



ZIMCODD

ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT & DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SITUATIONAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2021



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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Across the globe, governments have harnessed public resource for the transformation and betterment of their communities. Optimum Public Resource Management (PRM) utilisation has helped governments to uphold social and economic rights (second generation rights) through viable public service delivery.

However, Zimbabwe has remained a case study of poor public resource management owing to corruption, mismanagement and abuse of public resources, abuse of office by public officials, political interventionism, lack of public accountability and citizen voice in PRM. This report presents an overview of public resources management in 57 districts across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces.

The primary data for this situational report has been collected by ZIMCODD's Community Resource Monitoring Agents (CORAs) who were capacitated to monitor, track, document and report the abuse of public resources at district level.

2. PURPOSE

The thrust for the monthly PRM situational analysis emerges from the ZIMCODD's unrelenting call to promote social and economic justice in Zimbabwe through optimum utilisation of public resources that is anchored on robust Public Finance Management principles clearly articulated in section 298 of the Zimbabwean constitution. Corruption, rent-seeking, self-aggrandizement and abuse and mismanagement of resources have resulted in poor service delivery. The Public Resource Management Situational Report (PRMSITREP) is premised on the call to bring about actionable recommendations that can be used to initiate a policy paradigm shift that is inclusive, transparent, accountable and effective.

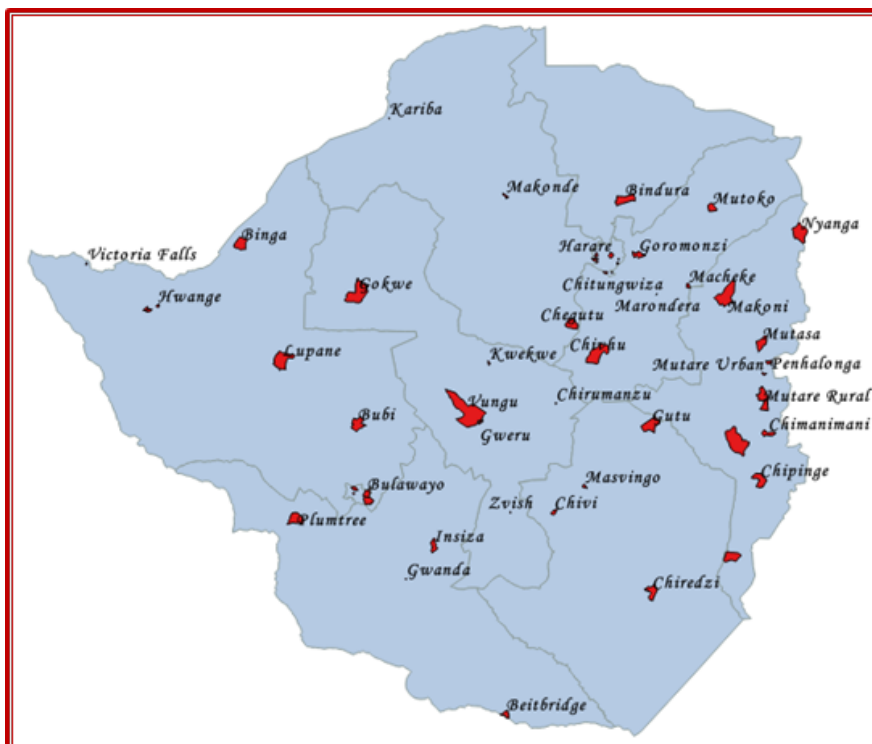
The research also seeks to amplify the voice of the citizens by informing the policy making machinery about the plight that citizens are encountering at community level. The aim is to influence citizen recourse against the apparent abuse of public resources. The initiative seeks to contribute to two main objectives which are:

- i. To build citizen agency in public resource monitoring and in particular, COVID-19 resources; and
- ii. To promote participation in economic governance at the local level.

3. METHODOLOGY

The PRM Situational Report used a mixed method research paradigm to bring about an exploratory study that captures community voices with respect to PRM utilisation. Thus, qualitative and quantitative dimensions were tapped into to bring about a comprehensive survey to inform advocacy issues. Convenience and purposive sampling played an imperative role in allowing the research to have an emic and etic perspective in the use of PRM.

Qualitative sampling was effective in ensuring that the research reaches a saturation level. While the quantitative helped in eliminating bias so as to infuse research reliability, dependability and trustworthiness, human Interest Stories (HIS) from CORAs were used to reinforce study findings. Thus 57 districts were sampled and used as illustrative case studies. The study catchment area is presented in Fig 1 below.



Source: ZIMCODD

4. CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN ZIMBABWE

The month of October started on a high note with respect to Public Resource Management (PRM) in Zimbabwe with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Budget leading nationwide consultations. The 2022 budget consultations were done at 23 centers across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces including cities, marginalized communities, and rural areas. This was a welcome development and a step towards national-wide consultations that are inclusive.

However, there are still factors that affect optimum public finance management that is people-centered and development-oriented. Some of the factors include choice of consultation venues, delays by the parliament teams, failure to popularize and disseminate the Budget Strategy Paper, wearing of security forces and partisan regalia. A good example is that of Gutu, where the parliament team was not only late, but also failed to compensate the time which the community lost.

The presence of partisan regalia was also visible for example masks and t-shirt of political parties. Although this issue was later addressed, it signified the amalgamation of politics and administration. The consultations were also not disability friendly as the presence of Persons With Disability (PWD) was still low reflecting on the failure of parliament to popularize the budget and ensure that they are represented equally and fairly.

Furthermore, economies of affection, corruption, resource leakages, exploitative mining practices, are some of the dynamics and factors that have underpinned PRM in Zimbabwe. Although the list is not exhaustive, the above have played a complimentary role in militating against robust PRM. The exploitative extractive nature of mining companies operating in Chiadzwa such as Anjin have continued to bring about misery and unhappiness among the communities and villages in ward 29 and 30 in Chiadzwa. Infrastructure backlog in areas such as roads, clinics, schools and other social amenities have become the trademark of Chinese mining operations in Chiadzwa. Poverty, exploitation, and unemployment have increased in a tremendous way, leaving most of the community members vulnerable and reliant on donors and well-wishers.

Chiadzwa community just like the entire Mutare rural is

depending on food distribution from the World Food Programme¹. The continuous suffering of community members in an environment with mineral wealth led to citizen expressing themselves through demonstrations against poor management of resources and exploitative extraction activities².

In a positive development, the demonstrations were led by headman Chiadzwa thereby refuting allegations that local leadership benefit from mining activities while the entire village is suffering.

In addition, impunity, and lack of rule of law hinders effective utilization of public resources and holding duty bearers to account as the fundamentals of transparency and accountability continue to be undermined. The way that Obadiah Moyo, the former Minister of Health's corruption case was acquitted is a case point that demonstrates how the courts continue to fail to deliver resolve on corruption cases³.

The former minister was alleged to have violated procurement procedures as detected in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22:23) by giving a directive that Drax International be given a US\$ 60 million tender without following due process. Despite overwhelming evidence that points to the Minister's involvement in the scandal and his unceremonial dismissal that attest to the minister's inclination, the courts ruled otherwise. This validates the arguments in the academic and governance corridors that rule by law, impunity and lack of rule of law are among the challenges that are militating against optimum utilization of public resources in Zimbabwe.

The month of October was also characterized by electricity blackouts. The power cuts were stretching for about 12 hours in many areas across the country and the toll this is having on the economy and the general populace cannot be overemphasized. This is attributed to tattering domestic electricity generation, 920-Megawatt Hwange Thermal Power Station being the top-line contributor. It is reported that there are frequent breakdowns at the aging thermal station coupled with low imports from regional power production giants like Eskom of South Africa⁴.

