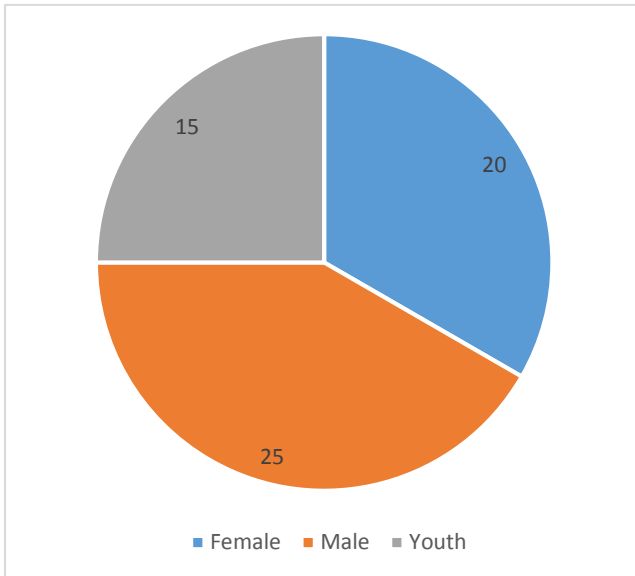


The participants were able to relate public finance management issues to public service delivery. The platform did not only focus on challenges but provided possible solutions to the identified challenges. The electorate, councillors and MPs agreed on a number of issues requiring urgent attention and developed key action plans earmarked for councillors and members of parliament. Honourable MPs and Councillors were, therefore assigned follow up tasks that are both administrative and of a policy nature. Salient issues from the Indabas include livelihoods, education, health, infrastructure, transparency and accountability water and sanitation.

3.2.2.3 Social Accountability Training – Capacity Building for RAs & SEJAs

In the quarter under review, ZIMCODD conducted a capacity building workshop for Residents Associations (RAs) and Social and Economic Justice Ambassadors (SEJAs) on Strengthening Transparency and accountability in Public Finance Management. The training was held under the theme, “Influencing legislative and institutional reform for improved public finance management in Zimbabwe.” The workshop was held in Bulawayo on 27 June 2019. A total of 45 participants from Hwange, Lupane, Gwanda and Bulawayo (20 females, 25 males and 15 youth) attended the training.

Figure 4 Social Accountability Training attendance by Sex and Age



The capacity building workshop focused on key topics including the following: Understanding PFM and the budget cycle in Zimbabwe; Social Accountability in the context of devolution; Lobby and advocacy in public finance management; and, Community mobilisation for social accountability.

The capacity building workshop managed to raise PFM awareness and social accountability consciousness in RAs and SEJAs as they begin to question socioeconomic evils in the prevailing economic context including the need for

a sound PFM framework which is a key tool to monitor public funds under devolution; trust deficit between citizens and policy makers which is being exacerbated by monetary policy inconsistencies; the inconsistent policy environment further buttressed by the recently introduced SII42 which is marred with ambiguity and has thrown citizens into confusion; and, the need to criminalize all corrupt activities since corruption by senior officials scares away investors. The workshop enhanced the capacity of participants to demand transparency and accountability and to perform an oversight and monitoring role in PFM. The evidence for this is when participants identified action points to pick up and follow after the workshop already exhibiting an understanding of citizens' role in social accountability in PFM. The action points identified include among others declaration of assets by councilors and transparency on tender procedures in Bulawayo; integrity of local authorities in Hwange; budget tracking in Lupane; and, issuing of Exclusive Prospecting Orders (EPOs) and follow up on devolution in Gwanda.

3.2.2.4 Rights Consciousness for Social Accountability Training

In the quarter, ZIMCDD conducted two social network workshops in Norton and Bulawayo. Norton had a total attendance of 110 women and among them 62 were young women/youth, while Bulawayo had a total attendance of 92 women, and of these 48 were young women.

