



*Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice*

## ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

### QUARTERLY REPORT JANURAY-MARCH 2019



## About ZIMCODD

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) is a social and economic justice coalition established in February 2000. It is dedicated to facilitating citizens' involvement, through their sectors and as activists in making public policy and practice pro-people and sustainable.

ZIMCODD views indebtedness, the unfair local and global trade regime, tax injustices, unsustainable natural resource exploitation and lack of democratic, people-centred social economic and political governance as root causes of the socio-economic crises in Zimbabwe and the world at large. Drawing from community-based livelihood experiences of its membership, ZIMCODD implements programmes aimed at delivering the following objectives;

- To raise the level of economic literacy among ZIMCODD members and citizens to include views and participation of grassroots and marginalised communities.
- To facilitate research, lobbying and advocacy in order to raise the level of economic literacy of citizens.
- To formulate credible and sustainable economic and social policy alternatives.
- To develop a national coalition and facilitate the building of a vibrant movement for social and economic justice.

### **Vision**

Sustainable socio-economic justice in Zimbabwe through a vibrant people based movement.

### **Mission**

To take action in redressing the debt burden and social and economic injustices through formulation and promotion of alternative policies to the neo-liberal agenda.

## **From the Executive Director's Desk**

The year 2019 started on an encouraging note for the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development setting the stepping stone for the rest of the year 2019. This is despite the fact that the quarter was marred by both political and socioeconomic disturbances. It was indeed an eventful and a busy better part of the year for the coalition characterised by social and economic justice informed discourses. The period saw an aggressive public debt campaign through various initiatives ranging from policy research and analysis, interface and awareness raising meetings coupled with massive online activism. As the country's economic policies look set on taking the neoliberal route, ZIMCODD will continue offering alternative macro-economic policies that are pro poor in defense of citizens' social and economic rights. ZIMCODD believes that it is a collective responsibility to address the macroeconomic challenges bedeviling the economy and the debt crisis in particular and therefore reaffirms its commitment to working with the Government of Zimbabwe, Parliament, International Financial Institutions, private sector and fellow civil society organisations in ensuring that the social and economic rights of the citizens are realised.

ZIMCODD takes pride in leading the debt and development discourse in the country. The level of civic participation on social and economic justice in Zimbabwe has changed completely due to the engagement with women, youth and men representing farmers, people with disability, people living with HIV/AIDS, informal traders, students and residents associations. Our motivation comes from the small steps that we have taken in engaging the government with clear alternative policies for resolving the debt crisis, addressing poverty and inequality and improving the people's dignity in Zimbabwe. The outcomes of our efforts during this quarter are a reflection of our various interventions and future programmes as the year progresses.

As ZIMCODD celebrates the successes registered between January and March 2019, the support we continue to receive from the ZIMCODD board, membership and partners who dedicate their technical and financial support is truly appreciated.

The struggle continues!!

Janet Zhou  
**Executive Director**

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## **SECTION I: SITUATION/ CONTEXT ANALYSIS**

The year started on a very sad note for the majority of Zimbabweans as the cost of living skyrocketed due to the failure of the neo-liberal national development framework which informs the Upper Middle Income Economy Agenda of 2018-2030. The first quarter saw the implementation of the first two policy-steps, (The 2019 National Budget and The Transitional Stabilisation Programme), as the nation staggers towards 2030. In response to the deteriorating socio-economic environment, Zimbabweans took to the streets in January 2019 to demonstrate against the failure of austerity measures targeted at the poor that continue to bring untold suffering to the masses of Zimbabwe. The events leading to and during the mass stay away were however politicised and in the process failed to address the critical demands of the protestors. It was viewed as a politically motivated stay away rather than a national cause, leading to arrests and intimidation of political and civic leaders some of whom have already been imprisoned whilst others are yet to appear before the courts of law to answer to the allegations. The stay away was also met with heavy military presence in the streets in high density suburbs of Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru and Mutare where the military as exposed in the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Report on the mass action carried out brazen human rights violations. Cases of rape, torture and deaths perpetrated by the military were recorded in the process. Without condoning acts of violence, the recent events should be a wakeup call for the government to act in the best interest of the general citizenry and address the macroeconomic distortions which include the huge national debt, fiscal indiscipline, current account deficit, inflation, and the currency issue among others. An inclusive and people centered approach therefore remains critical in resolving the social, economic and political crises in the country. This alternative economic policy is a democratic developmental state as opposed to the present neo-liberal economic inclination that the government is currently implementing.

The President, E.D Mnangagwa extended an invitation to all losing presidential candidates to the 30 July 2018 harmonised elections to a national dialogue. Some political parties embraced the dialogue, whilst the main Opposition (MDC Alliance) disregarded the call as they viewed the process as a way of legitimising the disputed election results. There is however a general consensus among political parties across the divide that the national dialogue is a political process that leads to a political settlement. The dialogue process thus remains a consensus of the political elite, limited in scope, structure, issues and vision. As ZIMCODD pursues people driven policies, the organisation still maintains that national dialogue remains relevant in determining the macroeconomic trajectory that the country should take premised on transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Anything outside this remains political grandstanding which negatively impacts on the general citizenry. In this regard ZIMCODD continues to call for the institutionalisation of the Tripartite Negotiating Forum as a first step toward genuine national dialogue.

