



PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SITUATIONAL REPORT

APRIL 2022



ZIMCODD
ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT & DEVELOPMENT

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1. Introduction and Background

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development's (ZIMCODD) April Public Resource Management Situational Report (PRM SitRep) seeks to determine if the government is judiciously using the resources at its disposal for the benefit of all citizens. The situational report is a quest for horizontal accountability in the utilisation of public resources. This unquenchable determination emanates from the fact that, the Zimbabwean public sector has become a haven of corruption, maladministration, economies of affection, patronage and tenderpreneurship which have proliferated the abuse of public resources, widened inequality and poverty as it undermines social spending. The situation has been aggravated by poor accountability and transparency which have been ignited by weak oversight institutions. To this end, ZIMCODD carried out a PRM survey in 57 districts across the country. The survey is enabled by ZIMCODD's Community Resource Monitoring Agents (CORAs) who are monitoring, tracking, documenting and reporting the use of public resources at district level on a monthly basis. The PRM SitRep concludes by proffering actionable recommendations which if adopted will transform Zimbabwean Public Resource Management discourse and consequently social service delivery.

2. Purpose

The need for effective social accountability, strong institutions and to build citizen agency that promotes national development and growth necessitates this research. This is because the findings from this study will not only inform duty bearers and watchdog institutions on the state of public resources in Zimbabwe but it will go further by informing citizens on how public finances are being utilised and what is expected of them. In tandem with the Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management (STAP) project, ZIMCODD intends to ensure that public finance management issues find their way from the attentive public to the sub-government so as to influence the policy making machinery. Thus, the PRM SitRep intends to promote prudent public finance management.

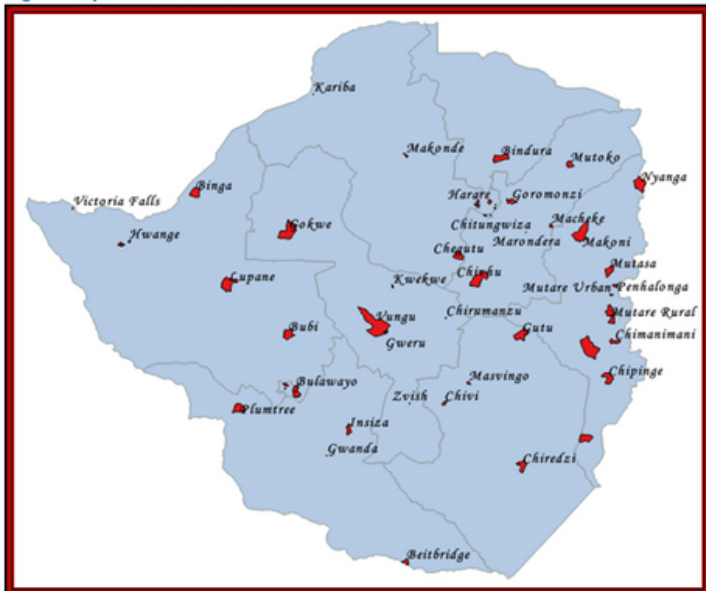
At the core of the PRM SitRep is the need:

1. To build citizen agency in public resource monitoring and in particular, COVID-19 resources; Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and Devolution Funds.
2. To promote participation in economic governance from local to central government.
3. To assess public service delivery under the prism of Gender Responsive Public Service Delivery GRPSD.

3. Methodology

The PRM SitRep utilised mixed method research for the attainment of an exploratory, explanatory and descriptive study that captures community voices and aspirations with respect to PRM. GRPSD and PRM lenses underpinned the research methodology. Thus, qualitative and quantitative methods were used for a comprehensive and judicious baseline survey which was sufficient to inform an advocacy cause. This was reinforced by convenience and purposive sampling complemented by systematic and stratified random sampling. All these sampling techniques played an imperative and complimentary 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 the required saturation level. Likewise, quantitative sampling helped in eliminating bias so as to infuse research reliability, dependability and trustworthiness. Human Interest Stories (HIS) were used to reinforce study findings. The study population comprised of 57 districts as illustrated in fig one below, which shows the study catchment area.

Fig 1: Study Catchment Area



Source: Primary Data Compiled by ZIMCODD

4. Public Resources Management Situational Context

Public finance mismanagement and lack of prudent value for money has become the new norm in the public sector. The crippled and dilapidating National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) has become cash-strapped spending approximately US\$ 3.5 million annually.¹ NRZ has successfully-failed to reignite viable operations so as to attain optimum efficiency which is critical for effective public transport and reinvigoration of industries across the country. The Auditor-General has on several occasions discovered that the parastatal`s liabilities exceed its assets by nearly ZW\$875 million (US\$5,8 million), a testament to weak financial and organisational management. NRZ is the principal transporter of heavy cargo, a role which it has failed to execute due to organisational incapacity and infrastructural gaps caused by maladministration, economic meltdown and rent-seeking.

1. <https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2022/04/22/broke-nrz-coughs-up-us35m-on-locomotives-and-wagon-hire/>

The cost of poor governance has detrimental effects on public resources as “NRZ is hiring locomotives for approximately US\$150 000 per month and wagons for approximately US\$33 per day from foreign companies,” without any positive transformation in service delivery and organisational performance. The annual cost of locomotive hiring is US\$ 1.8 million while that of wagons is US\$ 12 045.

Moreover, the growth of tenderpreneurship in the government ring-fenced by political elites has undermined viable national transformation coupled with robust tender processes that include advertising, competitive bidding and value for money. Satewave Technologies, a prominent Chinese company was awarded several multi-million dollar contracts by the government which it is undertaking simultaneously. Recently, Satewave was awarded a Census tender to the tune of US\$ 6 million. This is just but one of the projects that the company is undertaking as it is concurrently running various projects in government departments and ministries such as, Health and Child Care ministry, Zimbabwe National Water Authority (Zinwa), Zimbabwe National Road Administration (Zinara), Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) and the Grain Marketing Board (GMB), a clear reflection of tender monopoly and disenfranchisement of majority of Zimbabwean businesses that are grappling in the informal sector.² This distorts narratives of local content and empowerment by the government.

In addition, since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Zimbabwe has seen a rise in the number of children vending on the street. Child vending is nothing but a manifestation of a plethora of underlining dynamics that are militating against the rights and well-being of children. Some of these underlying dynamics include but are not limited to poor social protection policies, economic meltdown, maladministration, poor public resource management, infrastructural gaps, child marriage, school drop outs, exploitative and exclusionary policies. All these challenges seem to gain traction in the lives of children across the country despite the availability of a myriad of policies, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks that speak to child protection. These include but are not limited to; Zimbabwe Children’s Act [Chapter 5:06], the Constitution, the Zimbabwe National Orphan Care Policy (1999), Zimbabwe National Action Plan For Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, the Zimbabwe National Residential Care Standards Policy, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Office of the President and Cabinet, Parliament Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to mention but a few.

Poor Public Resource Management (PRM), debt distress, resource leakages and Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) have militated against effective Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) which is integral in mobilising funds for social spending. The impact of weak DRM has been adverse on the cost of living for the ordinary Zimbabwean and social spending as it has widened the inequality gap.

2. <https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2022/04/14/chinese-firm-pockets-huge-govt-contracts/>

The social welfare workforce is depleted and there is an insufficient National Budget for child justice, social welfare and limited implementation of legislation. Zimbabwe`s social spending is below the agreed 4.5% of the African Social Policy. Since 2017, Zimbabwean social spending has never reached 4%.

The ramifications of weak social spending have imposed an unbearable cost of living on children. A rapid assessment by ZIMCODD of child vending in Harare shows that approximately 20 children join the streets every day as beggars and vendors. This is a clear testament to the dysfunctionality of child protection systems in Zimbabwe. According to the 2021 Zimbabwe Annual Report by UNICEF, child poverty has increased tremendously in Zimbabwe. The report stated that 1/3 of women aged 20-24 years married before the age 18, 35% of children between the age of 5-17 are experiencing child labour, while 13% are working under hazardous conditions and over 51% of children are not registered at birth.