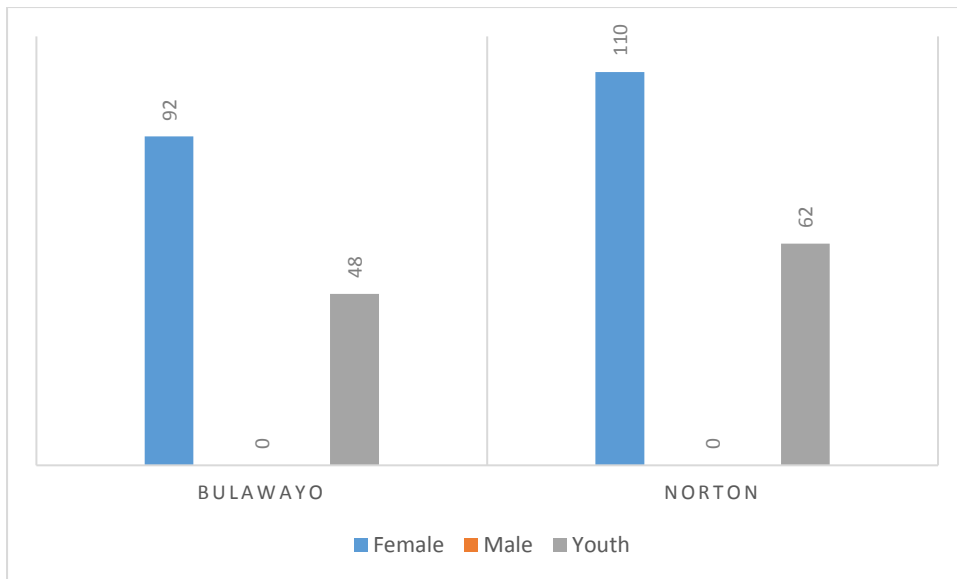


Figure 5 Rights Consciousness for Social Accountability Training attendance by Sex and Age

Social networks present an effective channel for increasing the outreach of the, “Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management”, under the STAP project. Social networks also provide a platform for citizens to self-mobilise and concertize them on their rights at local levels. The objective of the workshops was to increase the participation of women and youth in accountability tracking and monitoring by 2030. Participants were trained on constitutional awareness and constitutionalism, social and economic rights awareness, social accountability and gender responsive budgeting, public finance management tracking and tax justice. The facilitator used participatory methods which included group work and question and answer sessions to ensure active participation by all participants. Key issues of concern raised by participants in the trainings include attributing deplorable social services in Norton to lack of transparency and accountability by duty bearers; lack of adherence to the Abuja Declaration by government in budget allocation which is affecting the health sector; failure by government to disburse budget allocated funds to different ministries leading to under performance by line Ministries; the current regressive tax system in Zimbabwe which places a huge burden on women’s survival; and, failure to protect local resources which is resulting in investors repatriating profits to home countries.

Following ZIMCODD’s capacity building, participants pledged to write a petition and send to Clerk of the Parliament of Zimbabwe petitioning the Town Council to approve the proposed projects by potential investors. Participants also elected leadership of social circles who will engage civil society organizations to acquire copies of the national constitution to further understanding of the constitutional provisions especially those that enable citizens to demand transparency and accountability from duty bearers.

3.2.2.5 Open Budget Survey

ZIMCODD contracted an external consultant to conduct the Open Budget Survey(OBS). The OBS aims to assess the openness and inclusivity of the budget making, budget funding, budget expenditure, budget report and audit reporting processes at national level on an annual basis. Furthermore, it seeks assesses the opportunities the government provides to civil society and the public to engage in decisions about how public resources are raised and spent. The OBS

will also inform the economic literacy tools to be developed by ZIMCODD and other partners involved in civic education platforms. The consultant has completed data collection and has initiated data analysis. The draft report will be presented to ZIMCODD on the 17th of July 2019.

3.3 Natural Resource Governance

3.3.1 Provincial Alternative Mining Indabas

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) conducted two Provincial Alternative Mining Indabas in Kadoma (Great Dyke Alternative Mining Indaba) and in Mutare (Mutare Alternative Mining Indaba). The PAMIs were conducted within the period of two days. The Great Dyke PAMI was conducted on the 4th to the 5th of June 2019 while the Mutare PAMI was conducted on the 11th and 12th of June 2019. The total attendance of the PAMIs was 206 (101 females and 105 males) participants. 97(53 females and 44 males) participants attended the Great Dyke PAMI whereas 109(48 females and 61 males) attended the Mutare PAMI.