The 2019 Monetary Policy Statement which was announced in February, with the intention of addressing the exchange rate crisis and the broader cash crisis, has further worsened the economic situation. Two months after the monetary authorities predicted that commodity prices will remain the same or start to fall and the black market will disappear, the prices of basic commodities have in actual fact quadrupled. Month on month inflation, public transport and prices of basic commodities continue to skyrocket. The fuel crisis continues unabated, a clear indication that in the near future the situation will worsen partly due to the infrastructure disturbances at Beira Port due to Cyclone Idai. In Zimbabwe, the meltdown of the economic situation and the high levels of unpreparedness to disaster risk management has exposed the government as hundreds of lives were lost in an incident which could have been avoided. These unfolding events leave one to ponder on the paradox of plenty as Zimbabwe is endowed with

vast bankable natural resources but this has failed to translate into real human development on the ground as social services continue to deteriorate in the midst of surpluses being reported by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. There is need therefore for the down trodden and poor citizens to stand and demand for transparency and accountability by duty bearers as domestic resources are being illicitly siphoned out of the country for the benefit of the few political elites and multi-national corporations at the expense of the majority poor.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development Hon. Mthuli Ncube revealed that the government registered a budget surplus of \$733 million and \$113 million in December 2018 and January 2019 respectively. However, the budget surplus is not congruent to the socioeconomic situation in the country where an ordinary citizen's life has not improved. The reported surplus comes at a time when the country is grappling with socio-economic woes characterised by deplorable public social service delivery and where 70% of the country's population is languishing in poverty. Instead real growth and surplus should reflect the general population's decent social and economic being. It is also ironic that the surplus was recorded at a time when senior doctors were on strike demanding medical supplies and equipment in hospitals.

The livelihoods of vendors also came under threat as the army and municipal workers demolished illegal structures in most cities, including driving out illegal vendors from city centres. The actions by the government continued to cause untold human suffering at a time when citizens are grappling with the continually deteriorating economic and social conditions amid high unemployment in Zimbabwe.

## **SECTION 2: Summary of Achievements attained during the Quarter**

- There was increased media coverage on public debt in Zimbabwe following the training of 30 media practitioners from state and private media including freelance journalists. Immediately after the training, 10 articles were produced, further generating debate on debt and development in Zimbabwe
- 411 women and 115 men were reached through targeted awareness raising meetings conducted during the quarter.
- ZIMCODD reached 74% women in its community awareness meetings and trainings conducted during the first quarter
- ZIMCODD online blogs, vlogs, animated videos and livestreaming of events generated more than 15 000 views on social media platforms
- The raising of the foreign currency retention threshold for tobacco farmers from 30% to 55% was worth celebrating amid calls by ZIMCODD to raise the retention threshold to 80% consistent with the facility for tobacco merchants.
- The Zimbabwe Aid and Debt Management Office (ZADMO) further opened up in terms of sharing information on debt and further engagements on debt management in Zimbabwe. To this effect, ZIMCODD has already been furnished with up to date statistics on debt as of December 2018 for further analysis following the High Level Debt Conference. This engagement will go a long way in ZIMCODD's quest to influencing debt management in Zimbabwe.
- The High Level Debt conference stimulated debate on debt sustainability in Zimbabwe with members of parliament pledging their maximum support in ensuring that the government of Zimbabwe increase fiscal space for social spending.
- ZIMCODD developed a debt strategy paper which has proved to be reference document in debt management in Zimbabwe. The IMF and the representatives of the Paris member countries viewed SIDMaF as a necessary framework for ensuring debt sustainability in Zimbabwe necessary for ensuring that the country does not fall into debt traps in the future.

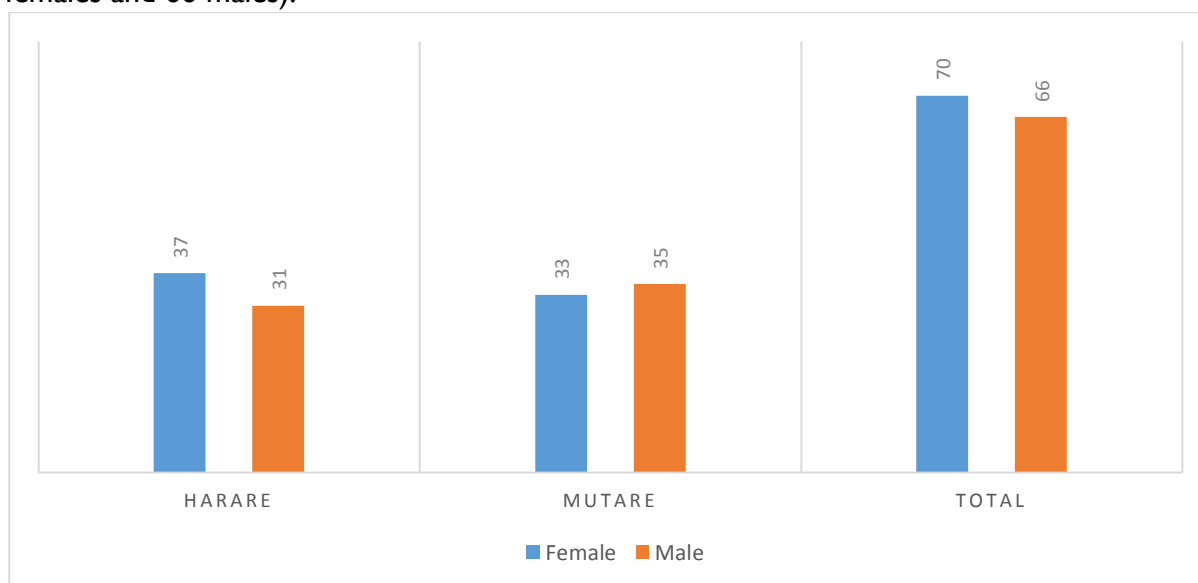
- The SADC Chair convened a meeting with the President of Zimbabwe to ascertain the social and economic situation prevailing in Zimbabwe following the social unrest in January 2019. This was a response to the call by ZIMCODD for the SADC chair to convene an extra ordinary Summit to resolve the political, economic and social crises in Zimbabwe.