1. The Lean Season Assistance
2. Chiadzwa villagers demonstrate against graveyard desecration - NewsDay Zimbabwe
3. Ex-health minister Obadiah Moyo acquitted - NewsDay Zimbabwe
4. Zesa promises to improve electricity supply | The Herald

Electricity production at Zimbabwe's Kariba South Hydro Power Station was also affected by scheduled maintenance. The situation is becoming out of hand and government's silence and failure to provide viable and sustainable alternatives remains a cause for concern. This has also undermined efforts by businesses particularly the informal sector which is still struggling to come out of the COVID-19 induced shocks. It is evident from the series of electricity blackouts that, there is a lot to be done if Zimbabwe is to attain vision 2030 as electricity is a determining factor in business investment.

Moreover, the health sector has not been spared by poor public resource management. The sector just like the entire public sector is in a calamitous situation coupled with antiquated and ramshackle infrastructure. The sector does not have facilities for patients with chronic diseases such as Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), cancer, multiple sclerosis, heart disease to mention but a few. In October, the media was flooded with stories of how cancer patients are being neglected due to the unavailability of radiotherapy, radiology and oncology equipment.

It is ironic that in the month that citizens are supposed to be celebrating their fight against cancer with survivors, they are lamenting over the dilapidated state of public health institutions. Even health professionals' lament over poor machinery. This can be attested by Adriana Rutendo Mafukidze⁵, a radiologist therapist at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospital whose narration gives a glimpse of how helplessness cancer patients are, due to lack of equipment and resources for treatment of the disease. Public health's incapacitation has made the disease a death sentence leaving cancer patients with no hope of survival except preparing for their departure to the next life.

Family Health Director in the Ministry of Health and Childcare, Dr Bernard Madzima, admitted to government's incapacitation when he shared that, "until recently, the country had no prevention and treatment strategy for cancer". This lack of agency and preparedness in dealing with such life-threatening disease is a cause of concern. Thus, there is need for government to re-orient its strategy in dealing with the same. Therefore, if Zimbabwe is to attain vision 2030, it has

5. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/11/cancer-patients-neglected/>

to invest in the health sector as this will directly culminate in the transmutation of human capital development, increase life expectancy and reduce mortality rate.

The call for transparency continues to gain momentum in Zimbabwe as the #HOWFAR campaign continues to empower citizens to ask critical questions that speak to the utilization of public resources. While it is worth commending the efforts being done by the government in rehabilitating roads across the country, particularly the Harare-Beitbridge road which serves as a hub and gateway of South Africa and the rest of the continent. It is critical to note that, roads in the rural areas have been neglected and are becoming death traps. This can be evidenced by Gokwe-Chireya⁶ to Nembudziya road. This can be attested by the following pictures.

Figure 2: Broken bridges along the Gokwe Chireya to Nembudziya road



Source: Captured by Authors

6. Gokwe Chireya is one of the 23 centres where 2022 budget consultation meetings were conducted

5. PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SURVEY FINDINGS

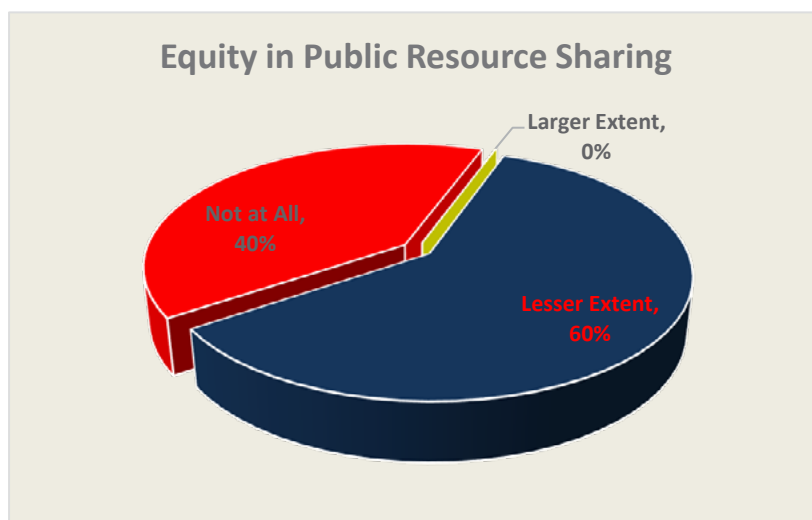
Effective Public Resource Management (PRM) remains the bedrock of national development and growth as it has the potent to bring about societal transformation. Prudent utilisation of public resources allows the government to fulfil its social contract. This section presents a synopsis of how public resources are being managed in Zimbabwe.

5.1 Availability of public resources of economic value in your districts

All respondents, across the 10 provinces, confirmed the presence of public resources of economic value in their districts and called for prudent use of those resources for public good. The identified public resources include land; water; timber; gas; wildlife; forestry; estates; quartz; tourist attraction sites; fish; kapenta; minerals such as coal, gold, limestone, chrome, diamonds, dolomite, black granite, white granite, quarry, copper; roads; schools; boreholes; hospitals; and clinics. Across the 57 districts, citizens continue to pin their hopes on prudent utilization of these public resources for realization of social and economic justice at the local level.

5.2 Equal and equitable distribution of benefits of public resources

Figure 3: Distribution of benefits from Local Public Resources



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

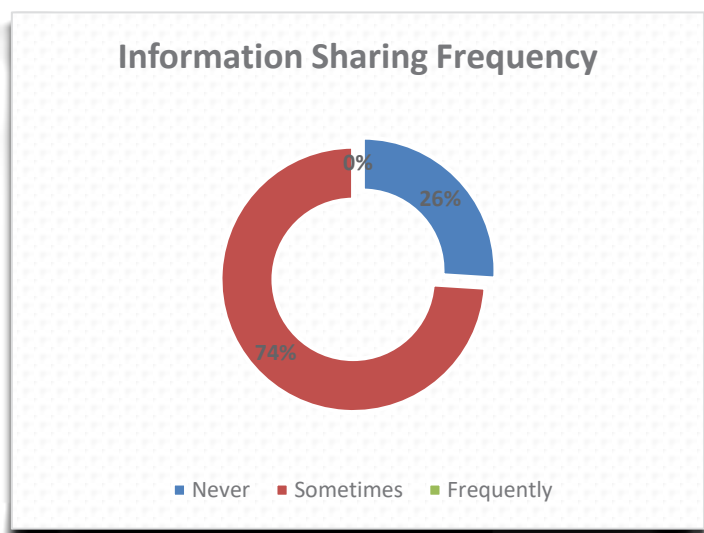
The chart above shows that the benefits from public resources are not being shared equitably in Zimbabwe. In 34 districts (60%), respondents reported that benefits from public resources are to a lesser extent distributed while in 23 districts (40%) the report was that public resources are not distributed equally or equitably

5.3 Citizen consultation on Decisions to do with Public Resources

The survey revealed that in 23 districts (40%) respondents are sometimes consulted on decisions to do with public resources in their districts while in 34 districts (60%) respondents are not even consulted when authorities make decisions to do with public resources. Where citizens are consulted, the survey established that the consultations are ceremonial and not genuine.

5.4 Citizens' access to information on public resources

Figure 4: Local Authority's frequency in sharing public resources information

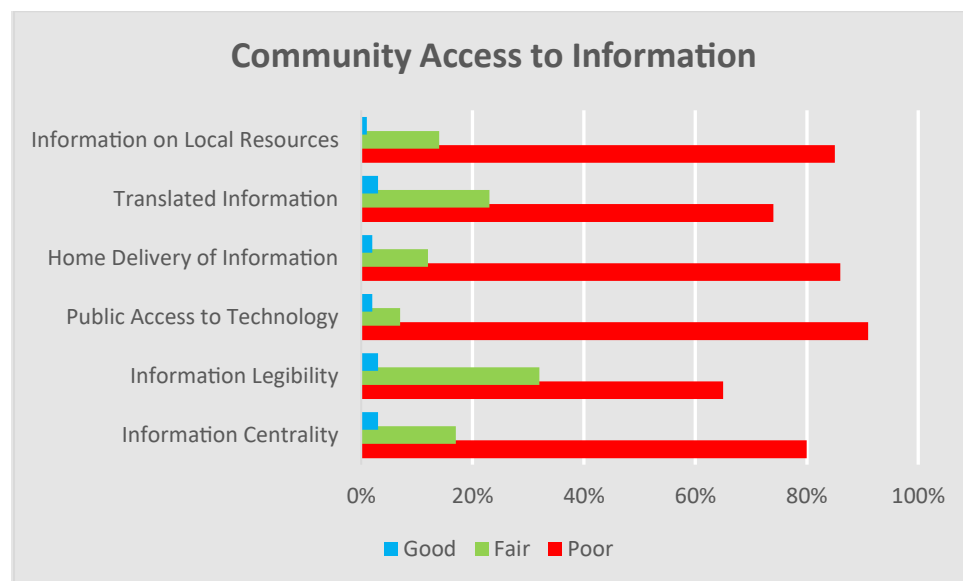


Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

26% of respondents reported that local authorities never share information on public resources while 74% reported that local authorities sometimes share information on public resources. This resonates with the findings in 5.3 above where local authorities sometimes consult citizens when it comes to public resources management. Resultantly, the lack of consultation or information impedes on meaningful citizen participation in economic governance in their districts.