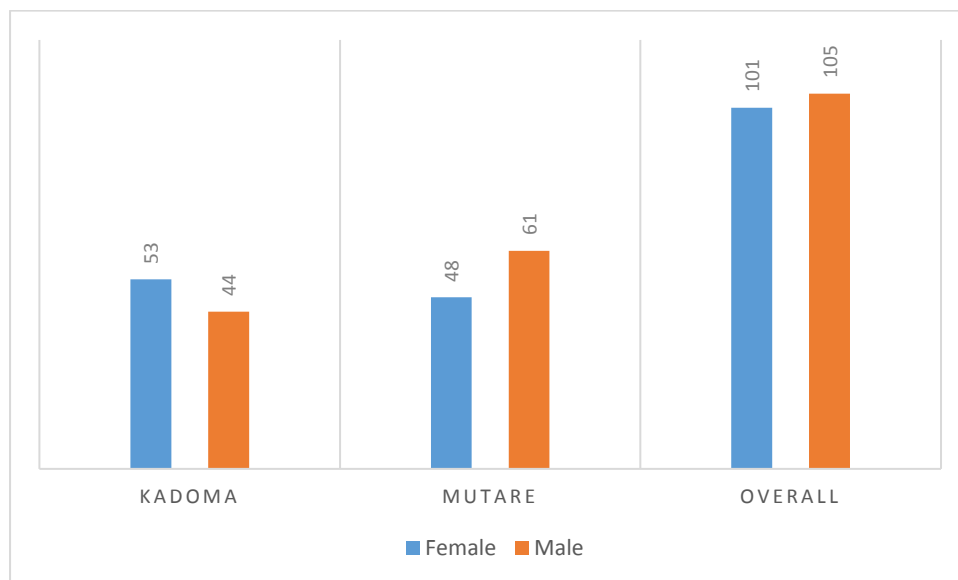


Figure 6 PAMI attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area

The PAMIS drew participants from a wide spectrum of stakeholders which includes among them rural and urban Councils, Members of Parliament, youths, small scale miners, smallholder farmers, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Zimbabwe Republic Police, members of the civil society organisations, representatives from the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development. Representatives from the Minister of State in Manicaland Province, Artisanal Small-Scale Miners, Traditional Leaders, Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company and Anjin in Mutare.

The key outputs from the PAMIs were the PAMI declaration and the subsequent action plan which clarified the key roles to be played by various stakeholders in the mining sector to address issues raised during the meeting. They also amplified the agency for the government to harmonise national legislation with local authority bi-laws and to ensure the Mines and

Minerals Amendment Bill should address the farmer-miner conflict issue in order to strike a balance between these two critical industries to the Zimbabwean.

3.3.2 District Alternative Mining Indabas

ZIMCODD conducted four (4) District Alternative Mining Indabas (DAMIs) during the period under review. Three (3) DAMIs were conducted in partnership with the Zimbabwe Environmental Association (ZELA) and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC). These workshops were held in Sese, Chivi District, Penhalonga and Gwanda. The fourth DAMI was conducted by ZIMCODD in Hwange District. The total attendance for all DAMIs 361 (166 females and 195 males) participants. Women participation in the DAMIs was high accounting for about 46% of the total attendance. The DAMIs equally provided a platform for women to discuss their challenges and amplified their voices.