## SECTION 3: Summary of Activities by Thematic Area

### 3.1 Social and Economic Rights

#### 3.1.1 2030-UMIE Agenda Forum

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) conducted Awareness Raising Forum for the 2030 Upper Middle Income Economy Agenda (2030 U-MIE Agenda) in Mutare and Harare. The awareness meetings were attended by a total of 136 participants (70 females and 66 males).



Participants were drawn from various ZIMCODD sectors, which included among them: Disability, Informal Traders/Vendors, Labour, Social Services Delivery, Faith-based, Women, Youth/Students, Arts and Culture, Human Rights, Environment and Extractives, and Smallholder Farmers. The forum,

- Increased awareness amongst citizens and stakeholders on the 2030 U-MIE Agenda and provided a platform for citizens to input into the social and economic reform process.
- Improved participants attitude towards citizen oversight and advocacy for social and economic rights
- Improved participants involvement in sharing knowledge, lobbying and advocating for active citizen participation

This platform further informed the engagement with policy makers through the People's 2030 Economic Reforms Communiqué detailing the grassroots solutions to grassroots social and economic problems.

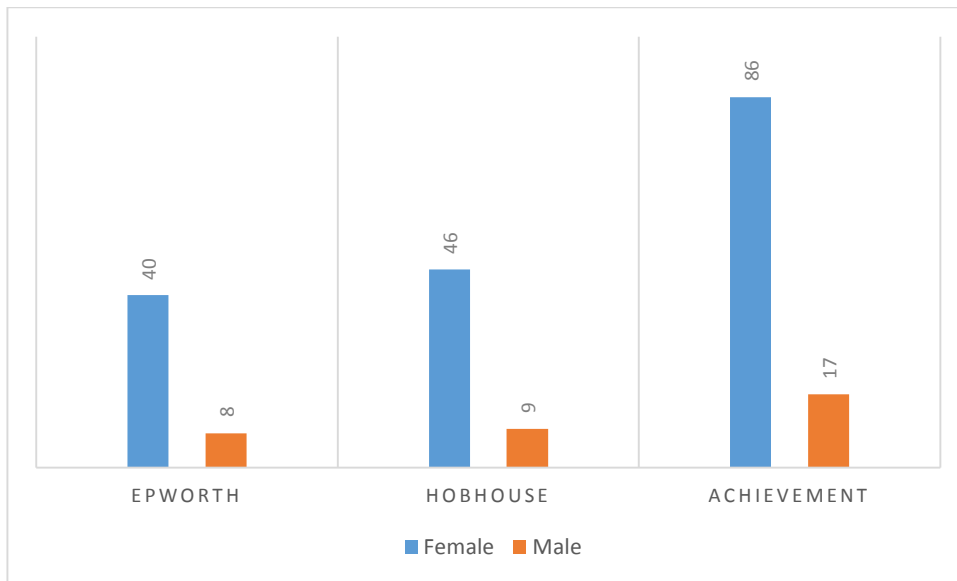
<http://www.radiovop.com/eds-vision-2030-alienating-citizens/>

<https://263chat.com/ed-administration-confused-directionless-zimcodd/>

#### 3.1.2 Fight inequality campaigns

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) in partnership with OXFAM and Action Aid International participated in the **Global Week of Action against Inequality** which ran from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. The campaign was done through community meetings and media platforms.

Two (2) community meetings were conducted in Epworth, Harare and Hobhouse, Mutare. The meetings reached 103 participants as indicated in the graph below,



The campaigns were further propagated through various media platforms which include among them radio stations, television, twitter, blog site and Facebook to engage in online activism through sharing information on the Week of Action Against Inequality. This was done so that the campaign could have wide outreach targeting both citizens and people across the globe. Online activism also targeted the elites who were gathered in Davos during the same period so that they could be made aware of the terrible state of inequality in Zimbabwe and the world over for them to have a look at our recommendations for addressing inequality and bettering the lives of the ordinary citizens. A press conference highlighting sectoral demands to reduce inequality induced poverty rounded the January campaign was held in partnership with Oxfam Zimbabwe and Action Aid International.

<https://www.reportfocusnews.com/2019/01/26/inequality-festers-as-ordinary-zimbabweans-hard-hit/>

<https://263chat.com/eds-middle-income-economy-status-vision-within-reach/>

<https://www.reportfocusnews.com/2019/01/26/inequality-festers-as-ordinary-zimbabweans-hard-hit/>

<http://bhizimusi.com/2019/03/01/growing-public-mistrust-hinders-future-development-prospects-zimcodd/>

### 3.1.3 Act Ubumbano

11 community stories on social and economic justice issues affecting different communities have been shared and posted on the Community Voice App following the training of 30 activists from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa at a training workshop that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 to the 28 February 2019. ZIMCODD as the host and moderator of the Act Ubumbano Community Voice App co-facilitated the training which was aimed at enhancing the capacity of activists in developing and sharing community stories through mobile phone technology.

