

PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SITUATIONAL REPORT

JUNE 2022



ZIMCODD
ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT & DEVELOPMENT

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1. Introduction and Background

The June Public Resource Management Situational Report (PRM SitRep) analyses the utilization of public resources across the country. Public resources are at the epicenter of national growth and development. Nevertheless, this largely depends on how the nation utilizes its resources. If used judiciously, public resources can bring about positive transformation in the country. Public resources in Zimbabwe entail minerals, water bodies, roads, recreational facilities to mention but a few. Therefore, to come up with a comprehensive study, a survey was undertaken in 57 districts across the country and actionable recommendations were prescribed based on the findings raised.

2. Purpose

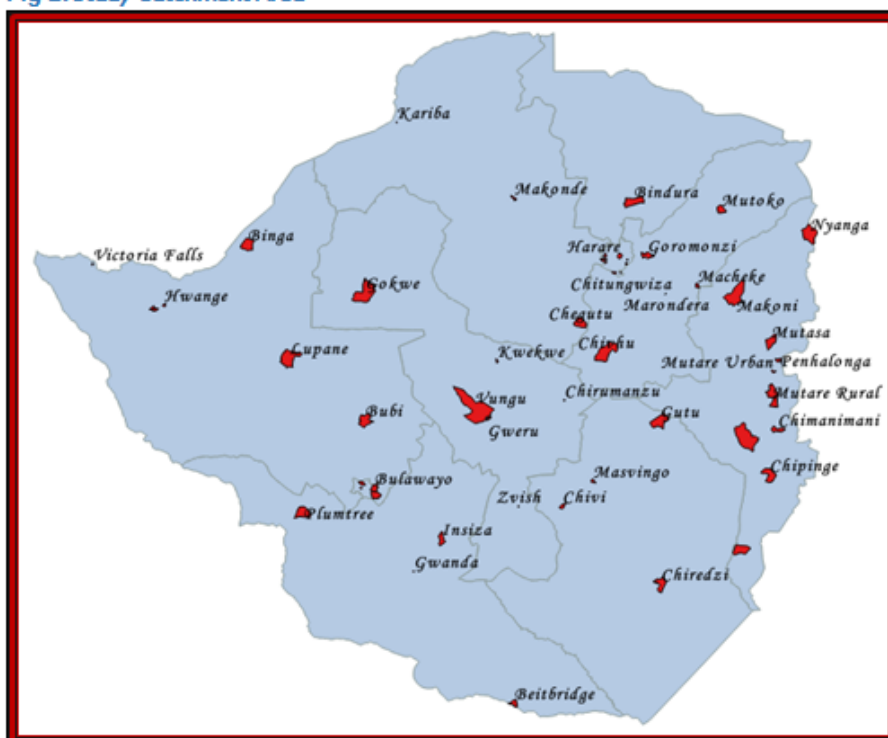
At the core of the PRM SitRep is the need to satisfy the following objectives:

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.
4. To proffer actionable recommendations that can promote national development and growth.

3. Methodology

The PRM SitRep utilised mixed method research, for the attainment of an exploratory, explanatory and descriptive study that captures community voices and aspiration with respect to PRM. GRPSD and PRM lenses underpinned 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 a saturation level. While quantitative 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 illustrative in fig one below which shows study catchment area.

Fig 1: Study Catchment Area



Source: Primary Data Compiled by ZIMCODD

4. Public Resources Management Situational Context

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development through the Financial Adjustment Act, 2022 is seeking condonation for un-authorized expenditure incurred by the same ministry amounting to Z\$100 690 788 418 for the year 2020 and Z\$ 6 783 930 028 for the year 2019. The condonation being sought is in line with Section 307 of the Zimbabwean Constitution mandating the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to cause a Bill that shall be tabled to Parliament and the President of Zimbabwe condoning the unsanctioned expenditure, at most 60 days after establishing the authorized expenditure. Taking from the foregoing, the condonation bill comes 2 years after the 'expenditure' was made and this distorts the authenticity and sincerity of budgetary processes same as the ideologies underpinning the budgets. In 2019, the total budget expenditure was US\$8.2 billion against bid proposals of US\$15 billion by line ministries and the restrained spending seemed to match with the 'Austerity for Prosperity' dictum paraded by the government.