Even when 74% of respondents noted that information on public resources is sometimes shared, the survey also assessed community access to such information and the findings are presented below

Figure 5: Access to information at local authority level



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The graph above shows that access to public information was rated poorly on all the variables across all the 57 districts. On citizen's access to information in one central source at community level (80% rated it poor), access to clearly displayed printed community information/legibility (65% rated it poor), free access to computers and the Internet (ICT) in public places (poorly rated in 91% of the districts), community information that is delivered in person to people who have difficulties leaving their home (86% rated it poor), community information that is

available and translated in a number of different languages (rated poor in 74% districts) and, information on natural and public resource such as minerals and wildlife (rated poor in 85% of the districts).

In essence citizen access to public resources information is generally poor across all districts and such deliberate misinformation creates avenues for corruption, mismanagement, and abuse of public resources by public officials.

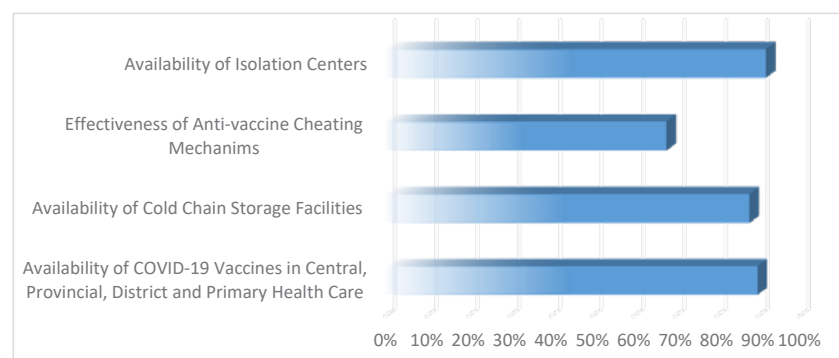
5.6 Access to Devolution Funds Information

In 49 districts (87%) respondents reported that there was knowledge about devolution funds while in 8 districts (13%) there was no knowledge of such information. Where the information was available, it varied from one district to the other. What was common among the 49 districts was the lack of granular details on the devolution expenditure and variances thereof. Another pertinent issue raised by respondents was the absence of a clear devolution disbursement/distribution framework which militates against responsive effective and transparent devolution. The continued lack of transparency and accountability on devolution remains a barrier to prudent public resource management and effective citizen oversight.

5.7 COVID-19 Resources and Key Issues

The month of October registered relatively low and stable COVID-19 cases coupled with a 94% -96% national recovery rate. The lockdown level two was maintained throughout the month with gatherings limited to 100 people (fully vaccinated) only. The reduction of infection rate, deaths and an increase in national recovery rate is largely attributed to the growing knowledge about the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.

Figure 6 below shows COVID-19 Management.



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The findings from the survey shows an improvement in COVID-19 management. The availability of COVID-19 vaccines in Central, Provincial, District and Primary Health Care was rated 90% with the availability of cold chain storage facilities attaining 88%. The availability of isolation centers across the 57 districts was rated 91% with the effectiveness of anti-vaccine mechanisms scoring 68%.

For the first time since April, ZIMCODD`s monthly flagship PRM SITREP recorded a positive performance throughout COVID-19 management. This can be largely attributed to its viable and actionable recommendations that it has been giving since April with respect to pandemic management. The improvement in pandemic management can also be attested by the case study below:

Case 1: Budiro Polyclinic to Be Applauded for Adequate COVID-19 Vaccination

Earlier in May 2021, Zimbabwe has been facing a shortage of COVID-19 vaccines for more than a month, despite the government's push to inoculate at least 60% of the country's estimated 14 million by the end of year 2021. That shortage had resulted in many hospitals and clinics including Budiro Polyclinic in Harare turning away people who wanted to be vaccinated hence threatening the survival of many from the COVID-19 pandemic.

They had run out of vaccines, therefore on the 2 million jobs received amid the month of May, there was need for fair and proper planning, monitoring, distribution and management of the vaccines by the Government. Budiro Polyclinic that time has been turning people away and when the vaccines came, it experienced long queues yet only 100 people would be saved per day. People in and around Budiro would wake up as early as 2am in order to be vaccinated at a clinic which opens at 8am if not later.

However, of late, the situation has changed and the clinic now has a remarkable improvement on the vaccination rate and availability of vaccines. For the past 2 months, Budiro Polyclinic has never run out of vaccines and has been offering continuous vaccination to people in and around Budiro. It is

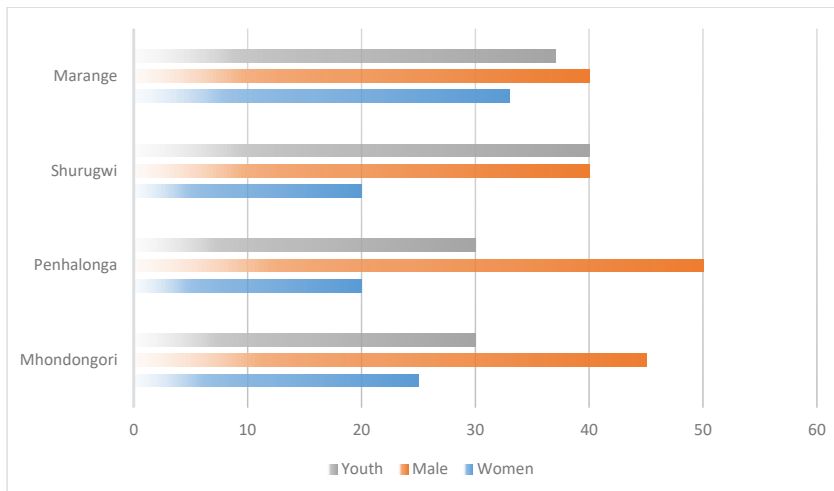
pleasing to see an increasing trend in the coverage of routine vaccination. In a conversation with the senior nurse at the facility, she reported vaccinating 100 people or even more on a daily basis and now that the pressure is less, they are well managing the numbers. She said no one is being turned away anymore as vaccines are available and also people are coming in less numbers now, since many have received both their first and second jabs. The availability of vaccines at the facility led to many people being vaccinated thereby cutting off queues. There is no longer a need for people to wake up early hours, risking their safety.

5.8 Natural resource extraction

The Natural Resource Governance (NRG) sector has remained closed for the politically exposed persons and foreign owned entities that are aligned to the ruling elite. The survey noted that mining host communities are systematically excluded in natural resource governance. This is despite the availability of legal frameworks that speaks to devolution and empowerment of communities.