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

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/terrible-blast-in-vosman/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/women-in-mining-speak/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/natural-resource-curse-the-case-of-kusena-community-marange/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/the-voice-of-the-voiceless/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/chws-shutdown-national-health-department/>

<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/the-working-poor-youth-and-women-in-mutare-zimbabwe/>

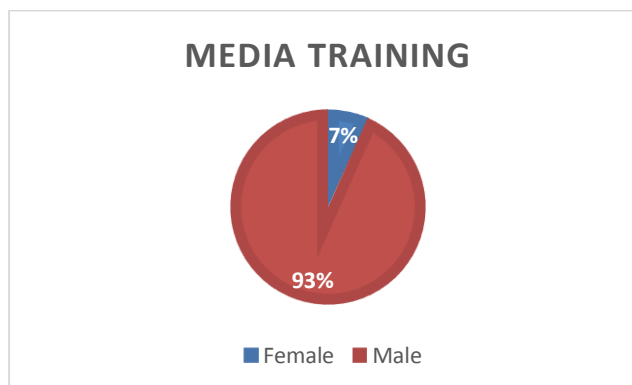


<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/sand-mining-in-ditwebeleng-village/>  
<https://ubumbanovoice.com/2019/03/illegal-sand-mining-continues-in-limpopo/>

### 3.2 Public Finance Management

#### 3.2.1 Sustainable Debt Campaign

Ten (10) debt related stories were published immediately after the media training on debt and development in Zimbabwe. This was a highlight that trained journalists developed interests in debt related issues. The media training targeted journalist from both public and private media. This was due to the fact that debt is a public interest issue and need to be reported objectively by all journalists despite the current polarisation of media in the country. A total of 30 participants (2 females and 28 males) attended the training. The gender imbalance was attributed to the gap that exists in the media industry in Zimbabwe, an indication that there is need to target women in the media fraternity.



Vlogs were also used as a means of raising awareness on the different implications of the nation's debt crisis. The videos were uploaded on various social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Youtube. The vlogs had 459 and 433 views on Twitter and Facebook respectively.

Activities Conducted	Outcome	Number of Videos	Notes			
Video recordings (Talking Debt in 120 seconds)	Increased citizens' voice (# of people taking action)	5	Tackled debt from different perspectives			
Video	Twitter	Facebook	Social Media Links			
	Likes	Retweets	Views	Views	People Reached	
Gender and Debt	10	9	96	101	49	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/zimcod.d.zimcodd/videos/1028476567349102/">https://www.facebook.com/zimcod.d.zimcodd/videos/1028476567349102/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/i/status/1105128778861289475">https://twitter.com/i/status/1105128778861289475</a>
Should Zimbabwe Borrow	8		77	46	07	<a href="https://twitter.com/i/status/1105128778861289475">https://twitter.com/i/status/1105128778861289475</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/515876198475634/videos/2253534968037004/">https://www.facebook.com/515876198475634/videos/2253534968037004/</a>
Unpacking socioeconomic implications of debt	11 (YouTube)			200	67	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/zimcod.d.zimcodd/videos/1024460687750690/">https://www.facebook.com/zimcod.d.zimcodd/videos/1024460687750690/</a>

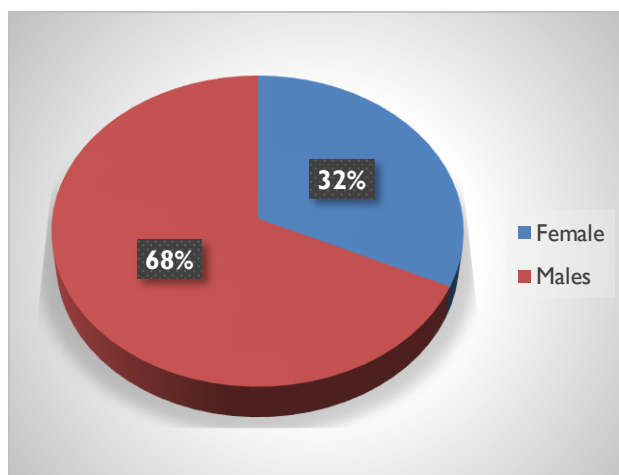
Role of Parliament in Public Debt Management	7	5	153	86	27	<a href="https://twitter.com/i/status/1107949915894894592">https://twitter.com/i/status/1107949915894894592</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/zimcod.d.zimcodd/videos/1032912376905521/">https://www.facebook.com/zimcod.d.zimcodd/videos/1032912376905521/</a>
Debt: Key Driver of Zim's Economic Turmoil	8	9	133	9 (Youtube)		<a href="https://youtu.be/oUqFQMo0B8E">https://youtu.be/oUqFQMo0B8E</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/i/status/1100034857814683649">https://twitter.com/i/status/1100034857814683649</a>

Two (2) debt animation videos were developed and shared on various media platforms. The videos which were produced in a sequence defined public debt in simple terms that could be understood by ordinary citizens, giving a description of both domestic and external debt. The videos shared the specific debts owed to bilateral and multilateral institutions and the overall debt as a percentage of GDP. The videos which were produced in a sequence defined public debt in simple terms, giving a description of both domestic and external debt. The animation videos were also used to underscore the effects odious and illegitimate debt on social and economic rights. These videos sparked debate mainly on social media. The videos were also shared at the High Level Debt Conference, opening further discussions among the participants. The animation had 5715 views on Twitter and 667 views on Facebook.