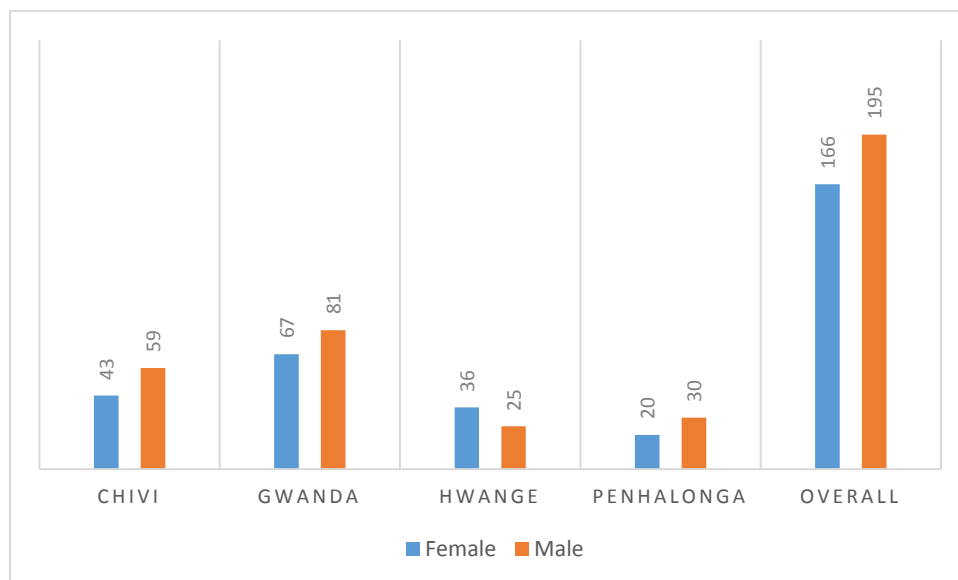


Figure 7 DAMI attendance disaggregated by Sex and Geographical Area

The DAMIs were attended by a various stakeholders drawn from multiple structure from mining sector. These included among them, traditional leaders, women, youth, senior citizens, Artisanal Small-Scale Miners, representative of the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development the Church and Councillors both from rural District and urban Council. In Hwange the widows from the Kamandama mine disaster and mine workers attended the DAMI.

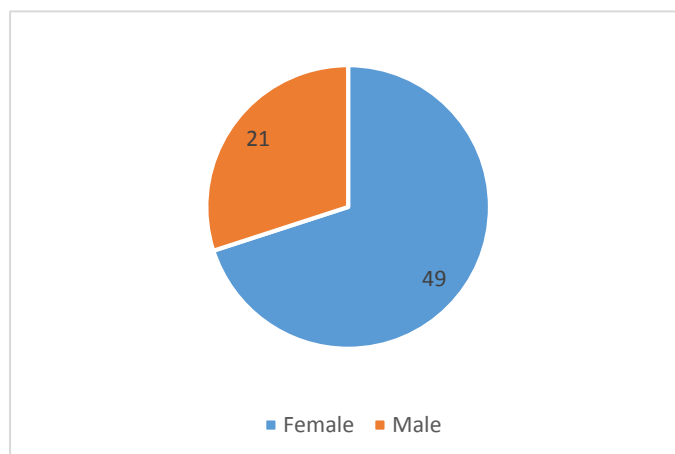
The DAMIs provided a platform for various mining stakeholders to discuss and identify the current gaps and challenges facing the mining communities. Moreover, they amplified the voices of the affected communities through coalescing issues for the DAMI declaration. The DAMIs also offered a platform to initiate community demands through petitioning of the government to act on the injustices done by the mining sector to the host communities. These Indabas also enhanced movement building towards resisting illegal activities done by mining companies through lobbying and engaging solution holders.

3.4 Trade Justice and Livelihoods

3.4.1 National Policy Dialogue Meeting on the Agricultural Policy Direction Economy in Transition Series

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) and the Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) conducted the National Policy Dialogue Meeting on the Agricultural Policy Direction under the Economy in Transition Series on the 25th of April 2019. The meeting advocated for pro-poor agricultural policies through dialogue between policy makers and rural women smallholder farmers. It was also a platform where the implementing partners presented evidence gathered through **awareness** raising meetings, Policy Dialogue Meetings on land tenure, research on the Political Economy of Command Agriculture and score card results on Agricultural Public Expenditure. The meeting was attended by 70 (21 males and 49 females) small holder farmers drawn from Domboshava, Gokwe, Checheche, Gwanda, Umguza and Chegutu. Government policy makers were present to answer to the issues raised by small holder farmers.

Figure 8 National Dialogue Meeting attendance by Sex



These included among them representatives from the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Settlement; Budget, Finance and Economic Development; Local Government, Urban and Rural Development; and Gender and Development; Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Grain Marketing Board; Agricultural Marketing Authority and Agricultural

Technical Extension Officers.