Zimbabwe has a population of approximately 15 million inhabitants with 54% under the age of 20 while 61.3% of children live in multidimensional poverty – worse in rural areas, high-density and peri urban informal settlements coupled with a weak Human Development Index ranking of 150 out of 189 countries. Approximately 3.5 million children are chronically hungry,³ about 60% of rural girls and women encounter period poverty thus they lack access to menstrual supplies and education and lastly it is believed that girls who experience poverty miss 20% of their school life.⁴ The situation is further aggravated by the fact that 68% of pre-primary aged children (3-5 years) and 47% adolescents (13-18 years) are not in school and approximately 4.5 million children experienced loss of learning due to COVID-19 by early 2021.⁵

5. Public Resource Management Survey Findings

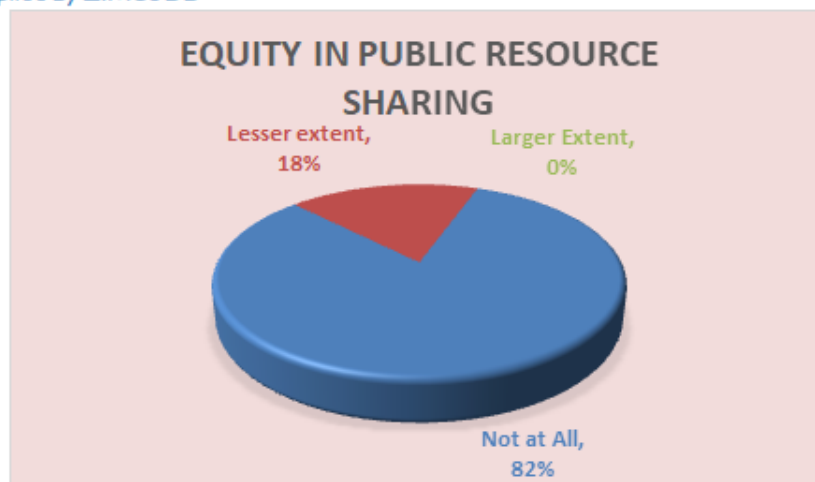
Like the previous issues of this publication, the April Situational Report assesses the state of public resource management by the central and local governments in Zimbabwe. The survey finds out that public resource management continues on a downward trend as characterised by a debilitating debt crisis at central and local government levels, increased poverty “in a sea of plenty,” widening inequalities, further shrinking of space for democratic participation of citizens in developmental processes, a weak adoption and lack of political will to implement the constitutional and legislative PRM safeguards among other issues. This section presents a synopsis of public resource management in 57 districts across all the 10 provinces.

3. <https://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/zimbabwe-poverty-hunger-widespread-12apr10-90647654/1466737.html>
4. <https://www.techwomen.org/girls-education/vheneka-khanyisa-eliminating-the-shame-of-period-poverty>
5. UNICEF 2021 Zimbabwe Annual Report

5.1 Equal and equitable distribution of benefits of public resources

Fig 2: Distribution of benefits from Local Public Resources

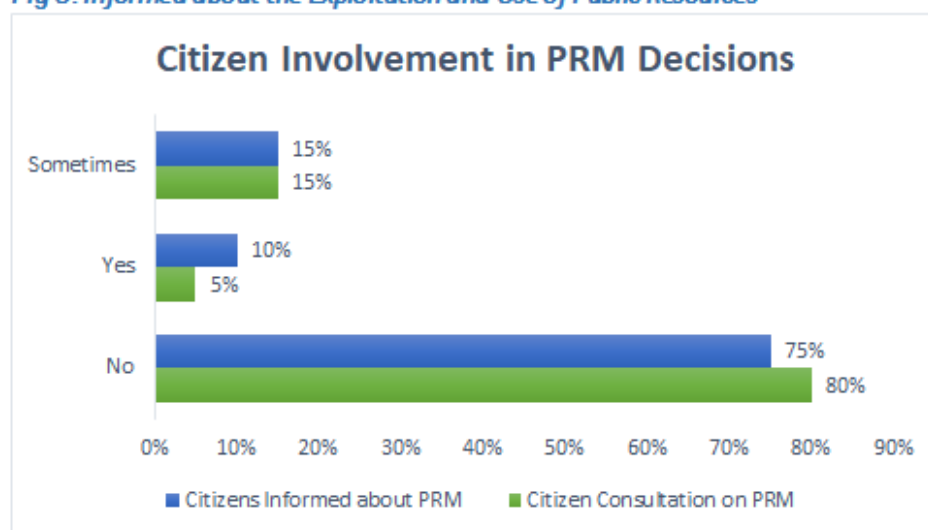
Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD



Political elites and dominant institutions have the upper hand when it comes to public resource distribution while citizens remain powerless. This sitrep attests to this notion as it finds out that public resource benefits are not equitably distributed in Zimbabwe as 82% of the surveyed districts reported that public resources are not equally and equitably distributed. The politics of who gets what, when and how continues to be determined at a higher level while citizens are reduced to mere recipients.

5.2. Citizens Involvement in Decisions to do with Public Resources

Fig 3: Informed about the Exploitation and Use of Public Resources



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

Contrary to the provisions of Section 13 of the Constitution which clearly states in subsection 2 that the "state must involve people in the formulation and implementation of developmental plans and programmes that affect them," citizens across Zimbabwe have continued to witness marginalisation in developmental processes. As with the March sitrep, the April Sitrep establishes that in 80% of the surveyed districts, citizens are not consulted while in 15% they are sometimes consulted and only in 5% citizens reported that they are consulted when public resources decisions are made at their local authority level. On involvement again, in 75% of the sampled districts, citizens are not involved on PRM decisions while 15% are sometimes involved while 10% are involved when PRM decisions are made at local government level. The survey established that at the core of local governance is the failure to acknowledge and promote the role of citizens within a society, suggesting the inadequacies of the existing frameworks of governance. This calls for a governance reform which puts people at the centre of governance and which inculcates the concept of citizenship based on civic engagement and participation in social and economic developmental processes that affect them.