Activities Conducted	Outcome			Notes		
Animation Videos	Increased citizens' voice (# of people taking action)					
	Twitter			Facebook		Social Media Links
	Likes	Retweets	Views	Views	People Reached	
Animated 1 on @ZIMCODDI	18	14	507	403	94	<a href="https://twitter.com/i/status/1106440200501293056">https://twitter.com/i/status/1106440200501293056</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/zimcodd.zimcodd/videos/1029645883898837/">https://www.facebook.com/zimcodd.zimcodd/videos/1029645883898837/</a>
Animated 2 on	12	3	193	264	66	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/zimcodd.zimcodd/videos/1038283656368393/">https://www.facebook.com/zimcodd.zimcodd/videos/1038283656368393/</a>
@PacheduZW	214	126	5015			<a href="https://twitter.com/PacheduZW/status/1111869286732230656?s=19">https://twitter.com/PacheduZW/status/1111869286732230656?s=19</a>

### 3.2.2 Debt Strategy Paper Validation Meeting

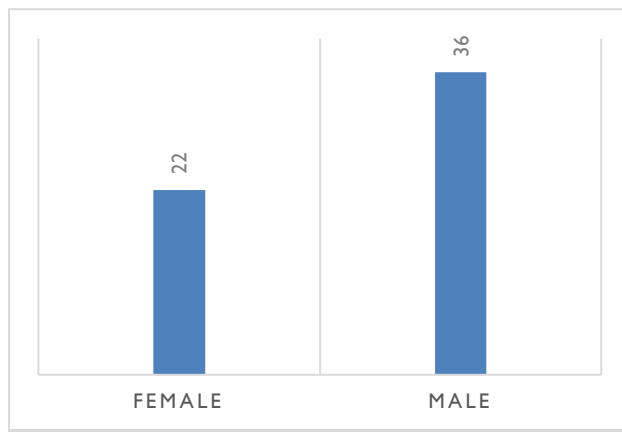
ZIMCODD accelerated its Lobby and advocacy by proposing an alternative framework for sustainable debt management in Zimbabwe. The Sustainable and Inclusive Debt Management Framework (SIDMaF) is based on a comprehensive analysis of both external and domestic debt stock in Zimbabwe. SIDMaF provides a clear road map for managing the debt to sustainable levels. The Framework (SIDMaF) is a product of intense



research, analysis and stakeholder inputs gathered during the research process as well as the validation workshop. About 32% of the participants to the validation were women whose inputs were helpful in understanding implications of debt on women rights. The validation process strengthened content and recommendations for addressing the current debt overhang augmented by a sustainability plan going forward. Stakeholder inputs strengthened the debt strategy paper in terms of understanding gender dynamics of debt, human, social and economic rights, parliamentary perspective and the oversight role of parliament. A comprehensive debt audit has been singled out as an important step in ascertaining the extent of the debt, the loan contraction process, how it was used and/or misused, evaluating the terms of the specific loans and how the loans benefitted Zimbabwe.

### 3.2.3 High Level Debt Management Conference

SIDMaF became a reference point for public debt management in Zimbabwe during the High Level debt Conference which brought together 60 (M=39;F=21) delegates representing, central government, Parliament of Zimbabwe, development agencies, private sector, renowned economists, the academia, civil society organisations as well as experts working on debt and debt related issues from the SADC region.



The High Level Debt conference stimulated debate on debt sustainability in Zimbabwe with members of parliament pledging their maximum support in ensuring that the government of Zimbabwe increase fiscal space for social spending. Mindful of the loopholes in

parliamentary oversight, members of parliament reaffirmed the need for restoring public confidence through constitutionalism and exercising transparency, accountability and inclusivity in loan contraction and in all lending and borrowing decisions. Policy engagements on debt management ensued during and after the high level debt conference. The Zimbabwe Aid and Debt Management Office (ZADMO) further opened up in terms of sharing information on debt and further engagements on debt management in Zimbabwe. To this effect, ZIMCODD has already been furnished with up to date statistics on debt as of December 2018 for further analysis. This engagement will go a long way in ZIMCODD's quest to influencing debt management in Zimbabwe.

### 3.2.3 International Lobby Meetings

There is willingness by the international community to engage Zimbabwe on debt resolution. However the government does not have the urgency to respond to the crisis. The IMF remains committed in ensuring that Zimbabwe implements sound macroeconomic policies in order to raise the level of economic growth that is attractive for new lines of credit. The IMF is now realising the past mistakes associated with the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) which calls for innovative and new ways of resolving the country's debt overhang. The international community supports the need for addressing the debt crisis through broad based structural, political and social interventions to ensure that the country will not get back to indebtedness in the event of debt cancellation. The international community further called for political will to ensure that the new framework will not further entrench the already poor people to debt and poverty.

### 3.3 Natural Resource Governance

#### 3.3.1 Alternative Mining Indaba, AMI

ZIMCODD escalated its advocacy campaign for transparency and accountability in natural resource governance to the regional level through a side session organised in collaboration with AFRODAD and Human Rights Watch on the sidelines of the Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa. The Mining Indaba's main objective was to advocate for sustainable and environmental and human friendly mining practices. The meeting was attended by a total of about 500 participants drawn from African and European countries. The Mining Indaba came out with key demands to cooperates, governments and other actors. These demands sought to promote a sustainable co-existence of mining activities and community livelihood sources. The main demands were focused on curbing illicit financial flows, increased social corporate responsibility to promote beneficiation of all parties, increasing women involvement in mining and strengthening regulation and legislation of the mining sector.