The national dialogue was also covered by the mainstream media and also shared through social media. This diffused the debates and discussion to a wider audience as a result amplifying the demands of the small holder farmers. The dialogue meeting had two media mentions from the press media. Updates of key issues raised during the meeting posted on ZIMCODD Twitter handle with a sample of 11 tweets attracting 5,872 impressions (times people saw the tweets on twitter). Members of various media houses also attended the policy interface meeting. The National Policy Interface also managed to create a platform at national level for smallholder rural women farmers to raise their concerns and aspirations with relevant stakeholders who included representatives from different parliamentary portfolio committees as well as government departments and Ministries. The Action Plan developed and agreed upon by participants at the meeting is an opportunity for ZIMCODD to continue its advocacy initiatives around agriculture to amplify citizens' voices in demand for transparency, accountability and pro-poor agricultural policies. Women rural smallholder farmers' communiqué which was presented at the meeting will go a long way in strengthening the role of citizens in lobbying government to respect the collective aspirations of citizens to foster active citizen participation.

3.5 Movement Building

3.5.1 Southern Africa People Solidarity Network updates

- Call for the 2019 SADC People's Summit was released to different stakeholders via email and it was posted on the SAPSN Website.
<http://www.sapsn.org/announcement-of-the-2019-sadc-peoples-summit/>
- SAPSN issued a statement on the aftermath of Malawi's may 21 tripartite elections
<http://www.sapsn.org/download/sapsn-statement-on-the-aftermath-of-malawis-may-21-tripartite-elections/>
- As the SAPSN Secretariat, ZIMCODD organised the Regional Coordinating Committee Meeting convened in Johannesburg in May 2019. The meeting was a planning session for the 2019 SADC People's Summit to discuss inter alia the theme, dates and activities.

SECTION 4 AHA MOMENT

SEJA led activities bring smiles to Domboshava residents

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has come to the rescue of the Domboshava residents after issuing a directive that a Chinese company mining quarry at Pagarimo Hill in Domboshava should stop the operations after he learnt that the company's mining operations were threatening the existence of sacred caves in the area and pose eviction risk to the nearby residents. [Click here](#) to access the full story.

Local leadership and residents' resistance to the mining operations did not just come from nowhere but was born out of ZIMCODD's interventions through the coalition's Social and Economic Justice Ambassadors (SEJAs) led activities. Working closely with SEJAs in Domboshava, ZIMCODD embarked on massive rights consciousness building initiatives, raising awareness to residents on responsible mining investment including conducting an Economic Literacy Seminar in the area, listening to the locals' concerns and mapping way forward. Following the initiatives, locals managed to stand for their rights and resist eviction to Gokwe which could have resulted from the Chinese quarry mining at Pagarimo. It is in this regard that ZIMCODD takes credit on the milestone taken in favour of the local residents.

SECTION 5 Analytical Issues

5.1 Gender Equity and Disability

It can never be over-emphasised that the current socio-economic hardships affect men and women differently. Women, due to their gender roles in society bear the burden of unpaid care work. This is further exacerbated by negative impacts of climate change and food insecurity which affects women more than their male counterparts. Women, in both rural and urban communities, are the major players in the agricultural sector as they ensure that there is food on the table for the family and that those who are receiving home based care are getting nutritional food. Women are contributing immensely to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but this is not recognised by the government, let alone paid for. ZIMCODD activities mainly targeted women and other vulnerable groups to reduce the economic literacy gap amongst women. This will enable women to contribute meaningfully to the national socio-economic development frameworks to ensure a better today and dignified tomorrow. Furthermore, it will enhance their participation in the development agenda.

5.2 Lessons & Recommendations

That ZIMCODD has a lot of work to do with regards to raising economic literacy among the generality of Zimbabweans. The economic literacy seminars conducted in places like Goromonzi, Seke among other places clearly showed that there is a dearth in basic constitutionalism and rights awareness among citizens. It is therefore an opportunity for ZIMCODD to further scale up activities around economic literacy especially in the context of social and economic rights which at the present moment are being brazenly violated through the implementation of neoliberal austerity measures by the government, that do not have safety nets to cushion the poor and vulnerable. As a people centred and people driven movement created to build a social movement that proffers alternatives to the neo-liberal ideology ZIMCODD has a monumental task ahead of it to see that Zimbabweans are first aware of constitutional provisions that have to do with their social and economic rights so that the people's movement for social and economic justice is backed by well-informed advocacy points or ideas.