5.3 Access to Information on Public Resources

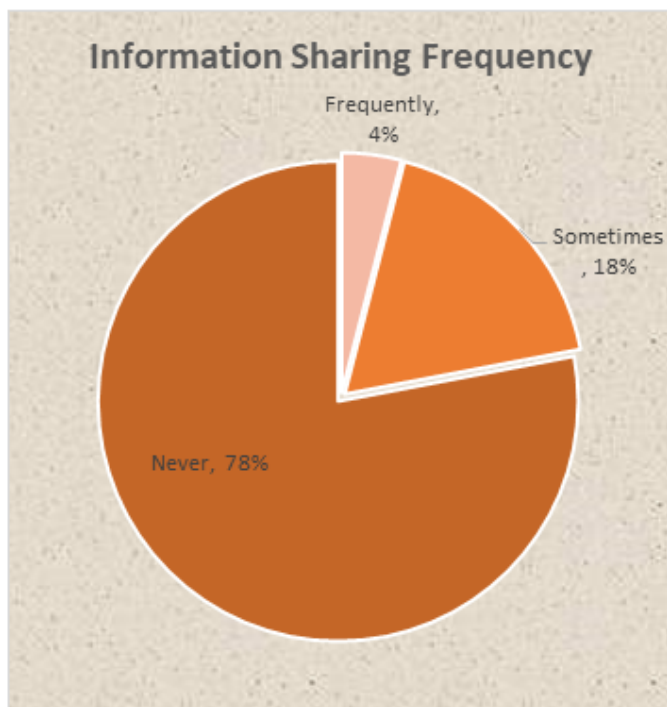


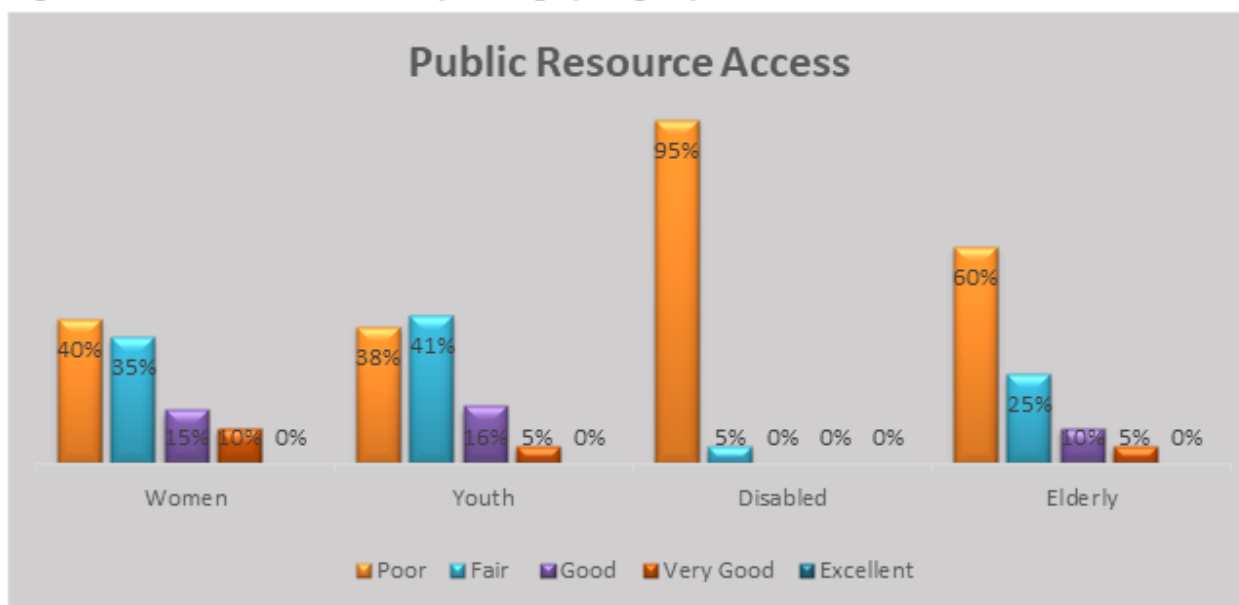
Fig 4: Information sharing at community level
While citizens are at the centre of social struggles across the country, access to PRM information remains a preserve of a few. The April sitrep finds out that of the 57 sampled districts, 78% reported that local authorities never freely share information regarding public resource management. In 18% of the districts, citizens reported that information is sometimes shared while only 4% reported that public resources info is frequently shared. These findings call for the need to systematically avail public resources information as citizens and their agency are critical to inculcate transparency and accountability which

are at the core of judicious PRM.

Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

5.4 Public Resources Access by Demographic Groups

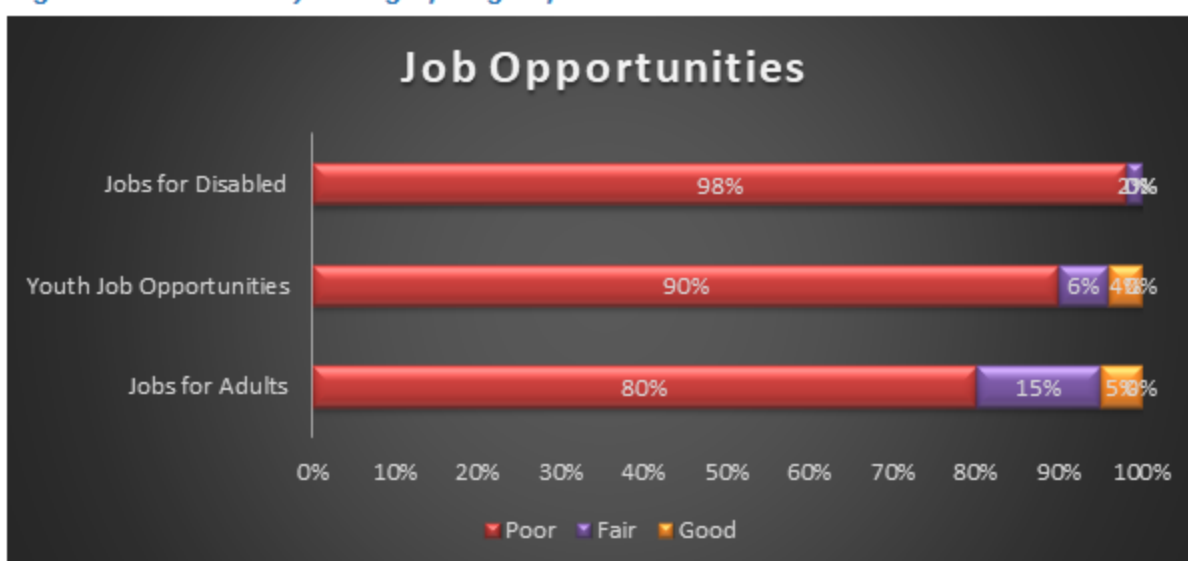
Fig 5: Access to Public Resources by Demographic groups



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

Equal access to public resources by different genders has remained a challenge in Zimbabwe. From the sampled districts, 95% reported that access by persons with disabilities is poor while only 5% regarded it as fair. Access to public resources was also significantly poor for the elderly as 60% of districts rated it poor while 25% rated it fair and 10% rated it good. For women and youth, 40% and 38% of the sampled districts rated access to public resources poor. The situation remains dire and calls for equitable distribution of public resources to ensure access by all vulnerable groups in this post COVID-19 recovery era.

Fig 6: Access to Jobs by demographic groups



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

As with access to public resources, access to jobs is dire for people with disabilities which had a poor rating in 98% of the 57 districts. Lack of job opportunities for youth and the adult population also rated very poor in 90% and 80% of the sampled districts respectively. While Zimbabwe has experienced perennial economic crises which have seen the dearth of formal employment opportunities, the situation has been compounded by COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased the vulnerability of all groups as it ravaged employment opportunities in the thriving informal sector. This Sitrep therefore calls upon the government to create productive employment opportunities to improve social protection and to strengthen representation and voice in the informal economy.

5.5 Access to Budget Information

While citizen agency at community level is central to development processes, citizens find themselves in an atmosphere of discontent and unhappiness as a result of exclusionary economic developmental processes. To this end, this month's sitrep establishes that citizens across the country continue to be marginalised when it comes to monitoring council budget performance. This exclusion has resulted in unpopular economic policies, poor economic performance and loss of service delivery as the will of citizens tends to be suppressed due to non-involvement and lack of access to information which disempowers citizens and impairs their ability to influence economic governance. Below is an example of what citizen agency can achieve towards prudent PFM:

Case: Citizen agency brings hope to Mutare

After ten years of dilly dallying by City of Mutare authorities to pursue and recover a staggering USD\$330 000 reportedly fleeced from the local authority by a briefcase company called Schiterzbag in 2012 in a hazy deal to procure water pipes for the city, the Portfolio Committee on Public Accounts finally asked the local authority to recover the stolen money.

The company, which was an unknown entity then and remains unknown in business circles but infamous for a successful heist of \$330000 (US), was suspected of being politically exposed with names such as the former Minister of Local Government, Ignatius Chombo and the former Town Clerk Obed Muzawazi being associated with the company.

The involvement of some big political figures may have resulted in Council adopting a lackadaisical approach to the issue, buying time to allow the case to die a natural death and let the big wigs off the hook.

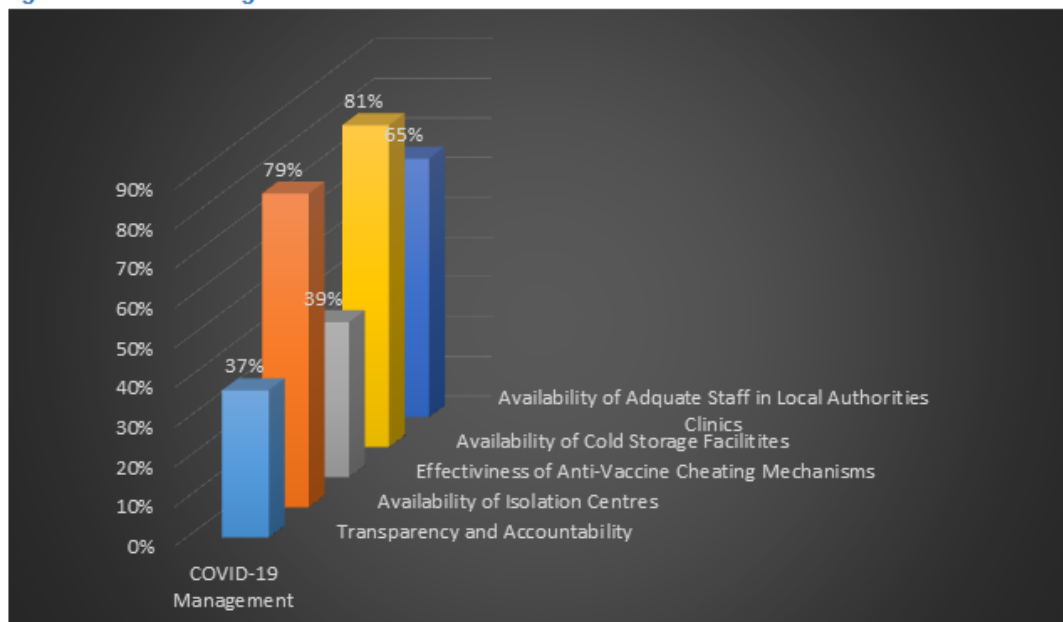
However, thanks to the advocacy and lobbying by CORAs, SEJAS and stakeholders who kept demanding answers from the local authority, there has been movement.