The unauthorized spending of Z\$6 783 930 028 increased the 2019 total budget expenditure to almost the US\$15 billion proposal by line ministries. The condonation of the Z\$6 783 930 028 according to the bill is not accompanied by a breakdown of the uses of the money. This reflects government's double standards in touting for stability of fundamentals and whilst secretly printing money to sponsor the insatiable quest to spend. Whereas the constitution directs the Minister to raise the bill within 60 days of establishing the excessive expenditure, it is not believable that the excess expense for 2019 and 2020 were established at the same time. This definitely is a punishable breach of the constitution.

The 2020 national budget running with the theme 'Gearing for Higher Productivity, Growth and Job Creation' was worth Z\$63 billion and the unsanctioned expenditure declared through the Financial Adjustment Act is Z\$ 100 690788 418 – implying that the total expenditure for 2020 was Z\$163.7 billion. The excess expenditure does not tally with the financing means defined in the budget document thus, the government printed money to meet the brazen expenditure. The excess expenditure is not explained with respect to the use of the resources and worryingly, the time frame in which these excess expenditures happened was associated with meagre civil servant salaries and protracted industrial action which led to the crippling of the health and education sectors.

The same period (2019-2020) the Minister declared budget surpluses which now do not make sense given the condonation bill. The US\$100 million surplus from 2020 allocated to the purchase of vaccines in 2021 is questionable and this shows that national resources are not being managed with the requisite diligence and conformance with statutory provisions. The excess expenditures, likely sponsored by money printing negates the rhetoric of strictly managing money supply growth, hence the galloping inflation in the economy. With such a precedence, it is likely that 2021 and 2022 will also have own condonation bills given superfluous expenditure by government. It is imperative for government to adhere to constitutionalism regarding the management of state resources thus stringent penalties must be put in place to deter individuals from taking unitary decisions that affect the lives of many Zimbabweans. Also, reforms should be enacted to grant parliament the powers to sanction government expenditure before such expenditures are executed.

In addition, the politics of command and economics of sophisticated algorithms has ushered many Zimbabweans into misery and unhappiness. Extreme poverty has reached astronomic levels with more than half of the population failing to afford basic commodities. While the government continues to attribute some of the price increases for basic commodities to the Russian-Ukraine War, the justification of this assertion remains questionable given the fact that prior the war basic commodities were already a luxury. Thus, becoming a privilege of the minority (elite). Accessibility to basic service delivery such as health care, education and water has remained the biggest challenge that Zimbabweans continues to face. This can be evidenced by Hauna District Hospital which is in Mutasa North. The hospital has one doctor, one ambulance which is not in a perfect condition and a catchment area of approximately 40 000 - 50 000 people. The demand for healthcare in the district clearly shows a great imbalance between demand and service provision. Efforts by satellite clinics such as Gatsi and Hauna continues to fail to meet demand. The same plight is encountered in the marginalised communities of Chinmanimani. A good example is that of Ngangu community which only have a Chimanimani Rural Hospital and no ambulance as the Rural Council claims to have no capacity to provide one. The hospital does not have a doctor as it relies on a doctor that visits from Rusitu Mission Hospital.

A testament to lack of human resources in the health sector as the doctor has to cover patients transferred from various sub clinics such as Martin Clinic Ward 11, Charlsehood clinic ward 12, Chikukwa clinic ward 10, Nyahonde clinic ward 10 and Machongwe clinic ward 13 to mention but a few.

Inflation has not made things easy as education has become out of reach for many children. The failure by over 30 000 students to register for ZIMSEC in 2021 attest to the verdict that education has become a privilege of the elite. Further, a notification by Hartzell High released on 12 June 2022 in which the school claims that the ZWL 55 000 fees which had been paid has lost its value due to inflation buttresses the same notion. At the same time, the flagship Basic Education Module Assistance (BEAM) programme by the government has failed to cater for the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. As of August 2021, the government had paid for 160 782 children for ZWL 432 834 468. A total of 2022 primary schools and 722 secondary schools received BEAM. From the 160 782 children, the government paid for approximately 51 221 boys and 51 390 girls from primary school at a total cost of ZWL 290 773 596 as well as 30 540 boys and 81 761 girls from secondary schools at a total cost of ZWL 142 060 872. Although government`s efforts are commendable, it is sad to note that approximately 4 million children are in need of BEAM but only 160 782 managed to receive government assistance.