The call for devolution and inclusion of local people in economic governance is well articulated in section 264 (2) of the constitution. Nevertheless, there has been discrepancies in the implementation of the same as projected by the findings from this survey. Across all surveyed communities' participation rating were low. The inclusion of youth in economic governance in mining communities were rated as follows: Mhondongori, Penhalonga 30%, Shurugwi 40% and Marange 37% while rating for inclusion of men were as follows: Mhondongori 25%, Penhalonga 20% Shurugwi 20% and 33% for Marange. For women 45% are included in economic governance in Mhondongori, 50% in Penhalonga, 40% in Shurugwi and 40% in Marange. This can be substantiated by graph below:

Figure 7: Inclusion of Mining Communities in decision making



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

Following months of uproar from the residents of Mutoko, in October 2021 the government gave attention to the plight of the people of Mutoko. For months, the residents of Mutoko have been lamenting about the Chinese and other foreign national companies which have been mining granite with no benefits accruing to the community. The scale and magnitude of granite extraction was not commensurate with community development. In an interview with the News Hawks, Chief Mutoko lamented that:

"We are not benefitting anything from these miners, they are just taking away our precious stones. We want them to develop the community. We have clinics and schools which are under-developed and they have to look after those developments⁷ "

The above assertion by Chief Mutoko points to the exploitative nature of mining companies that were operating in Mutoko. The situation was further aggravated by the fact that the mining companies were not only destroying the ecosystem of Mutoko by their unsustainable mining activities in which they were just taking down trees and leaving mining pits without filling them which puts humans and livestock at risk. They were also encroaching into people's homes without the consent of the occupiers. This led to the setup of a high-powered delegation comprised of cabinet ministers and ruling party provincial

7. <https://thenewshawks.com/granite-miners-anger-mutoko-communities/>

leaders led by Chief Nyajina⁸.

The delegation gave a notice to cancel the certificate of registration for Kaseke ME1256BM and Chibvi2 ME1253BM mining claims in alignment with section 50(1) of the Mines and Minerals Act (Chapter 21:05). To this effect, 6 December 2021 was set as the proposed date of cancellation.

ZIMCODD welcomes the development as it entrenches social and economic justice in Mutoko. This is because the previous decision to relocate the people of Mutoko had not be met by adequate infrastructure that is needed to sustain a decent livelihood at the same time the company has been failing to service existing and develop new infrastructure that matches the effects of their mining activities. Be that as it may, ZIMCODD also calls upon the government to intervene on the Chiadzwa case in which Anjin is being accused of exploiting the local people.

8. Govt kicks Hejjin out of Uzumba - NewsDay Zimbabwe

6. SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY FINDINGS

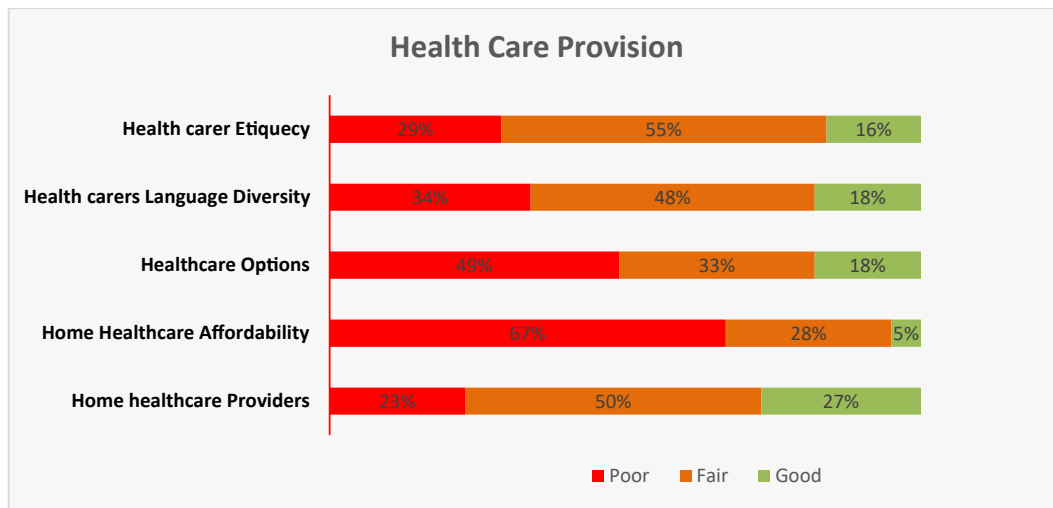
Zimbabwe is disproportionately bearing the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic relative to other regional counterparts because of its structural makeup that depends significantly on the export of raw commodities (mineral and agricultural), an economy that is highly (60%) informalized and rising institutionalized corruption. As evidenced by the Auditor-General's 2019 audit reports on all government levels (Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); State-Owned Enterprises and Parastatals; and Local Authorities) as well as the Special Audit Report on COVID-19 relief funds, corruption has become a thorn in the flesh for the general public.

The resources that are meant for social service delivery and welfare are being abused, misused, embezzled, and diverted into individual pockets of public officials. Minerals and mineral revenues are being siphoned out of the country at a greater pace thus prejudicing the Treasury of the direly needed resources to support development programs. Ironically, the government is not sufficiently providing social safety nets for vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities (PWD), the elderly, orphans, youth, and women. Therefore, this section will unpack the state of social service delivery in Zimbabwe guided by survey results from the 57 districts sampled across Zimbabwe.

6.2 Availability of Health Care Providers

For an efficient provision of quality health care, health care providers must be well trained, motivated (financially and non-monetary), and have a diverse language to accommodate all people within a community. It is crucial to note that health care professionals are the cornerstone of health service delivery as they are the custodians and fountains of health knowledge. This has been attested by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which quick solutions such as social distancing, mask-wearing, quarantine strategies, and hygiene practices were devised by health care professionals before the development of vaccines to avert the spread of the virus. Despite the threat of the contagious virus, it is the same healthcare professionals that were on the frontline to fight the pandemic and protect the citizens.

Figure 8: Health Care Provision



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The survey results show that there are few healthcare options available with 49% of the respondents rating available options as poor, 33% viewing it as fair and only 18% are satisfied with the available options. In terms of the language diversity of health care professionals, 48% of respondents ranked it as fair and 18% as good while 34% were of the view that health professionals are not language diverse.

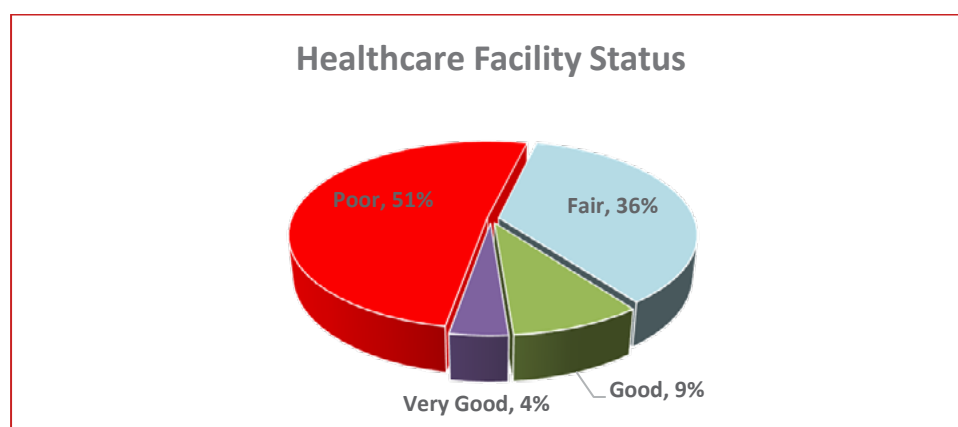
Language diversity helps patients in relaying their health problems hence the prescription of the right medicine. As for health carer etiquette (helpful and respectful), 55% of the sampled districts ranked it as fair with only 29% rating it as poor. The survey also found that 67% of available home health care institutions are not affordable for the majority of people. These home health care institutions are currently key in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic as they facilitate the provision of decentralized health services to avoid congestion at district hospitals.