5.6 COVID-19 Management and Key Issues

The month of April witnessed positive pandemic management as the national recovery rate fluctuated between 96% and 98%. This is despite the rise of the fifth wave across the globe. At the same time the government stated that 5 million people have been fully vaccinated thereby reaching half of the targeted population that is needed to reach herd immunity.⁶ The same month also saw the government announcing vaccine card activation centres. The vaccination cards had not been captured into the system and this was making travel difficult for Zimbabweans as the barcode could not be scanned, thus failing to meet international standards and COVID-19 international prevention best standards.

Apart from documentary review on COVID-19 resources and key issues, the survey discovered that the government is still wanting with respect to transparency and accountability as it attained 37%, a further decrease from the 40% and 45% attained in February and March respectively. While the effectiveness of anti-vaccine cheating mechanisms was rated 39%, a decrease from the 44% attained in March pointing to weak and porous anti-vaccine cheating strategies. A same rating was recorded in the availability of isolation centres which registered 79%. A positive improvement on cold storage facilities was witnessed as the rating increased from 77% to 81%. The increase was mainly due to the opening of clinics and purchasing of new cold storage facilities. A same rating was attained for the availability of adequate staff in local authorities as the Month of April registered 65%. The figure below projects the research findings.

Fig 7: COVID-19 Management



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

6. <https://www.herald.co.zw/zim-hits-5-million-first-covid-19-jabs/>

5.7 Natural Resource Governance Issues

In the month under review, Zimbabwe registered a big milestone in the mining of Platinum Group Minerals (PGMs) with the addition of a South Africa-based company, Tharisa Capital. The company which has increased its shareholding to 66.3% from 26.8% in a US\$27 million new shares deal will invest about US\$250 million in the first phase of the Karo project. The mine will be developed over the next 24 months to become 15 000 ounces per annum over 20-year mine life. This is a huge step in the government's quest for a US\$12 billion mining sector economy by 2023 with PGMs expected to contribute US\$3 billion, second place from gold estimated to generate US\$4 billion annually.

Currently, Zimbabwe has 3 PGM producing mines; Zimplats in Chegutu, Unki Mine in Shurugwi and Mimosa Mine in Zvishavane. According to the World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC), output from these 3 miners rose by 6% from 448 000 ounces in 2020 to 475 000 ounces in 2021 thanks to the processing of semi-finished inventory backlog through South African smelters and refineries. There are also other ongoing PGM projects in Zimbabwe like Bravura Holdings in Selous and Great Dyke Investment (GDI) which is set to become the largest PGM miner capable of 860 000 ounces per annum when fully completed. PGMs have become one of the top forex generators, contributing about US\$1.4 billion to 2021's US\$6.3 billion total exports, only US\$200 million away from the top earner, gold exports. Earnings from minerals are expected to continue surging this year driven by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel and aluminum reached all-time highs in March 2022 as fears of shortages in a global economy that is already facing increased mineral demand as it continues with its rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic sent prices rallying. Global producers are still receiving minerals of Russian origin. However, if the UK, EU, or the USA announce sanctions directly targeting these minerals, many producers will be forced to stop orders and suspend pre-existing contracts. The artificial shortages created by the shunning of Russian minerals will keep global mineral commodity prices elevated at least through the first half of the year.

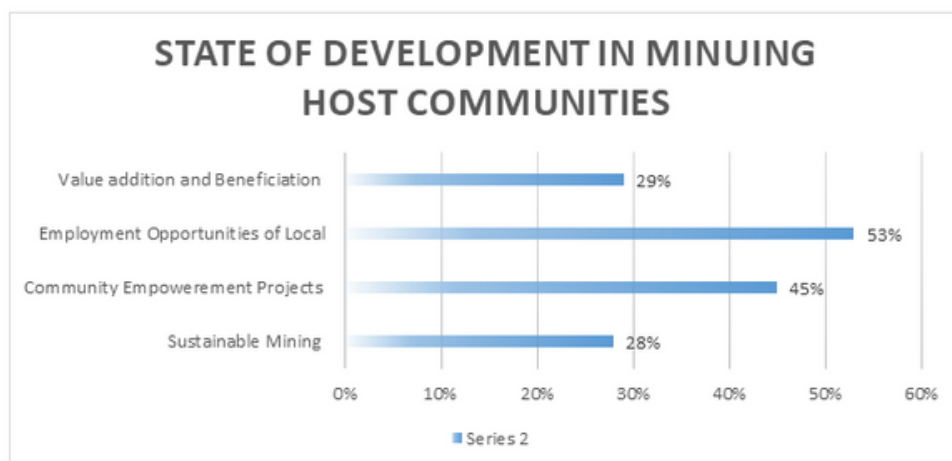
Since 2020, the gold sector is also benefiting from increased global uncertainties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a footnote, gold is a safe-haven asset during these times, a characteristic it derives from its long history of use as a store of value and medium of exchange. Before the war, many global central banks were increasing their gold purchases, a move that is likely to continue thanks to the sanctioning of Russia's US\$ denominated foreign currency reserves and the quest by Russia to save its currency from the jaws of Western sanctions by accumulating gold reserves. While the Russia-Ukraine war is reversing the move away from fossil fuels, countries will invest heavily in green energy to reduce their energy dependence and attain energy security.

This entails an increased production of green energy in the medium to long-term period thus boosting prices of green-energy supporting minerals like lithium and nickel which are used in the manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles (EVs). Zimbabwe boasts significant reserves of these minerals. Hence, the nation is expected to largely benefit from elevated global prices. However, Treasury coffers continue to dwindle in the face of rising global mineral prices as mining revenues are being siphoned through illicit financial flows (IFFs). For instance, the government estimates that it is losing about US\$100 million per month (US\$1.2 billion/ year) in gold revenue through smuggling. It is also unfortunate that the fewer revenues that got received by the government are abused, misused, embezzled, and diverted for private gain by public officials as indicated yearly by the Auditor-General audit reports on the Consolidated Revenue Fund and procurement patterns of government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

The continued dragging of the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill between the corridors of the Legislature and the Executive since 2016 illuminates the embrace of porous mineral resource governance by these authorities. Therefore, there is a need for political will and thorough stakeholder engagement to fast-track direly needed amendments to the existing archaic Mines and Minerals Act of 1961. Also, the government should settle for private mining investment deals that not only benefit the investor but all stakeholders including the mining host communities and marginalized communities of Zimbabwe.

In addition to documentary and policy review, the findings from the survey discovered a further decrease in sustainable mining from 30% in March to 28% in April. Community empowerment projects received the same rating of 45%, a clear indication of no improvement with respect to the utilisation of resources to empower communities. Employment opportunities of locals had a rating of 53% a 2% decline from the 55% rating in March. Lastly, value addition registered 29% a 1% decrease from the 30% registered in March. The figure below shows the state of development in mining host communities.