ZIMCODD has also learnt that through its national purse radio programme that has been going on for ever a month airing every Thursday, the coalition has been playing a leading role in bridging the gap that exists between citizens' understanding of public finance management issues as well as the role of Parliament in the whole PFM cycle. More work however needs to be done probably through using radio stations like Radio Zimbabwe that have a national outreach and educated citizens on the economy in general and PFM in particular in vernacular languages. This will go a long way in fostering active citizen activism around demanding for transparent use of public finances and this will surely keep duty bearers on their toes following up issues that citizens raise.

This quarter also saw the coalition rolling out constituency Indabas in 3 constituencies in 3 different programmes. In Hwange, Gweru and Mutasa South the huge lesson is citizens yearn to have safe spaces where they can meet with their elected public servants and discuss developmental issues. In Zimbabwean political culture it is very rare that the voted and voter after an electoral process can actually sit down and have serious conversations as well as introspect on the job that the elected have been doing.

5.2.1 Recommendation

- ❖ The coalition should escalate its economic literacy seminar project;
- ❖ Since the coalition launched its debt paper at the beginning of the year, it is vital that the coalition takes the debt paper to communities so that it becomes a reference document that communities can use in demand for debt justice. SEJAs can play a critical role in this aspect.

5.3 Risk Assessment and Challenges

- ❖ Shrinking civic space as the government's security forces are tightening the freedom of speech and assembly;
- ❖ Logistical challenges as the organization's vehicles are all down and now depending on taxi and car hire services;
- ❖ Lack of an organizational vehicle;
- ❖ Inconsistencies in the fiscal policy environment making budgeting difficult;
- ❖ Heavy presence of state security agents at meetings e.g. Bulawayo and Hwange meetings thus compromising the security of both participants and secretariat staff;

- ❖ Introduction of ZWL is causing a lot of confusion for programming as we are not sure whether to write requisitions in ZWL or USD;
- ❖ The unavailability of an organisational vehicle compromises secretariat work as some have to board public transport with banners and other activity materials;

<https://www.financialgazette.co.zw/government-breaks-the-bank-2/>

<https://www.263chat.com/abusers-of-public-funds-should-be-held-accountable/>

<https://www.263chat.com/revise-the-2-percent-tax-govt-told/>

<http://kalabashmedia.com/2019/04/04/legislator-calls-for-financial-transparency/>

<https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2019/04/05/govt-debt-result-of-bad-governance/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/04/borrowing-not-a-solution-govt-told/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/04/zim-public-finances-in-bad-shape-zimcodd/>

<https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2019/04/14/budget-surplus-worth-celebrating/>

<https://www.herald.co.zw/set-up-commercial-crimes-court/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/04/local-authorities-slammed-for-poor-financial-management/>

<https://www.chronicle.co.zw/use-zitf-to-market-bulawayo-modi/>

<https://www.chronicle.co.zw/modis-india-visit-attracts-over-120-potential-investors/>

<http://www.cite.org.zw/govt-to-implement-pfmep-by-year-end-modi/>

<https://www.263chat.com/zimcodd-corners-gvt-over-unknown-debts/>

<https://www.263chat.com/investment-or-infliction-the-untold-story-of-redwing-mine/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/05/govt-should-pursue-pro-poor-policies-zimcodd/>

<https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2019/05/05/zimcodd-urges-review-tax-threshold/>

<https://www.263chat.com/zimcodd-piles-pressure-on-mthuli-ncubes-austerity-measures/>

ZIMCODD on Star Fm

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mhbenh__dLBuECZrCaiYmC9o9QxDMZp/view

<http://www.zimcodd.org/investment-or-infliction-untold-story-redwing-mine-0>

<https://www.chronicle.co.zw/provinces-told-to-come-up-with-economic-projections/>

<https://www.herald.co.zw/kwekwe-urges-govt-to-honour-zisco-pledge/>