6.3 Quality of Health Care

In an ideal situation, the provision of private health care options should be available for the citizens not as the only option but to augment public health care. However, in Zimbabwe, private health care and insurance have become the cornerstone of health care as the public option is decimating largely due to a

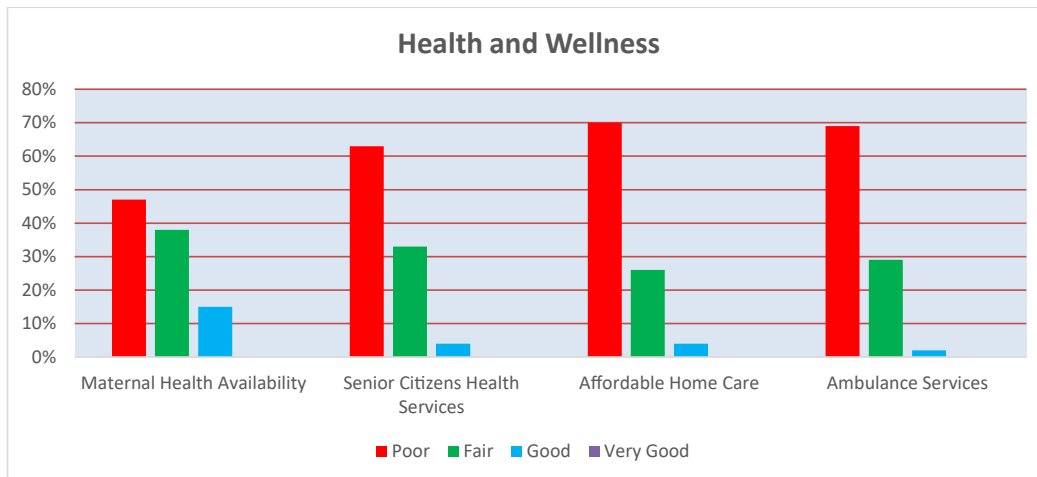
lack of budgetary support. For the last decade, the government has been failing to spend at least 15% of the national budget on the health sector contrary to the Abuja Declaration. The little availed budget funds have been consumed by recurrent expenditures (wages and salaries) at the expense of capital spending (rehabilitation and upgrading of existing health care infrastructure as well as the construction of new infrastructure to penetrate undeserved communities).

Figure 9: Health Care Facility Status



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

In line with the foregoing, the survey found that 51% of public health care facilities across Zimbabwe are poor, 36% are fair and only 9% are in good conditions. This has left the private health care market thriving. However, this market is only for the rich who can afford high charges which are now fully largely in forex. The majority of Zimbabweans are earning in local currency, a currency that is struggling to find balance against hard currencies like the US dollar. This is an injustice to the vulnerable citizens who should otherwise be benefiting from the cheap services provided by the government.



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

Apart from infrastructure, the survey found that 69% of health institutions across the country have poor ambulance services with only 29% ranking it as fair. This is not surprising because the 2019 OAG report revealed the same. For instance, the report reviewed that the entire City of Mutare had one ambulance serving the entire city. Ambulance services are key to attending to health emergencies like maternal care and road accidents where people need help the most.

Also, ZIMCODD's survey found that about 63% of senior citizens' health care services in Zimbabwe are poor with only 4% ranked as good. This is a worrisome trend given the paltry monthly pensions being given to the elderly (pensioners) by NSSA. These pensions are a mockery as the cost of living continues to rise. While the gesture by the government that the elderly should not pay for user fees at public institutions is commendable, the shortage of medicines, medical equipment, and medical staff at these institutions defy the logic.

From the maternal front, the survey found that 47% of the services are poor, 38% are fair and 15% are good. This finding is disheartening given how prenatal and postpartum maternal health is critical to a mother's physical and mental well-being and its contribution to her ability to render loving, proper care to her new born child at birth and years thereafter.

Munemo clinic, Nyanga District opens 23 years later

Munemo clinic was opened on 29 September 2021 after the construction started 23 years ago. Munemo is in ward 5 in Nyanga north district. Munemo villagers and other nearby villagers used to walk long distances to other districts in search of medical care. Walking long distances was a burden to women, children, and people with disability because some would walk about 10 to 15 kilometres to the nearest health centres. While government reckons the need to improve people's standards of living, some people in remote areas are still facing a lot of challenges.

Munemo clinic was built by Nyanga rural district council using devolution funds of 2021. Before the completion of the clinic, ZIMCODD CORAs went to the district offices 3 times to request information on devolution funds, how much the district was allocated, and how the funds are being utilized. Two months after the CORAs engagement with authorities, Nyanga District Council published that ZW\$36 million was utilized in road construction, vegetation clearance, and drainage structuring on World View road, Troutbeck-Nyafaru road, Charamba-Chirimanyimo road, and Nyakupinga- Mutaradzi road.

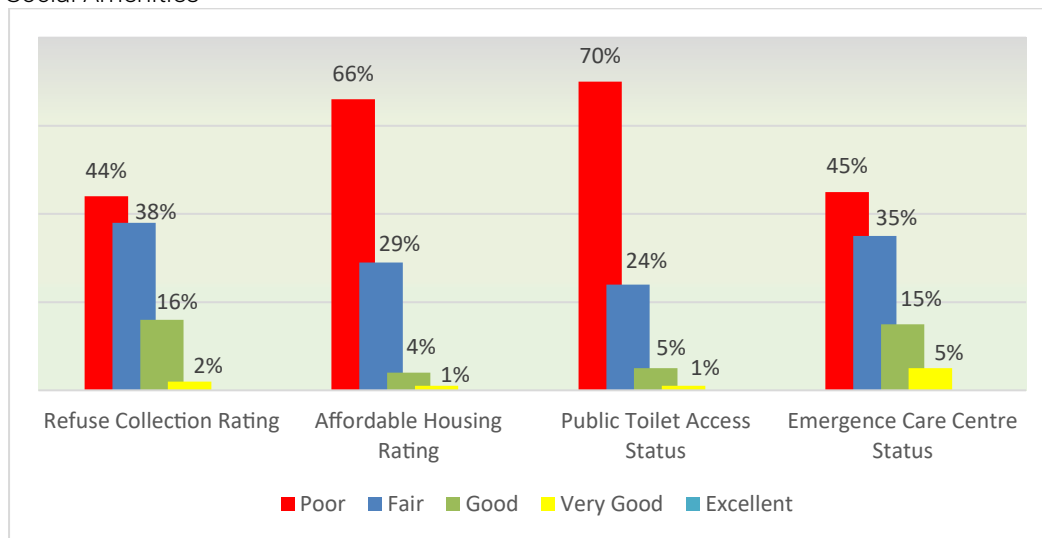
The absence of a clinic in Munemo claimed the lives of many people. Some women lost their lives and some lost their babies through the traditional way of delivering since there was no close health care centre. The Munemo residents are appealing to the government to supply enough drugs to the clinic. They also requesting for some specialist healthcare workers at the clinic so as to reduce number of deaths and referrals to other clinics and hospitals. It is commendable that the 2021 devolution funds enabled Munemo clinic to see the light of day and has created employment opportunities for the local people who have been employed as nurses, security guards, and groundsmen.

6.4 Access to Safe Sanitation and Social Amenities

The availability of sanitation and social services contributes to the health and well-being of the nation. However, the country is facing poor sanitation, especially in urban cities, with frequent sewer leakages flowing in residential areas and contaminating water sources. Thus, contributing to the outbreak of medieval diseases like cholera. These sewer bursts are largely attributable

to increased urban population growth driven by rural to urban migration by the youth fleeing rural poverty.