Fig 8: State of Development in Mining Host Communities



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

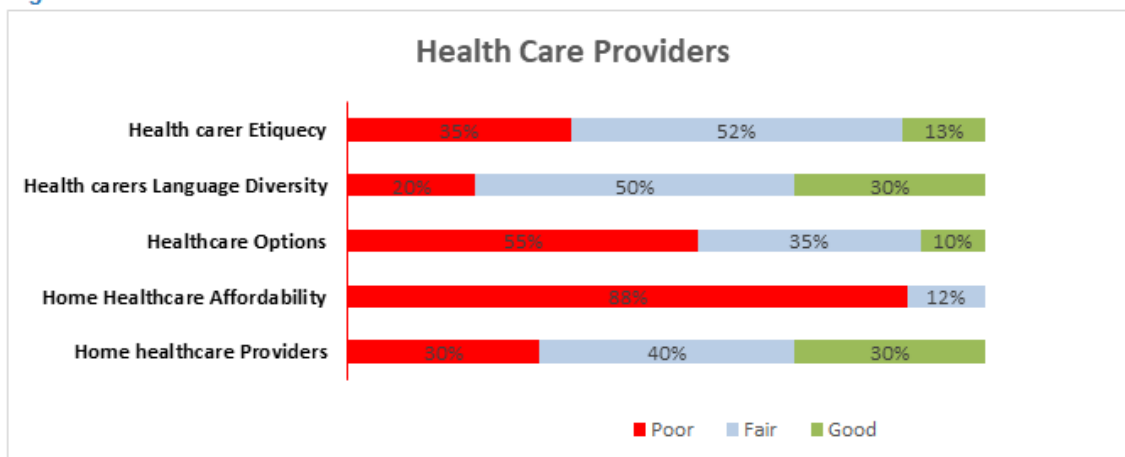
6. Social Service Delivery Findings

Despite being a gold bar for the poor majority, social service delivery in Zimbabwe is plummeting at an alarming pace. Granular analysis indicates that it is massive leakages of public resources through rampant corruption by public officials and illicit financial flows coupled with a declining economy that are subduing service delivery. A faltering economy shrinks the fiscal space whilst broadening the percentage of the population in need of assistance. For instance, the massive decline of ZWL against the greenback is leading to severe wage erosion and significant increases in prices of necessities at a time the country has experienced a poor 2021/22 agricultural season. This means households have to make huge compromises when making economic decisions, for instance, electing between paying for school fees for their kids or buying food for the entire household. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), about a third of the population is faced with food insecurity in 2022. This calls for substantial government interventions in the social sector to cushion the vulnerable and marginalized communities. Therefore, this section unpacks the study findings on the state of social service delivery in Zimbabwe.

6.1 Availability of Home Health Care Providers

Home health care service is crucial as it helps reduce overpopulation in central hospitals thus minimizing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Also, decongesting central hospitals leads to a relatively lower doctor or nurse-patient ratio and will likely boost the work morale of health care professionals who are already being paid below the poverty datum line.

Fig 9: Health Care Provision



ZIMCodd survey shows that while home health care providers are of better quality, the majority of citizens cannot afford their services. The unaffordability is highly attributed to the economy which is re-dollarizing yet the majority continue to earn in the fragile Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL). The survey results also showed that only half (50%) of home health care providers have a fairly language-diverse workforce while in terms of the etiquette (respectful and helpful) of health carers, 52% of the sampled districts' home health care providers were rated as fair while 35% were poor.

6.2 Quality of Health Care Facilities

As alluded to earlier, the quality of health care in Zimbabwe has significantly dilapidated largely due to the lack of sufficient government support for this sector coupled with poor corporate governance. Though nominal public spending on health as a proportion of the total national budget is showing an upward trend, the commitments are falling foul of the 15% threshold as set in the Abuja Declaration.

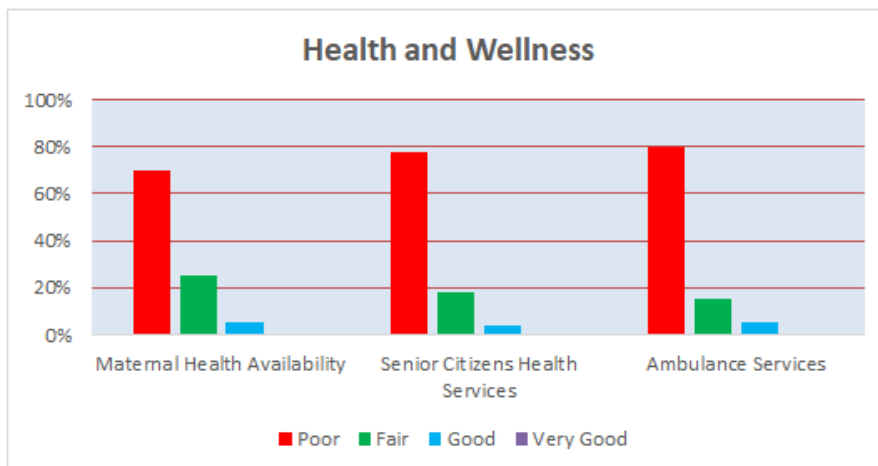
Fig 10: Healthcare Facility Status



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The survey established that about 75% of public healthcare facilities are poor, a month-on-month downward trend since ZIMCODD started the PRM Situational Report in April 2021. Only 10% of the facilities have been reported as good while 15% were fairly maintained. This state of infrastructure alone can be demoralizing to the health care professionals as they face difficulties in discharging their service to the nation.

Fig 11: Health and Wellness



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The survey found that only 25% of the 57 districts surveyed have fair maternal health care services while 70% are facing larger challenges in accessing the same. This finding is disheartening because prenatal and postpartum maternal health is critical to a mother's physical and mental well-being and contributes to her ability to render loving, proper care to her new-born child at birth and years thereafter.

Other disgusting survey findings were that 78% and 80% of the districts surveyed had poor health care services for the old aged and ambulance services respectively. Elderly care is crucial because aging comes with health complications and many old adults are living with long-term medical conditions.

Case: Mimosa Mine Donates 2 Incubators to Zvishavane Hospital

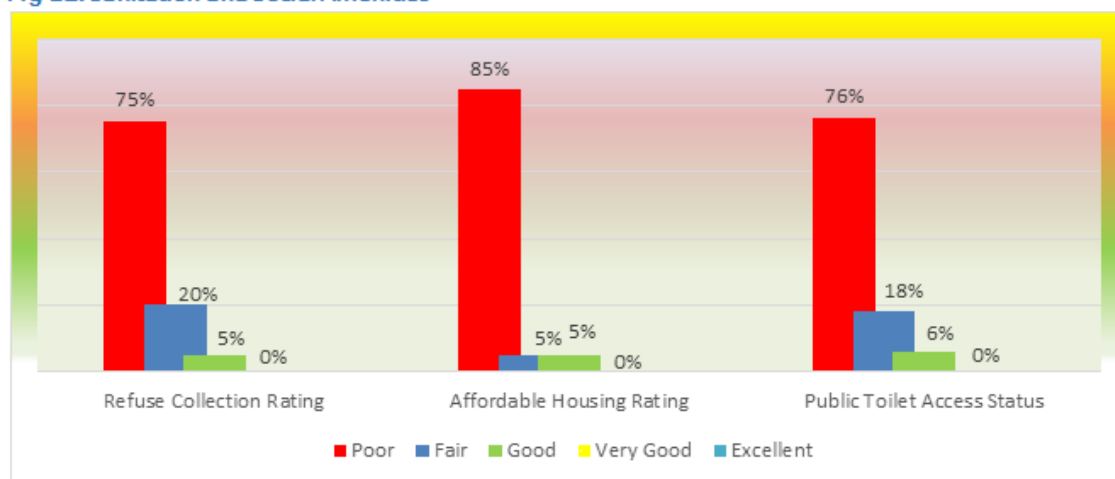
Zvishavane Hospital has been operating for years without incubators which increased infant mortality rates. The Mimosa Mining Company through its Social responsibility Department donated two incubators in early April. Zvishavane Hospital, commonly known as White Hospital is a government-owned hospital that serves communities of Zvishavane urban, rural communities, Mberengwa and Filabusi.

Over the years, the maternity ward has seen an increase in infant deaths due to inadequate machinery to cater to newly born babies. According to an officer in the Department of Social Services through their findings, discovered that the hospital faced a serious challenge in their maternity ward where the hospital could not handle preterm babies without incubators. A resident doctor at Zvishavane Hospital expressed relief and showed gratitude at the donation and he went on to say that this is a great improvement that will save a lot of lives. The official handover of the two incubators has given hope to the staff at the White hospital who were seen rejoicing at the thought of saving more lives.