Unsustainable extraction and exportation of raw granite rocks from Mutoko has been at the center-stage of Civil Society Organizations` discourse for the past decades without a positive response from the government. However, in a commendable turn of tables, in the month of June, the government banned the exportation of unprocessed granite through Statutory Instrument (SI) 127 of 2022. "The export of unprocessed granite is hereby banned with immediate effect, except with the authorization of the Minister in writing" reads part of the SI127. Also, SI127 posits that all pre-existing valid contracts for the export of unprocessed granite will be allowed to continue until they expire. All those that will contravene or fail to comply with SI127 shall be guilty of an offense and liable to a hefty fine not exceeding level 9 (or twice the value of the base mineral) or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

The new law comes at a time the country is trapped in a 'Natural Resource Curse'. The curse theory maintains that generally, the proximity of abundant natural resources to a community has detrimental impacts on the economic and social wellbeing of that group. Hence, communities are frequently 'cursed' by the presence of resources rather than, as one might otherwise assume, enriched, developed, or blessed. This has been the case in Mutoko where foreign companies were massively extracting granite rocks causing deforestation and environmental degradation, a clear violation of Section 73 of the Zimbabwe Constitution that guarantees environmental rights to citizens. The mining companies are not investing in community development through their social corporate responsibility budgets. For instance, in 2020 Mutoko North had 43 schools comprising 25 Primary schools and 18 secondary schools.

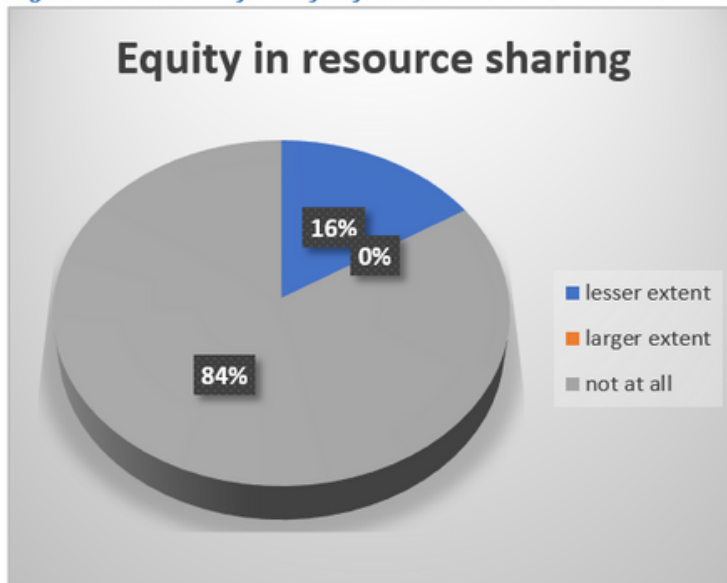
Of these 25 primary schools, 19 did not have access to water, and eight (8) did not have electricity while three (3) clinics in the constituency did not have running water. Despite engaging in environmentally unfriendly extraction, granite rock miners have also been subjected to unfair displacements from their ancestral lands to pave way for granite mining projects. The government's mouthpiece – the Herald- reported in July 2021 that 1 500 households faced eviction as some council officials of Mutoko Rural District were allegedly used as front liners for granite mining investors.

5. Public Resource Management Survey Findings

Over the years, the concept of Public Finance Management has evolved from primarily focusing on financial compliance and control to maintaining a sustainable fiscal position, effective allocation of resources and the efficient provision of public goods and services. This concept has broadened to include all aspects of managing public resources, resource mobilization and debt management, with a progressive extension to the medium to long term implications and risks for public finances of today's policy decisions (Cangiano et al, 2013.) A sound public resource management system is therefore essential for effective and sustainable economic management and public service delivery. Against this background, this situational report assesses the state of public resource management mainly by sub-national governments in Zimbabwe. This section therefore presents an overview of public resource management in 57 districts across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces.

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

Equity in public resource monitoring remains an issue of public concern. The June sitrep witnessed a 2% upward movement in the percentage of respondents (84% from the 82% recorded in May) who reported that public resource benefits are not equitably distributed in Zimbabwe. Only 16% of the surveyed districts reported that public resources benefits are equitably distributed, though to a lesser extent. Command politics of PRM continue to determine who gets what, when and how and this has left many stranded with nowhere to turn to.