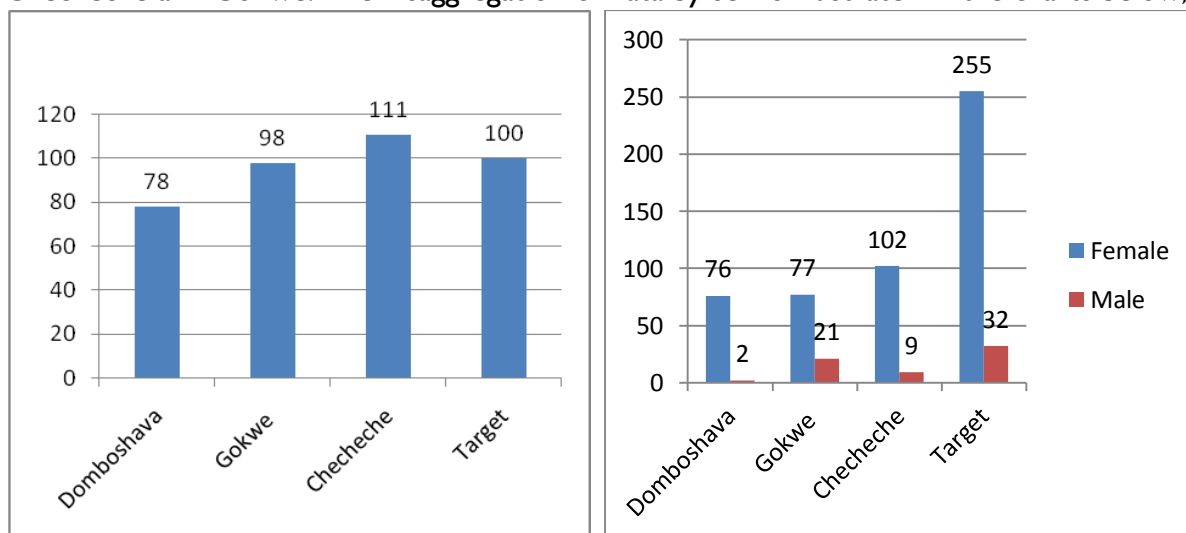
Several key action points were raised during AMI and these are as follows,

- Need for a private space to discuss women issues in mining sector.
- Stop advocacy for tokenism development but instead call for taxation of mining cooperates and let community's prioritize their development.
- AMI needs to carryout research and advocacy on transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy to do away with the current highly energy intensive mining which produces 70% dirty energy.
- AMI to set up community engagement committee with Anglo-American

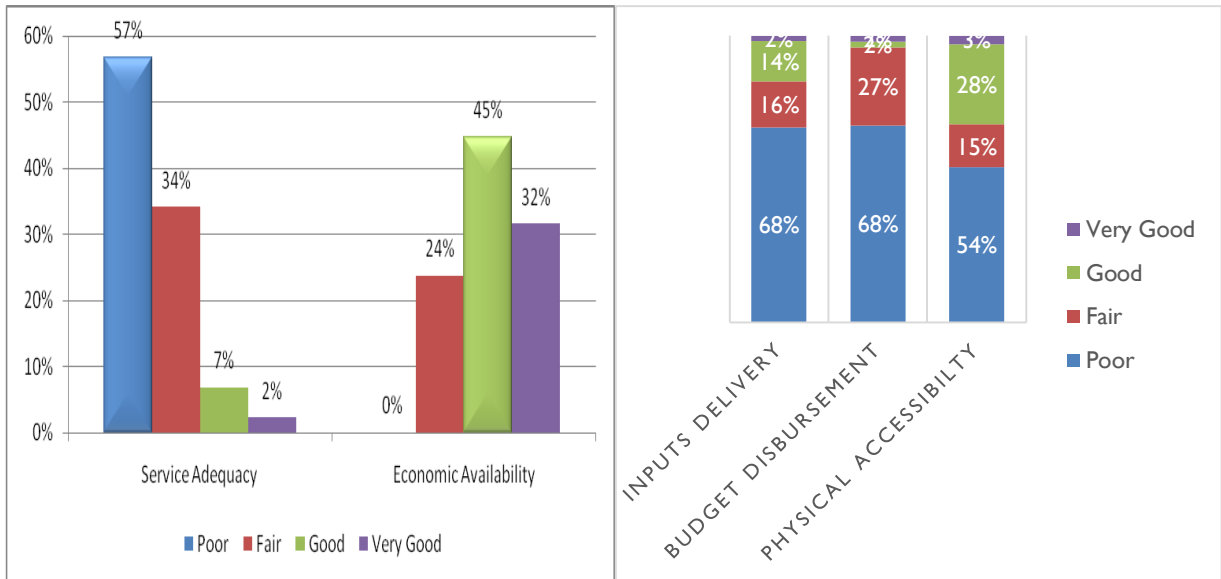
### 3.4 Trade Justice and Livelihoods

#### 3.4.1 Awareness Raising Meetings on the Future of Command Agriculture

A total of 287 participants (255 females & 32 males) were reached during the 3 awareness raising meetings conducted by ZIMCODD under the theme 'Positioning the agricultural sector in the 2030 Upper-Middle Income Economy Agenda (U-MIE Agenda)' in Domboshava, Checheche and Gokwe. The disaggregation of data by sex is illustrated in the charts below,