6.3 Access to Safe Sanitation and Social Amenities

It is worrisome to note that 42 years into independence, Zimbabwe continues to face frequent outbreaks of medieval diseases like cholera and typhoid, an exception for the 21st century. These are the results of poor sanitation services. Therefore, the provision of sanitation and social amenities services is crucial for the existence of a healthy population.

Fig 12: Sanitation and Social Amenities

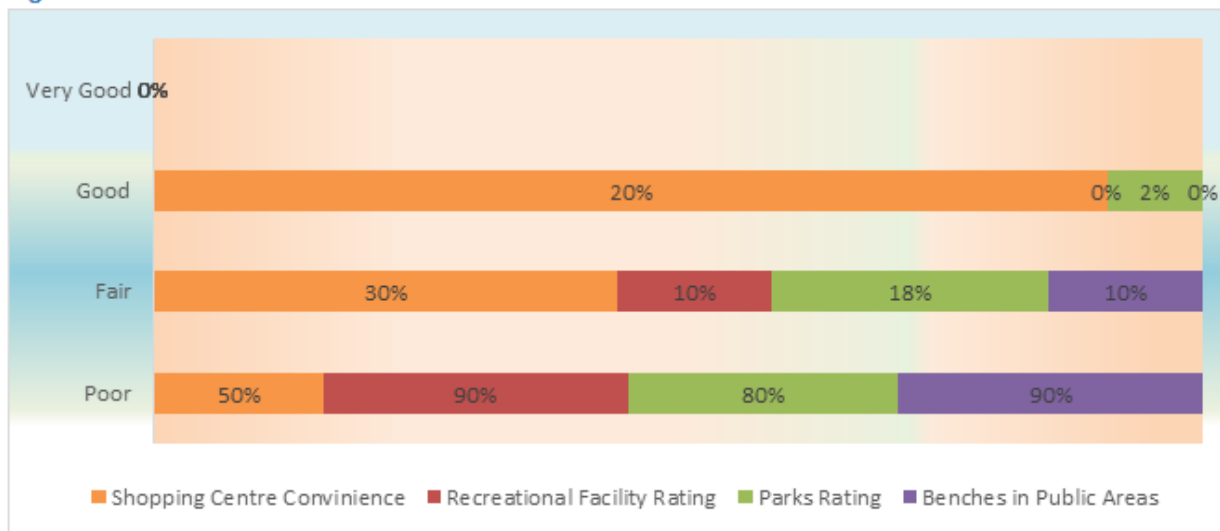


Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The survey found that 75% of the districts surveyed had a poor record on the collection of refuse with only 20% rated as fair and 5% as good. This is due to poor management of public resources, for instance, the Auditor-General has found out that some municipalities have paid for refuse trucks in 2019 but are yet to be delivered to date.

As for housing, the survey results showed that 80% of the districts have unaffordable housing. This is in line with tightening economic performance where prices have risen by an annual rate of 96% in April 2022. More so, the survey established that 76% of the 56 districts surveyed lacked well-maintained, clean, and safe public toilets that are accessible to people from all walks of life.

Fig 13: Other Social Amenities



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The survey results were also concerning as they showed that 90% of recreational facilities in districts surveyed are poorly maintained and thus not safe for the public. Also, 90% of the districts lack enough benches for resting in public parks while 80% of these parks were rated unsafe for the public. Recreational and public parks are essential in a country as they allow citizens to socialize. Participation in recreational groups and socially supported physical activity will help in reducing stress, anxiety and depression. Also, violent crime decreases significantly when participating in community activities by individuals increases.

Case: Recreational Facilities- A Past Glory

Local authorities have a central role to play in the provision of community sports and recreation facilities. With the Minister of Finance and Economic Development allocating ZWL\$7,844,058,000 to the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Art, and Recreation in the 2022 National Budget (an increase from 2021's ZWL\$3.4 billion), one would expect consequent refurbishment of the dilapidated sport and recreational infrastructure facilities across the country. However, this is not the case. Arcadia Sports Club located in Harare Ward 2 is one case of a once-celebrated recreational facility that has nothing to show for its past glory. The grounds are unkempt, the basketball court is wearing off and the swimming pool is empty. The Club has been virtually deserted. Community members have therefore taken it upon themselves to try and bring back the Club's honour.

Arcadia Sports Club Committee has been working on establishing the real extent of work and related costs to get the facilities operating once again. The current source of funds is

from membership fees, donations, and money generated through fundraising activities. It is, however, disheartening to note that while citizens are drained dry by exorbitant taxes which fill the national coffers to address developmental issues and improve utilities, citizens still find themselves scrapping from the little left to fund the same as there is no evidence of work done by their local authorities. The imperative question to ask is therefore how much of the ZWL\$7,8 billion will go towards the actual refurbishment of the sport and recreational facilities across the nation, as it were if citizens still need to seek donations for the same task for which money was allocated.

Sports and leisure in the community should be viewed as a way to engage the youth and combat such vices as alcohol and substance abuse. It is therefore essential that the money set aside for sports and recreation is used for the refurbishments of these sports clubs to ensure and assist with not only the recovery of this crucial sector but the nurturing of local

Case: The regional gateway without public toilets

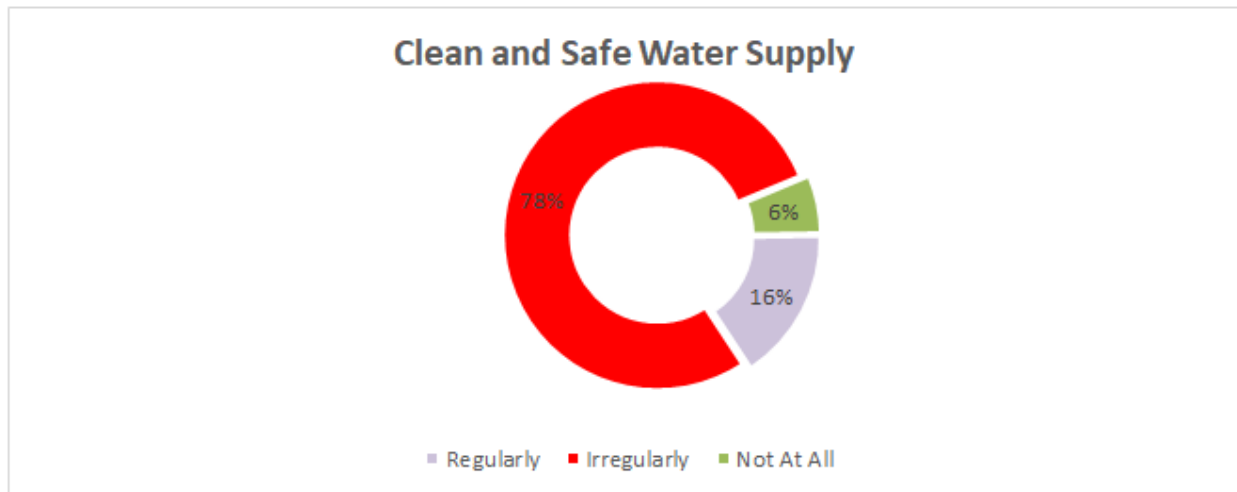
The City of Victoria Falls does not have public toilets in its central business district. The lack of public restrooms is a grave concern in the tourist city as it leaves thousands of people who frequent the city having to buy in restaurants to access the facilities. Residents, tourists, as well as travellers, face challenges accessing restrooms and this has led to health hazards and mobility inequality. The lack of public toilets is an inequality that disproportionately affects groups that are already disadvantaged. People with disabilities (PWDs), old people, children, and those with health conditions that need them to frequently access toilets are severely impacted. The situation is even dire for women who make up the bulk of cross-border traders frequenting the city.

Despite the Victoria Falls municipality collecting Capital development levies from residents every month, there are no prospects of having the toilets built as the 2022 council budget does not indicate that there are plans to build toilets. Capital development levies are levies collected and set aside for development in a financial year. It excludes capitalized administration costs and is used for development projects that add value and ease of business such as the construction of facilities. In the era of privatization due to the widening public funding gap, most public services have been left underdeveloped or have been left to dwindle. The privatization of facilities such as public toilets that are a necessity for the poor has exacerbated the inequality gap and lowered hygiene standards.