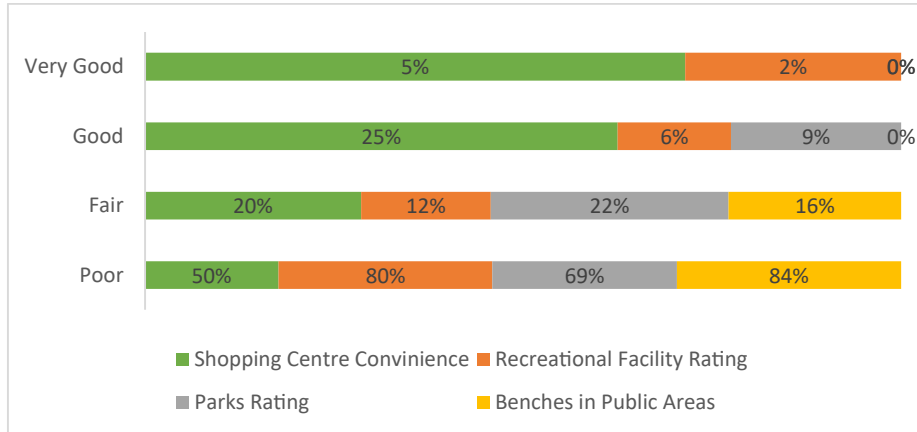
Figure 11: Access to Sanitation and Social Amenities



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The survey results revealed that refuse collection is poor in 44% of districts surveyed while 38% districts ranked it as fair, 16% good and only 2% were very good. This poor refuse collection can be attested in the city of Harare where garbage dumps in residential areas as well as in the Central Business District (CBD) have become the order of the day. Ironically, the City Council has paid for 50 refuse trucks in 2017 worth US\$1.8 million but are yet to be delivered to date⁹ - a perfect definition of institutionalized corruption. The survey also established that 66% of the population is facing unaffordable housing. This is likely because Zimbabwe has a poor if not non-existent public housing system dominated by profiteering land barons and corrupt city councils. For instance, the 2019 OAG report found that Gweru City Council was operating without a proper housing policy. Further, the housing market has largely dollarized to the detriment of poor families. The prices of rentals are also being driven by rising demand owing to a growing population in cities while housing supply is lagging. Official statistics show that the housing backlog stands at over 1.5 million housing units. As such, illegal structures and squatters have mushroomed across the country. More so, the survey posits that 70% of public toilets across the nation are in a poor state.

9. <https://zwnews.com/harare-city-council-loses-over-us1-8-million-in-refuse-collection-trucks-deal/>

Figure 12: Other Social Amenities

Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The ZIMCODD survey found that 50% of the surveyed districts are not enjoying shopping centres' convenience. This is largely the case in rural set-ups where people walk long distances to access shops. Without government interference to avert this, the challenge will continue to persist since it will not be economical for profit making businesses to establish shops in every village or ward because of erratic income flows in rural communities.

The study also found that 80% of recreational facilities are poor while 22% are fair and 9% are good. City councils are failing to maintain public spaces such as community halls and parks. The survey found that 84% of benches in these public areas are in a poor state with only 16% rated as fair. Overall, 69% of parks are poor, 22% are fair and 9% are good. A case below from Zvishavane Town Council shows the positive results of engagements between duty bearers and rights holders:

Public engagements led to improved service delivery in Zvishavane

Mandava residents have over the years faced difficulties as their houses had developed huge cracks which made them unfit for habitation. Zvishavane Town Council was pounced on by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Committee (ZACC) early this year and evidence revealed that council officials were involved in a lot of fraudulent deals such as awarding tenders to unverified contractors and selling residential and commercial stands illegally. This saw the suspension of the Town Clerk (Mr. Mkutu) and other officials until further notice, Zvishavane Town Council nominated Mr. Mazai as the acting Town Clerk.



Local residents, through Zvishavane Residents and Rate payers Associated (ZURRA) whatsapp platforms and workshops, demanded transparency and accountability on revenue collected by the local council as locations such as Izayi Park, Maglass, Mandava & Makwasha, were not receiving water regularly. These engagements have seen positive responses by the council in form of construction of houses for Mandava residents who had their houses destroyed by heavy rains early this year.

The Zvishavane Town Council has also made positive strides in Mandava suburb by renovating the toilets at the Mandava bus terminus following an outcry by residents and commuters. The toilets at the bus terminus were blocked and had no ramp to accommodate persons with disabilities who were made to crawl into the toilets whenever they wanted to use them thus exposing them to more health risks.

Chinhoyi Municipality operating without a fire tender

In a discovery that has shocked many residents of Chinhoyi, it has emerged that for the past 4 years, Chinhoyi Municipality was operating without a fire tender. This was the case despite it having spent over ZW\$11.2 million this year alone in efforts to acquire a firefighting truck. The town's only fire tender broke down in 2017 and has been out of service since then. This is a grave threat to the life and property of residents who fail to get emergency help should a fire break out. The council's emergency preparedness is in shambles. Currently, if a fire emergency occurs the town relies on the fire brigade from Karoi and Chegutu which are 88km and 91 km away from the town as well as Harare which is 115 km away. This situation is unacceptable and shows incompetence on the part of the town's health department.

In a recent terrible incident, shop owners at Dombodzvuku building at Chinhoyi rank were helpless as their shops were burnt to ashes in an inferno on the night of 14 October 2021. A fire truck from Chegutu Municipality arrived after the fire had consumed all their stock.



Hunyani High-density suburb survived death by a whisker and were left counting losses as fire also gutted their house destroying all the property contained therein. Neighbours tried to douse the flames using buckets but to no avail and yet again the local authority was missing in action as it does not have a fire tender.

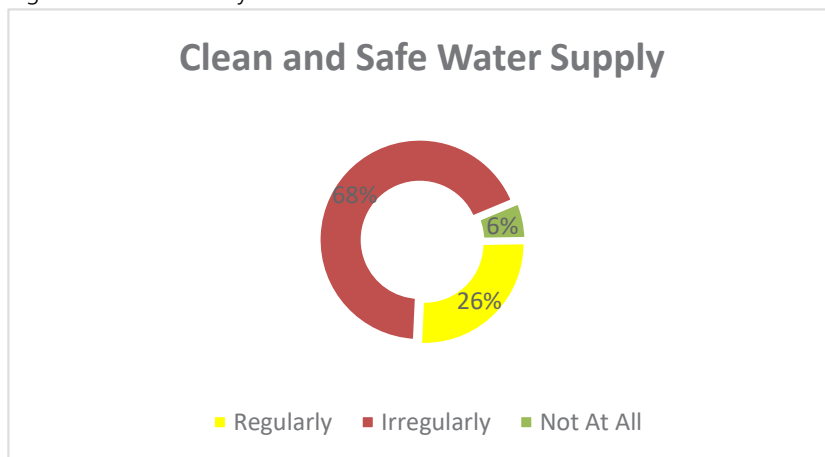
All this is happening despite that in March this year the local authority informed residents that it had paid \$8.2 million for a new fire tender but now 6 months are down with the paid-for fire truck yet to be delivered. The tender to supply a new fire engine was awarded in 2020 to Mike Harris Toyota years after a council resolution to purchase a fire tender was passed by the council.

To further add intrigue to the puzzle, the local authority claims it has paid over US\$25,000 in shipping fares for a fire tender donated to it under Operation Florian which is a United Kingdom-based fire service humanitarian charity. Again, that fire tender is yet to be received by the Municipality. This means residents will continue to lose property and possibly lives unless and until the City Fathers get their act together and procure a fire tender to help residents during emergencies.

6.5 Water Supply

Water is a key resource that is needed to support all forms of life -people, livestock, wildlife, aqua life, and vegetation (agriculture). Further to that, water is needed in industries in the manufacturing of goods. The Constitution, through Section 77, vividly provides for the right to clean and safe potable water to all citizens -a human right. Water is critical in the realization of other human rights like the right to a clean & safe environment as well as the right to health. The existing excruciating water challenges being faced by citizens especially those in big cities like Harare and Bulawayo is a violation of human rights.

Figure 13: Availability of Clean and Safe Water



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The survey revealed that 68% of 57 districts surveyed receive water irregularly with only 26% receiving it regularly. About 6% are on the receiving end, without access to water at all. These are the very things that are being raised yearly by the Auditor-General's office but there are slow improvements. There is a need for strong action by authorities to ensure that every citizen has easy access to clean and safe water.