5.2 Citizens Involvement in Decisions to do with Public Resources

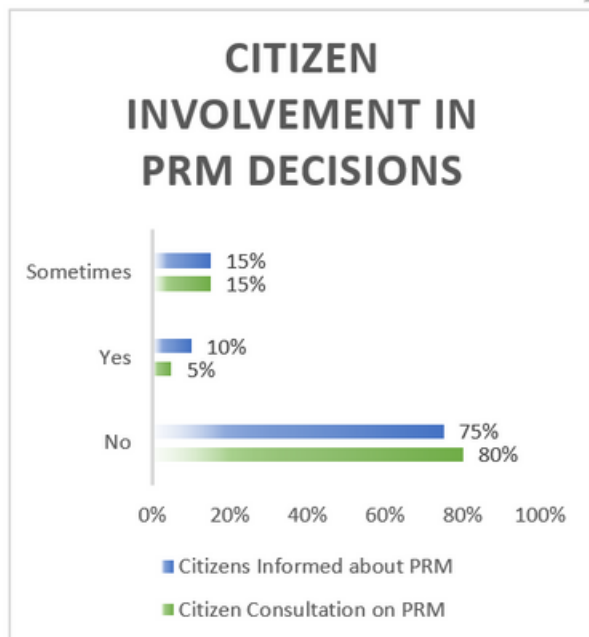


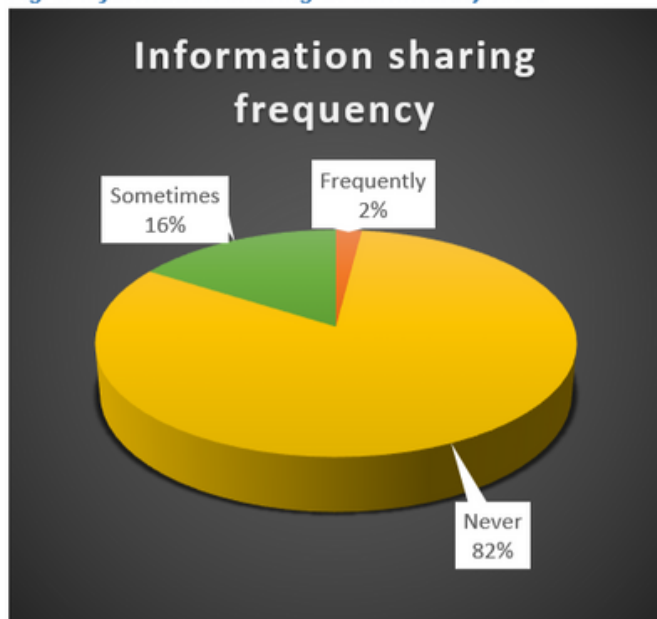
Fig 3: Informed about the Exploitation and Use of Public Resources

The June Sitrep found out that residents are not consulted in 80% of the surveyed districts, while in 15% they are sometimes consulted and only in 5% residents reported that they are consulted when public resources decisions are made at their local authority level. The sitrep further establishes that residents are not involved in PRM decisions in 75% of the sampled districts, while 15% are sometime involved and 10% are involved when PRM decisions are made at local government level. The sitrep therefore concludes that at the core of local governance is the failure to acknowledge and promote the role of citizens within a society, a position that has remained constant since March 2022, suggesting inadequacy in the current local governance frameworks.

Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

5.3. Access to Information on Public Resources

Fig 4: Information sharing at community level



Public access to PRM information is critical to foster transparency and accountability in the management of public resources. As such, local authorities should systematically avail public resource management information to residents. However, the June sitrep notes with concern the growing perception of a “government of disinformation” among sampled districts. To this effect, 82% reported that local authorities never freely share information regarding public resource management. In 16% of the districts, residents reported that information is sometimes shared while only 2% reported that public resource information is frequently shared.

Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

Case: Information gap persist in rural Nyanga



The above picture shows how communities have accepted the importance of information through attending the ZIMCODD facilitated Radio Listening Clubs.