6.4 Water Supply

Section 77 of Zimbabwe's constitution designates access to clean water as a human right. It reads, "Every person has a right to – safe, clean, and potable water... and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realization of this right." The United Nations through its Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) pushes for universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030. This shows that water is critical in supporting all forms of life and the realization of other human rights like the right to a clean & safe environment as well as the right to health. However, access to clean and safe water is a burden for the majority of citizens in Zimbabwe.

Fig 14: Availability of Clean, Safe and Portable Water



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The survey established that 78% of the districts surveyed receive clean and safe water irregularly. Only 16% of the districts are accessing uninterrupted water supply while 6% have no access to clean water at all times. It means that this 6% are exposed to deadly water-borne diseases such as cholera. As pointed out in the March 2022 issue of this report, water supply in urban areas is being hindered by the growing population being caused by rural-urban migration in search of greener pastures. The size of the population has outpaced the capacity of water treatment plants, some of which were built in pre-independent Zimbabwe.

Case: Chipinge District Hospital exposes patients to a myriad of health risks

Chipinge District hospital recently experienced a shortage of water which is believed to be a result of aged water pipes which are bursting frequently. There is only one borehole at the hospital which cannot provide enough water for both the hospital and resident staff. This forced patients' relatives to bring water from home for use at the hospital. Revelations from a discussion with one of the staff members indicated that the hospital system needed a complete renovation and they were struggling to get adequate water supplies mainly because of the aging pipes which need to be repaired. The efforts to engage the council were made but they were told that the role of the council was to supply water to the main pipes and as for the repairing of the pipe it was to be done by the Department of Public Works. The shortage of water mainly affected patients, particularly women and children. This is a health hazard that may lead to increased outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

6.5 Road Networks

Local roads in Zimbabwe have significantly deteriorated as local authorities are failing to maintain the existing roads albeit the rising need for a new road network as communities are expanding in line with a growing population. In rural areas, some areas are not road linked and locals walk long distances to access a road.

Fig 15: State of Local Roads



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

Primary data shows that 70% of the districts surveyed have poorly maintained streets while 90% have poorly lit streets and 65% have unreadable traffic signs, all to the detriment of the public. Furthermore, the survey established that 80% of the districts lack functional audio and visual pedestrian crossings. This has a great disadvantage, particularly to vulnerable members of society like young children and people with disabilities.

Case: Road rehabilitation in Epworth

There are some positive results from the government's Emergency Road Rehabilitation Program (ERRP) in Epworth as the Ministry of Transport Infrastructure and Development has now availed funds to Epworth Local Board (ELB) for the rehabilitation of Delpot Road. The chairperson of ELB, Councillor Gift July said that the work is progressing well. Delpot road was in a very bad state with a lot of potholes and this was affecting motorists. Also, the commuting public was affected as ZUPCO busses were no longer using the road because of its potholes. The road is now being rehabilitated and the total cost for the completion of the project is projected at US\$7.5 million. The ELB is working with Bitumen Contractor and the Board is pleased with the work being done by the contractor.

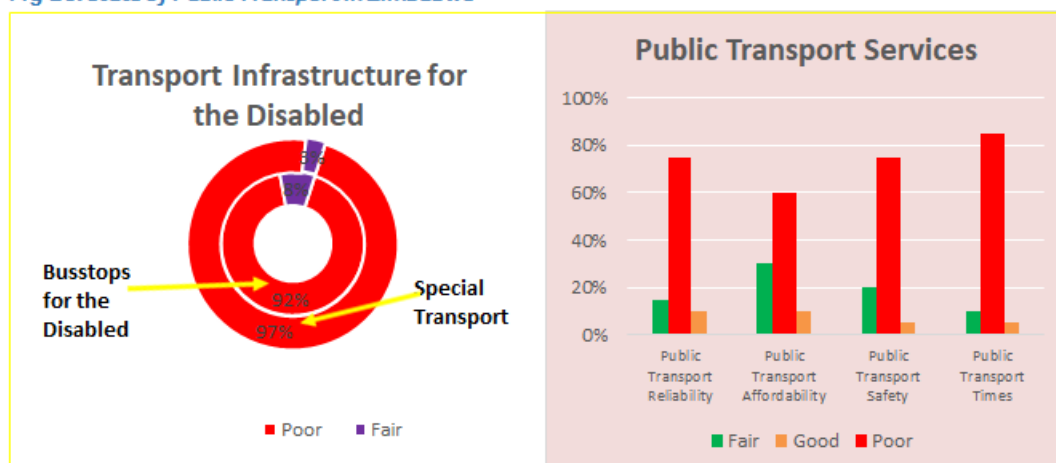


The pictures above from the left show Delpot road under construction and the picture on the right side shows unfinished work for the construction of the Glenwood Road project. However, there are some road projects in Epworth which are not progressing well. For instance, the construction of Garan'anga, Glenwood, and Dombo roads was not progressing, forcing the ELB to cancel underperforming contractors. The two axed contractors are Excel and the Department of Roads (DR). The challenge being faced in these projects is largely emanating from the massive depreciation of the Zimbabwe dollar and rampant inflation.

6.6 Public Transportation

The country is facing acute public transport challenges largely due to the monopoly granted to ZUPCO by the state. Yet, the parastatal has a depleted bus fleet to meet passenger traffic as the economy has fully re-opened from COVID-19 induced lockdowns. The excessive ZWL depreciation and the Russia-Ukraine war is leading to high fuel prices thus affecting bus fares. Although the global crude oil market will eventually balance the demand for and supply of crude oil, it will likely continue to price in the volatile region until the Russia-Ukraine conflict is settled.

Fig 16: State of Public Transport in Zimbabwe



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The survey findings confirm the torrid times being faced by the commuting public. For instance, 75% of the districts surveyed are without properly maintained public vehicles which are safe for the public while in 85% of the districts, public transport is not time conscious. This highlights the life-threatening experiences being faced by the public in Zimbabwe daily: a combination of poorly maintained roads and poorly maintained public vehicles. ZIMCODD also established that unaffordability of transport is highly linked to rising fuel prices exacerbated by the conflict in eastern Europe which forced ZUPCO to review its tariffs upwards. More so, the public transportation system is not user-friendly for people with disabilities (PWD). About 92% of the districts lack safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to PWD while 97% had no special transportation services for PWD and older adults.

6.7 Engendering Public Service Delivery in Zimbabwe

Gender, governance and the provision of public services are intrinsically linked. This section presents the state of public service delivery through a gendered lens. It is evident that current governance reforms are not gender-responsive and neither are they gender-neutral. While public service delivery is for all, there is little evidence to show that public service delivery is gender-sensitive or focuses directly on the access or delivery of basic services to women even though the needs of men, women, boys and girls are different. It is therefore important to interrogate the gender dimensions of public service delivery and whether such services are provided with the different gendered elements of service delivery in mind.

Of notable concern in this month's SitRep is the issue of education. The right to education is foundational and most societies place a high premium on education, not only is it the means by which individuals are able to fulfil their potential, but it also provides the basis for development and upliftment. The issue of educational advancement in Zimbabwe is a cause for concern. Zimbabwe once boasted of a world class education system that once produced results that were amongst the finest in Africa. Today, educational advancement in Zimbabwe is matched by an ebb, marked by ill-equipped teachers, dilapidated infrastructure, over subscription of children in schools and exorbitant fee increases. Throughout the country, teachers are demanding incentives of US\$5 to US\$10 per month from parents in order to continue teaching as teachers' salaries are not enough:

Case: At Tennyson Primary School in Bulawayo, teachers have started sub-dividing the classrooms by announcing in the parents' group chat via WhatsApp that those who were ready to pay the incentives should contact the class teacher through direct messages. New WhatsApp groups for paying parents were created resulting in the initial groups became inactive.

The exclusion of learners due to economic circumstances has led to an increased number in school dropouts and this is detrimental to the girl child. While acknowledging that there is a drug abuse problem among Zimbabwean youth, mostly males, advancing girls' education is instrumental in transforming communities, countries and the entire world.

Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy, productive lives. They earn higher incomes, participate in the decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves and their families.⁷ In Zimbabwe, education is no longer an inalienable right guaranteed to every child, but it is now a privilege reserved for those who have. It is important that the government fulfils every child's right to education as enshrined in the Constitution. Furthermore, it is also important that the government ensures this by paying its teachers fair wages as this has an impact not only on the individual lives of the teachers involved but also the quality of the education system in the country.