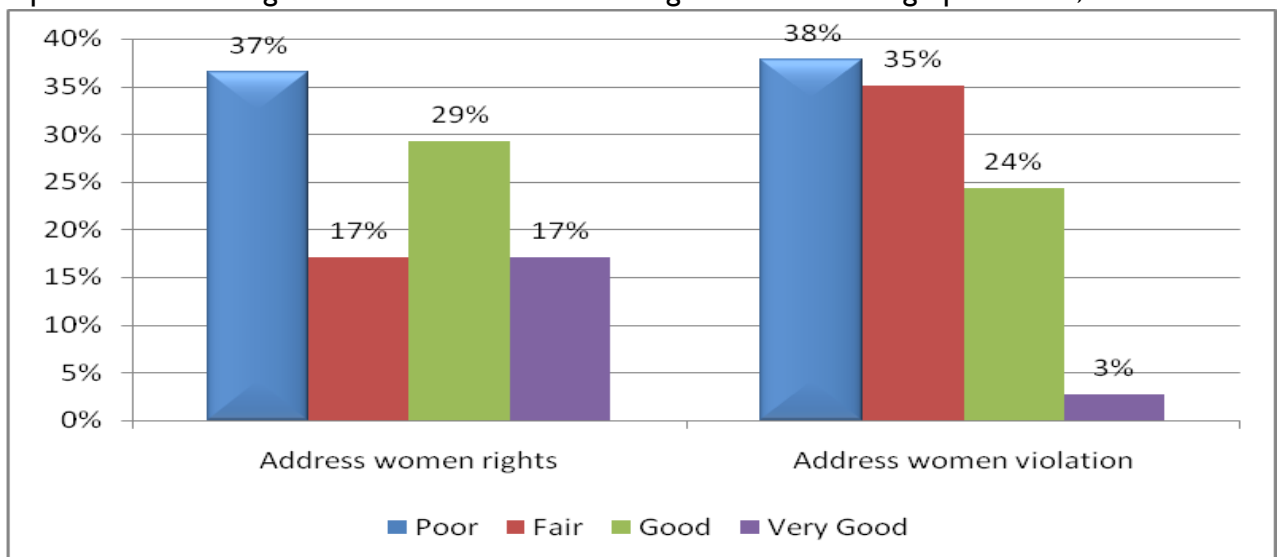


The participants were drawn from ZIMCODD livelihoods assemblies. The issues which emerged from the meeting include lack of transparency and information sharing on contracts for Command Agriculture as most farmers lack knowledge about its contractual obligations and that small holder farmers still have difficulties in accessing agricultural loans due lack of collateral. This affects women mostly because they also do not own land. Various actions points were captured and ZIMCODD is engaging with government line ministries and departments to address issues raised by farmers. The perceptions of farmers with regard to command agriculture and the presidential input scheme are summarised in the graphs below;



More than 70% of the farmers bemoaned the late disbursement of inputs, inadequacy of the inputs and inaccessibility to both inputs and agricultural extension services. The late disbursement affects yields and hence food security in Zimbabwe. Late delivery of inputs by the government delayed planting by farmers.

Gender disparities continue to be revealed in provision of inputs. More female farmers reported both infringement and violation of their rights. Refer to the graphs below;



### 3.5 Movement Building

#### 3.5.1 Southern Africa People Solidarity Network

ZIMCODD became the host of the permanent secretariat for the Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN) with effect from January 2019. The SAPSN website, Facebook page and Twitter handle have since been developed.

<https://www.facebook.com/Southern-African-Peoples-Solidarity-Network-2343487539015229/?tn-str=k%2AF>

The secretariat has also produced 2 statements on the status of the civil unrest which were caused by the unjustified fuel increases in the country and also responded to SADC Chairperson Statement on the political and socioeconomic situation in Zimbabwe. Both statements got coverage in the main stream media thereby increasing awareness and publicity on the issues of concern among citizens.

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/01/csos-call-for-sadc-special-summit-on-zim/>

<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2019/02/19/sadc-chair-lied-on-zim-situation>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/02/sa-civic-groups-blast-sadc-over-zim-rights-violations/>

<https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/sapsn-statement-to-the-sadc-chairperson-on-zimbabwes-current-crisis/>

### **3.5.2 Networking with other Partners**

ZIMCODD continued to network with various stakeholders and during the period under review, the organisation attended the following meetings:

- ✓ OXFAM – Zimbabwe Inequality Report Project Inception Meeting;
- ✓ TIZ- Gender and Corruption workshop
- ✓ Interacted with the members supported by PACT during the brainstorming meeting on the national dialogue
- ✓ Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) – Dialogue Meeting on Mining for Sustainable Development;
- ✓ Pact – Brainstorming Meeting on the National Dialogue;
- ✓ ZEPARU and African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) to validate two researches on corruption and service delivery in fragile states
- ✓ Community Water Alliance – Harare Water Conference;
- ✓ National Economic Consultative Forum- Anti corruption Strategy

## **SECTION 4: AHA MOMENT**

### **Scoop for ZIMCODD: The government buy-in to a national debt audit**

#### **Context**

Zimbabwe has been in debt distress since 2000 and this has dismally affected the country's economic performance. Having realised the inconsistencies and breaches of constitutional provisions in Zimbabwe's debt contraction processes, ZIMCODD (since inception in 2000) has been calling for a comprehensive debt audit to ascertain the country's level of indebtedness, how it was accrued and used. Nevertheless, to date, the government has been turning a deaf ear to such a critical call.

#### **Impact**

For the past months, ZIMCODD escalated the call for a national debt audit through various initiatives aimed at giving various stakeholders, including the government, an opportunity to deliberate on the country's current unsustainable debt situation and collaborate on possible means of effectively managing it in the future. In February 2019, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development George Guvamatanga, disclosed that that the Ministry is undertaking a debt audit to ascertain the level of government debt. The Permanent Secretary attributed non-compliance to the Public Debt Management Act and Public Finance Management Act, which compel Treasury to disclose unbudgeted expenditure and debt contraction to Parliament, to a systematic failure in the whole chain of government as such he revealed that a review is on-going to establish the purpose and use of the debt and will be presented to Parliament.

This move by the government to undertake a debt audit was born out of ZIMCODD's pressure for a national debt audit with the coalition having tirelessly highlighted that, the debt frameworks adopted by the government, LIMA Strategy included, would not yield results in the quest for sustainable debt management without a comprehensive debt audit.

#### **Need for further interventions**

Although ZIMCODD has managed to convince the government on the need for a debt audit, it needs to further enlighten the government that a national debt audit is not just about numbers but should be a people led process, taking into consideration the aspect of legality, inclusivity, human rights and social impact of debt as espoused in ZIMCODD's Sustainable and Inclusive Debt Management Framework (SIDMaF).