Had the policies of government been progressive buttressed by transparent and sustainable debt and stable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, some of these inequities and injustices should have ended decades ago. However, the debt distress the country is currently trapped in coupled with rampant white-collar corruption in public institutions is deterring it to deliver clean and safe water to Zimbabweans. This is shown in the case study of Ngozi Mine in Bulawayo below:

Transformation in the Water Situation, Ngozi mine. Bulawayo

Ngozi mine is an internally displaced settlement lacking access to basic services like housing and water services. It is a landfill site that houses up to 1000 people of which children under the age of 12 constitute approximately 40% of the population. The community came about as a result of various factors that include the Murambatsvina displacements of 2005, the Chikorokoza chapera displacements of 2006 as well as political displacements. The water that was being used for domestic purposes from the time of engagement with the community was not fit for human consumption and there was a grave threat being posed to human lives as children were drinking unprotected pond water in which chemical waste is dumped, due to lack of immediate access to clean water fit for consumption.





Informants indicated that the lack of water supply by the council was largely because it believed them to be rowdy criminals who would victimize council workers. They also indicated that if the water could be supplied, then it would be an injustice to rate-paying citizens as the people in Ngozi neither pay rent or rates, which meant they would be benefiting from the efforts of others. However, continuous discussions between the council and ZIMCODD SEJAs, and other residents were held. Application for water to be supplied to Ngozi mine on the condition that the residents would commit to paying a specified amount to an established water committee. These funds would buy water at city council prescribed rates, that were in line with the charging system used for other locations, as well as cater for fuel for vehicles that would transport the water.

On the 30th of September 2021, the City council agreed to allocate water to the Ngozi mine for as long as the above conditions were adhered to. Periodic meetings would be held by the parties to ensure continuity of the water project and serve as a monitoring and evaluation process. As of the 7th of October 2021, the 2 x 5250-liter tanks had been received from well-wishers and another 18000-liter tank had been gifted

towards the cause and BCC had honored its end of the deal and provided the water.

ZIMCOPP activities were a great contribution to the project especially the SEJA, CORA pieces of training that allowed the trained Bulawayo residents to be able to influence others and mobilize stakeholders to work towards the betterment of the living conditions as an investment into the people for a better social and economic outcome. Under the #HowFar and Fight Inequality Campaign, evidence of desperate living conditions was exposed and used to convince local authorities and other stakeholders to work together to transform living standards.

Completion of a borehole that was drilled in Ward 2, Nyanga district.

Following the shortage of clean and safe water in Samakande village in ward 2, Nyanga North, ZIMCOPP CORA managed to engage the councilor Mr. Shabhani Dzawanda, the village head, health workers, and other local leaders. At the end of the meeting people agreed not to wait only for the council that it will provide clean and safe water, they approached World Vision to help drill a borehole drilling as a measure to increase hygiene and reduce the outbreak of deadly diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Most of the boreholes in the Ward 2 were dysfunctional while the functional ones cannot provide water to the whole community. Thus, a lot of people were using unclean water from unprotected wells and contaminated rivers and dams. During the summer season, the water table will be very low worsening the water crisis in the community.



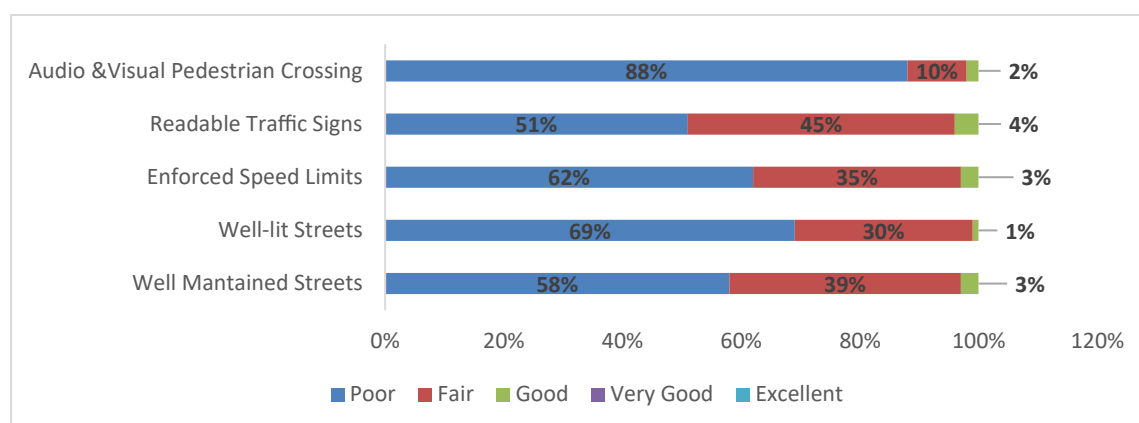


The new solar borehole is sited three kilometers away from Samakande shopping center. There are two Jojo tanks, 3 solar panels, and four taps inserted at four different points. This has brought relief to many in the community especially women, children, and the elderly. The community was fully engaged in carrying out the project. Community members are the ones who chose the borehole site and also dug the trenches in which the pipes lining taps were laid. The borehole is supplying water to at least sixty households. The project started in July 2021 and was completed on the 27th of September 2021.

6.6 Road Networks in Local Communities

Road networks in local communities particularly in rural communities continue to deteriorate and this is expected to worsen as the rain season approaches. A good road network is needed to reduce fatal accidents thereby saving human life and reducing the cost of doing business leading to increased investment, commerce, job creation, and robust economic growth. However, many urban areas in Zimbabwe have roads marred by potholes while in many rural areas people are walking long distances to access a road network. These challenges are contributing to high transport costs.

Figure 14: State of Road Infrastructure



Source: Primary Data Compiled by Authors

The survey found that 58% of the districts surveyed had poorly maintained streets (roads), 29% are fairly maintained with only 3% that are well maintained. About 69% of the districts had well-lit streets, 30% are partly lit with only 1% that is well lit. Failing to maintain street lights by authorities in cities is exposing the public to harmful incidents like night robberies. To minimize road accidents, traffic signs must be written clearly and speed limits must be enforced at all times. However, 51% of the districts had poor traffic signs and 69% are not enforcing road speed limits. Further, a majority of pedestrian crossings in Zimbabwe are poor as 88% of the districts surveyed reported poor audio and visual pedestrian crossings.

Mutasa Roads in a dire state

The state of connecting roads between the 31 wards of Mutasa is in a dire state as rain season approaches. There is an outcry from the banana and tea growers concerning the Murara to Matondora road, as the road is no longer accessible. The farmers are failing to transport their perishable goods on time, due to the dilapidated road.



It is said that the Member of Parliament promised residents that the road will be repaired in no time but it is now ten months without any action being taken. Concerns from farmers at Murara business centre are that they contribute revenue to the treasury, but they don't receive the much-needed service delivery. Murara business centre is a very busy fresh market produce place in Honde Valley in Mutasa North. The place is very busy but there are no proper ablution facilities and this forces people to use the bush system which is dangerous to health. Despite being allocated ZW\$19,425,711 and receiving ZW\$17,702,425 under the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Plan phase 1, a lot of roads in Mutasa North remain in a bad state and require urgent attention from both the local authority and the national government.

Road rehabilitation program resumes in ward 17 Mutare Urban.

Road works are now in progress as machinery has been positioned to start road construction in Mutare. This will help reduce accidents as the rain season beckons. On 20 October 2021, a combi that was carrying primary school children from 3 Brigade Primary and Chikanga Primary slid on a wet road causing many injuries. This incident caused so much unrest among the people. Below are pictures of roads that are being graded from Jeff Road to Hobhouse.





6.7 Public Transportation

ZIMCODD commends the government in its continued efforts to import buses to capacitate Zimbabwe United Passengers Company (ZUPCO) as this will go a long way in reducing transport mayhem being experienced by citizens. However, the bus procurement pace the government has shown in the last 3 years is disheartening given the status quo. There is a general saying that "time is money" but the commuting public is spending long hours in queues before they board a ZUPCO bus and doing so in excruciating heat and rains as seasons go by. The available transport system is also creating a social status divide in the country because it is not suitable for the PWD community.