In February 2021, Zimbabwean roads were declared a state of disaster. The continuous abysmal state of road infrastructure requires immediate attention since the road transportation is the commonest means of transportation essential for service delivery, movement of people and accessibility of local service centres and communities. Women are gravely affected by poor road networks, not only is their productivity affected as they go in search of water, take their children to school, go in search of healthcare services especially for expecting mothers but also their safety is a cause for concern. Women are not safe as they board public transport in Zimbabwe due to the sexual harassment they encounter from touts and male passengers as they wait in queues for transport or while in ZUPCO busses. Women's safety is a concern given the poorly lit streets when they have to walk early hours or late at night. It is important that while roads are being reconstructed, that the safety and security of women is taken into account by providing street lights and ensuring that public transport is easily accessible and meets the demand of commuters.

Access to clean water remains a challenge in many parts of Zimbabwe. Fetching water remains largely the responsibility of women and children who walk long distances to collect water from wells, springs and rivers. Lack of access to water places a heavy burden on women and children in finding alternative water sources for household use. International human rights norms demand that priority be given to water and sanitation for vulnerable groups such as the very poor, displaced, disabled and elderly, and for women and children within all these groups.⁸ Section 77 of the Constitution provides that every person has the right to safe, clean, and potable water. The human right to water and sanitation reflects the growing recognition of the significance of social and economic rights in addressing poor urban and rural women's basic concerns as providers of food and care for young, sick and elderly family members. The full realization of the right to water has the potential to combat poverty, promote health and food security, and ease the caring and household burdens that hamper African women's enjoyment of a wide range of social and economic rights.

7. <https://www.unicef.org/education/girls-education>

8. <http://www.searacw.ac.zw/downloads/water-is-life.pdf>

Case: In Gweru, the city council's gender-inclusive system has been questioned by local women organizations following appointments of an advisory board and committee of enquiry that are not gender inclusive. Both the Committee of Enquiry on Service Delivery and Mayor's Advisory Board constitute of seven members with only 1 female representing women in each of the decision-making bodies. The Constitution provides that a full gender balance in Zimbabwean society must be promoted. It further provides that "the State must promote the full participation of women in all spheres of Zimbabwean society on the basis of equality with men". The State is mandated to take all measures to ensure that both genders are equally represented in all institutions and agencies of government at every level. According to the Constitution, women must constitute at least half the membership of all Commissions and other elective and appointed governmental bodies.

"It is time as women to stand up and demand our space, especially in critical processes that affect our access to essential services such as portable water and health at local health facilities. There is a need for a paradigm shift on the structurization of decision-making bodies. These structures should be inclusive, and gender balanced. There is no inclusive development without other key actors in our society and that is to include women and People with Disabilities," – Nozipho Rutsate (ZIMCODD Social and Economic Justice Ambassador, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe Gweru Chapter Chairperson)

It should be noted that Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 cannot be achieved without gender equality and the equal participation of both men and women at every level in the mainstream economy. Inequality in society must be addressed because when women receive the same education and job opportunities as men, they can improve society. Studies show that diversity of all types (gender, race, sexual identity, etc) increases society's productivity and innovation. When women are well represented and are able to make their own choices, there will be provision for better education, quality healthcare, healthier food, increased security and improved lifestyle.

The state of public healthcare in Zimbabwe, remains poor. There is a lack of medical personnel, poor infrastructure and inadequate and non-functional equipment.

Case: The case of Zvishavane Hospital demonstrates how the lack of adequate, accessible, affordable, and available healthcare is not only detrimental to human life but affects women and children differently from men. Zvishavane Hospital has been operating for years without incubators which has resulted in an increase in infant mortality rates. Neonatal care requires women to be away from home for prolonged hours thereby affecting their normal day to day lives. It is commendable that Mimosa Mining Company through its Social Responsibility Department donated two incubators early in April 2022 in an effort to decrease infant mortality rates at the hospital. The hospital had been facing a serious challenge in their maternity ward where they could not cater for pre-term babies due to the absence of incubators. Pregnant women and new mothers would face the agony of losing their newly born babies in the maternity ward as they had no capacity to save preterm babies or babies born with various physical defects. While efforts by non-state actors are always welcomed, it remains government's responsibility to ensure that healthcare services are adequately provided for, in line with the Constitution.

7. Conclusion

The April Situational Report concludes that the Zimbabwean society is characterised by inequitable distribution of resources and wealth which suggests a failure of 'distribution of the national cake'. This means that the richer become richer while the poor continue to wallow in increased abject poverty. This continued poverty and inequality witnessed in both the rural and urban contexts has been exacerbated by the broader development paradigm which has been found lacking in terms of implementation and evaluation of its policies. Public resource Management cannot be understood outside the delivery of important social services such as public health, affordable housing, provision of clean water and road maintenance. Yet, in Zimbabwe today, these services have been heavily compromised resulting in a culture of disengagement and growing public mistrust in the government of the day. Citizen agency must remain central in developmental processes to ensure prudent, transparent, accountable and responsible PRM and this calls for the need to widen the base of economic participation.

8. Recommendations

- **Public Transportation:** The government should invest heavily in the mass transit system as this is one of the best ways to provide social safety nets for the vulnerable members of society. The country is currently lacking an efficient transport network system despite the ever-increasing price of fuel which in turn is driving the transportation costs. The ZUPCO's depleted bus fleet needs to be expanded for it to meet the local demand. Also, it is a welcome development that the government has resolved to re-open the public transport sector to private players. This will provide citizens with alternatives and also increase competition thus suppressing transportation costs.
- **Health sector:** The health sector in Zimbabwe is getting less attention from the government as seen by the paltry amounts set aside annually for this sector. This has significantly affected service delivery as there are acute shortages of medical supplies and health care professionals. The health of a nation is critical because it increases worker productivity thus translating into a sustained economic growth path. Therefore, the government should endeavor to spend at least 15% of its annual budget on the health sector as per the Abuja Declaration.
- **Public Consultations:** Authorities should fully engage with the public when it comes to matters of expending public funds. Some of the challenges being faced by residents across the country show a huge disconnect between the duty bearers and the rights holders. This has led to a break of a social contract as citizens are no longer willing to pay their taxes due to trust issues they have with the government.

There is therefore need for deliberate efforts to reinsert the citizens into public policy making processes so as to give due recognition to the voice of the citizens. Dialogue is one of the best ways to solve wide-ranging societal problems.

- **Devolution Funds:** As indicated in the March issue of this publication, the government should ensure timeous disbursements of devolution funds to all local authorities. The currently delayed disbursements of these devolution funds in a highly inflationary environment are tantamount to a waste of public funds. Local governments source key supplies and materials from the private sector, a sector that charges Zimbabwe dollar prices that are benchmarked to the parallel market rate. Therefore, ZIMCODD urges the Treasury to disburse large chunks of fiscal transfers to local governments on time before the value is erased by currency depreciation and ravaging inflation.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** The urban population has ballooned over the years as a result of tightening lives and livelihoods in rural areas which led to increased rural to urban migration. This has overwhelmed water treatment plants and water distribution infrastructure. To cope with rising demand, authorities should find innovative ways such as strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and raising revenue to invest heavily in water infrastructure.
- **There is need to engender public service delivery:** It is evident that women in low and middle-income countries such as Zimbabwe, do not have equal access to public resources, such as education, employment, or healthcare compared to men. In ensuring equality and equity in society and that all persons, regardless of gender enjoy their rights, the government must ensure that the budget is gender responsive and addresses the needs of women and the greater burden of care work that is placed on women in society. There is also need to maximise available public resources, notably tax revenues, to invest in gender responsive public services that will help to end gender inequality and fulfil all women's human rights.
- **Prudent resource allocation and expenditure:** The Ministry of Transport should see to it that, the resources allocated to NRZ equates its performance. The Procurement Regulatory of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) should also independently oversee all procurement procedures in Zimbabwe.
- **Reform the extractives sector:** The Ministry of Mines should see to it that, local communities benefit from resources within their jurisdiction. The Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Mines should put measure and mechanism that fast-track the re-tabling processes of the Mines and Minerals Bill.