## Evidence

### ZIMCODD Interventions (Not Exhaustive)

1. Zimbabwe needs a Debt Audit (2009)  
[https://www.jubileeaustralia.org/\\_blog/Latest\\_news/post/Zimbabwe\\_needs\\_a\\_Debt\\_Audit/](https://www.jubileeaustralia.org/_blog/Latest_news/post/Zimbabwe_needs_a_Debt_Audit/)
2. ECONOMY: Zimbabwe Can't Repay Loans; Insisting on "Debt Strategy" (2009)  
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2009/07/economy-zimbabwe-cant-repay-loans-insisting-on-quotdebt-strategyquot/>
3. ZIMCODD to intensify calls for debt audit (2010)  
<https://www.thezimbabwean.co/2010/09/zimcodd-to-intensify-calls-for-debt-audit/>
4. Zim needs debt moratorium: ZIMCODD  
<https://www.thezimbabwean.co/2010/10/zim-needs-debt-moratorium-zimcodd-2/>
5. Audit Zim's US\$10bn debt — ZIMCODD (2013)  
<https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2013/04/12/audit-zims-us10bn-debt-zimcodd/>
6. ZIMCODD calls for official debt audit (2016)  
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/zimcodd-calls-official-debt-audit/>
7. RBZ Urged To Publish Amount Of Externalized Funds And Assets Recovered (2018)  
<https://news.pindula.co.zw/2018/02/13/rbz-urged-to-publish-amount-of-externalized-funds-and-assets-recovered/>

### Impact

Audit to ascertain government's debt underway

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/02/audit-to-ascertain-govts-debt-underway/>

## 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 bear the burden of unpaid care work due to their gender roles in society. This is further exacerbated by the 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 the care they need. 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 Learnt

- It is critical to standardize monitoring and evaluation tools as this will ensure reliable and consistent performance monitoring of the project activities.
- Continuous context and situation monitoring remains critical in ensuring relevance and adaptability of programs in the current rapid changing context.

### 5.3 Risk Assessment and Challenges

- The civil unrest in the country disturbed the implementation of some project activities during the Global week against inequality.
- The government crackdown on civic leaders continue to pose security threats to civil society staff and their constituency. The planned NGO bill is a manifestation of shrinking civic and political space in Zimbabwe.

## Section 6: Sources of Evidence

### 6.1 Debt Management Media mentions annexes

<http://kalabashmedia.com/2019/03/22/a-hoax-called-budget-surplus-and-why-steal-tobacco-money/>  
<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2019/03/24/zim-debt-should-be-audited>  
<https://www.263chat.com/debt-audit-call-grows-louder-as-citizens-suffer-the-brunt/>  
<https://www.herald.co.zw/commercial-loans-wont-help-clear-debts/>  
<https://equityaxis.net/2019/03/28/zim-debt-crisis-zimcodd-urges-formation-of-a-sustainable-and-inclusive-debt-management-framework/>  
<https://equityaxis.net/2019/03/28/gvt-urged-to-be-clever-when-mortgaging-mineral-resources-for-development/>  
<https://equityaxis.net/2019/03/28/hipc-or-debt-audit-the-battle-to-zim-debt-clearance/>  
<http://kalabashmedia.com/2019/03/29/government-may-have-secret-10-billion-debt/>  
<https://www.263chat.com/repression-costs-zimbabwe-billions/>  
<https://www.panafricanvisions.com/2019/zimbabwes-us17-billion-debt-sparks-round-table-debate/>  
<https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-159570.html>  
<https://www.herald.co.zw/zim-is-not-poor/>  
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/04/parly-committee-urges-transparency-on-debt/>  
<https://www.zimetro.co.zw/zimbabwe-debt-crisis-clocks-us18-billion/>  
<http://www.radiovop.com/sub-saharan-african-citizens-financing-own-oppression/>  
<https://www.chronicle.co.zw/zimbabwe-does-not-qualify-for-poor-nation-status/>  
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/04/parly-urged-to-tighten-screws-on-govt-debts/>  
<https://www.financialgazette.co.zw/?s=civil+society+calls+for+debt+audit>  
<https://www.reportfocusnews.com/african-news/zimbabwe/zimbabwes-national-debt-worrisome-zimcodd/>  
<https://nehandaradio.com/2019/03/22/zimbabwe-debt-crisis-clocks-us18-billion/>  
<http://www.radiovop.com/zims-debt-management-crisis-accelerates-worsening-poverty/>  
<https://www.panafricanvisions.com/2019/zimbabwean-authorities-urged-to-initiate-comprehensive-debt-audit-process/>  
[https://spiked.co.zw/hold-government-accountable-on-debt-media-told/?fbclid=IwAR0we\\_VZK7NU9\\_LbXV8d6UW07L5HK0cDZMIIN6HJMVM2ZDcgKGTiKrrdu\\_eac](https://spiked.co.zw/hold-government-accountable-on-debt-media-told/?fbclid=IwAR0we_VZK7NU9_LbXV8d6UW07L5HK0cDZMIIN6HJMVM2ZDcgKGTiKrrdu_eac)  
<https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2019/04/05/govt-debt-result-of-bad-governance/>

### OTHER

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/01/govt-urged-to-find-all-inclusive-economic-solutions/>  
<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2019/03/06/artisanal-mining-can-boost-economy>  
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/02/us-remains-the-base-currency-for-trading-zimcodd/>  
<http://bhizimusi.com/2019/03/01/growing-public-mistrust-hinders-future-development-prospects-zimcodd/>



## SECTION 7: Project Photographs



**Pic 1: Debt Strategy Paper validation meeting**



**Pic 2: Zimbabwe High Level Debt Conference**



**Pic 3: 2030 U-MIE Agenda Forum in Mutare**



**Pic 4: Awareness Raising Meeting on Public Expenditure in Agriculture meeting in Gokwe**