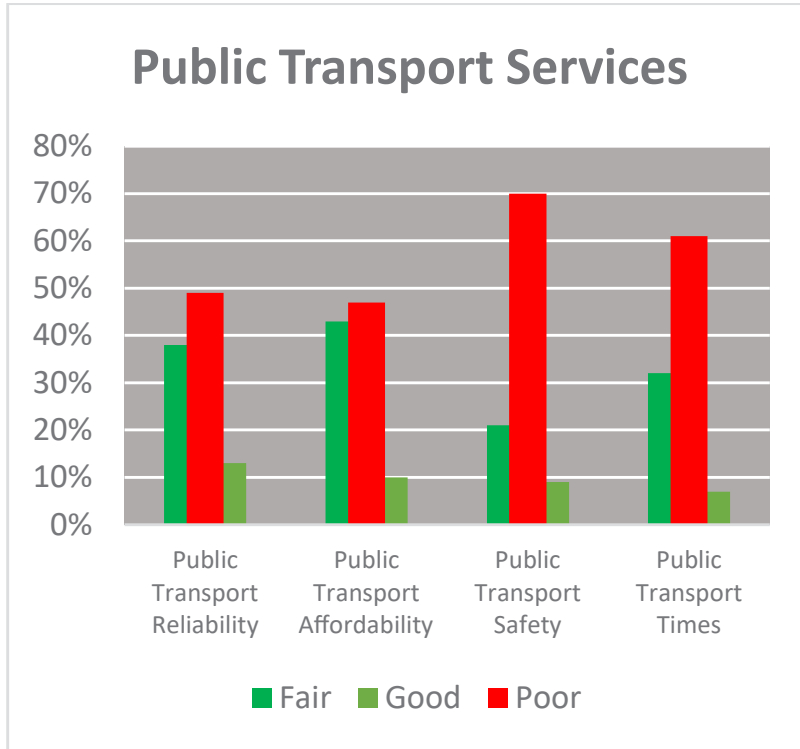


Figure 15: Public Transport Services

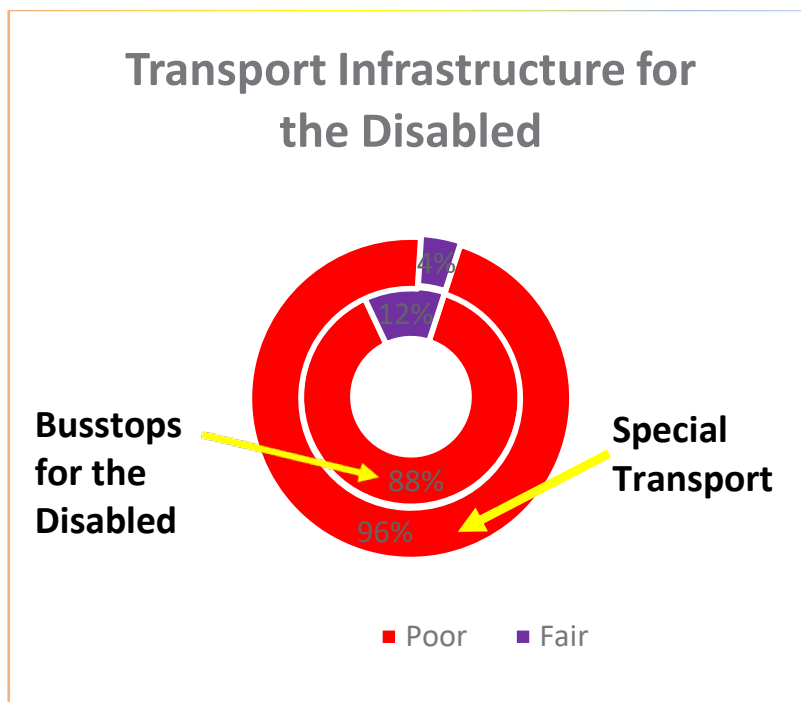


Figure 16: Transport for People with Disability

In terms of public transport affordability, 43% and 10% of the respondents ranked it as fair and good respectively with 47% rating it as poor (unaffordable). While this is commendable, public transport is not reliable. About 49% of the districts reported that reliability was poor with only 13% reporting it as good. Furthermore, the citizens are not satisfied with the level of safety provided by public transport systems in place.

About 70% were not satisfied with a paltry 9% feeling secure in public transport. The fear of insecurity is largely related to the hurried recruitment of private players to join the ZUPCO franchise without conducting robust road tests. Also, the finding that 88% of districts surveyed have bus stops that are not friendly to the PWD community and 96% without special transport systems is disheartening. Hence, the government should address transport challenges as they are having a huge toll on the average citizen.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The October SITREP notes that public resource governance remains weak, and this is worsened by how intricately politics and administration is intertwined in Zimbabwe. Public service delivery continues to decline coupled with intensified electricity blackouts. Poor refuse collection and unavailability of portable water has also become a signature and trademark of local authorities across the country.

Inequalities continue to be entrenched with mining host communities being excluded in natural resource governance. However, the government's intervention in the Mutoko-Chinese rift over the mining of granite is commendable. Although, the intervention was not timely, it is better that it was given than never. COVID-19 management was also on a high note throughout the month of October with central, provincial, district and primary health care having sufficient vaccines in their storage.

To this end, despite some improvements in COVID-19 management, public service delivery and public resource management is still wanting.

This underscores the need for the adoption of the following recommendations.

- **Public accountability** - Transparency and accountability remains the bedrock of optimum public finance management, to this end the government should avail the granular details of all tender process that goes through the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ).
- **Invest in the health sector** - The current state of the health sector is wanting and in a deplorable state with dilapidating equipment and unavailability of critical health machines for life threatening chronic diseases and this undermines human capital development. Thus, the government should invest in the health sector if it wants to attain effective human capital that proliferates the success chances of NDS1. The treasury should disburse funds on time to allow for the smooth provision of public services. Also, the share of capital spending on the health budget should be increased to boost health care infrastructure and equipment.

- **Give life to devolution** - There is need for the implementation of the concept of politics-administration dichotomy so as to manage the economies of affection in governance, public administration and the management of public resources. On the exclusion of local people in natural resource governance, ZIMCODD urges the government to uphold the concept and principle of devolution and participatory governance.
- **Intensify COVID-19 management** - Although the government's efforts to manage COVID-19 are commendable, ZIMCODD notes that COVID-19 is still a threat with possible emergence of new variances therefore the government should put strict measures with respect to pandemic monitoring and management as the festive seasons is around the corner.
- **Road network:** The government should expedite the road rehabilitation process as the rain season has approached. In February 2020, the government declared a state of road emergency painting a bad picture on the safety of local roads and highways. While the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP) has received allocations from the Treasury, the pace is a little bit slow. As such, prioritization of road rehabilitation will be crucial in reducing road accidents. Also, a good road network system is crucial in the distribution of inputs to industry and distribution of goods to markets.
- **Housing policy:** The survey has found that despite having a Housing Policy at a national level, many local authorities are operating without clear public housing policies and strategies. This has led to a massive growth of illegal structures across towns and cities thereby contributing to the spread of diseases such as cholera and typhoid. As such, the Ministry of Local Government should ensure that all local authorities have clear and inclusive housing policies. Also, the central government should not interfere in the daily affairs of local authorities. This has been the case, fuelled by the fact that many councils are being controlled by the opposition political party, as ruling party stalwarts allocate un-serviced residential stands to their supporters. Authorities should ensure that all stands are well serviced -connected to water, sewer system, and road network -before people build their houses.

- **Water.** Many residential areas are experiencing water challenges, with people ending up using unsafe water sources such as effluent-infested river streams and dams. In some cases, this is being caused by excessive leakages due to aging infrastructure like distribution pipes and treatment plants. To avert this problem, authorities should revamp existing water infrastructure and increase clean and safe water options by drilling boreholes. The accrual basis being followed in the collection of monthly water charges should be abandoned in favour of smart prepaid water meters. This will reduce non-payment of water bills by the public thereby leading to increased revenue collection -key in the provision of clean water to all citizen



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