The provision of information has gained popularity in the quest to empower communities with community radio listening clubs as a unique and effective tool. In Nyanga, CORAs initiated radio listening clubs to ensure both the improvement in closing the information gap, through information technologies and shifting of development paradigm towards a more participatory style of information and knowledge transfer. Access to information is very important especially in ensuring a good relationship between residents and service providers. Residents welcomed the initiative of radio listening clubs hoping to see an improvement in the way of life in communities anchored on improved service delivery. Nyanga Community is geographically separated by mountains therefore not as easy to bring people in one place. This has been made easier through ward based radio listening clubs as CORAs gather residents and articulate information on public resource management at local authority level.

The radio listening club sessions are aimed at ensuring social accountability, an ideology based on the idea that citizens are essential partners in governance, specifically in ensuring responsiveness, transparency and accountability in the use of public resources and the fulfilment of government's social contract with citizens. This concept enables citizens to determine how public resources are used as they share their interests, concerns and aspirations pertaining community development.

Case: Service delivery plummets while allegations of corruption mount at Chitungwiza Municipality

Chitungwiza residents have noted that Chitungwiza Municipality is lagging behind on transparency and accountability, residents and civil society organizations have no access to information about the operations of Chitungwiza Municipality. Corruption at Chitungwiza Municipality ranges from nepotism, embezzlement, unfair labor practices, bribery, irregular distribution of land (open space/ wetland invasions) and all has resulted in poor service delivery. Chitungwiza municipality is said to have lost millions of dollars as top council officials overpay themselves in the form of allowances and in some instances overspend on workshops at the expense of service delivery.

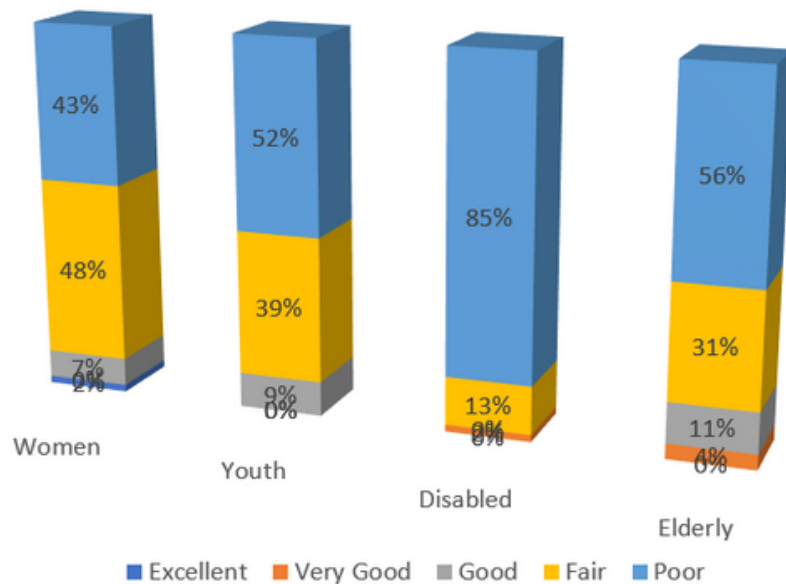
Residents are therefore calling for Chitungwiza Municipality to provide residents and civil society organizations with information detailing how ratepayers' money is being used. This information must always be available to ratepayers, special interest groups, community leaders and CSOs so as to promote good governance. It should however be noted that corruption is a pandemic which militates against the realization and attainment of sustainable development goal number 11 which speaks of sustainable cities and communities. Also, Corruption at Chitungwiza Municipality is hampering efforts to develop a World Class city. Due to unavailability of public resources information, residents are left to speculate. As such, it has been alleged that revenue is being abused and misappropriated by the politically connected council executives resulting in Chitungwiza Municipality failing on its service delivery mandate thereby total dissatisfaction among residents. Residents are therefore demanding that anti-corruption mechanisms must be implemented at the local government level.

In light of the glaring corrupt activities within the Chitungwiza Municipality residents also suggest that a lifestyle audit must be carried out for both council workers and councilors who have amassed ill-gotten wealth in a very short period and without alternative income source besides paltry salaries and allowances they get. Residents have noted that there is a lack of accountability and transparency in the disbursement of the devolution funds which has created a massive opportunity for abuse of the devolution funds by the habitual corruption doers.

5.4 Public Resources Access by Demographic Groups

Fig 5: Access to Public Resources by Demographic groups

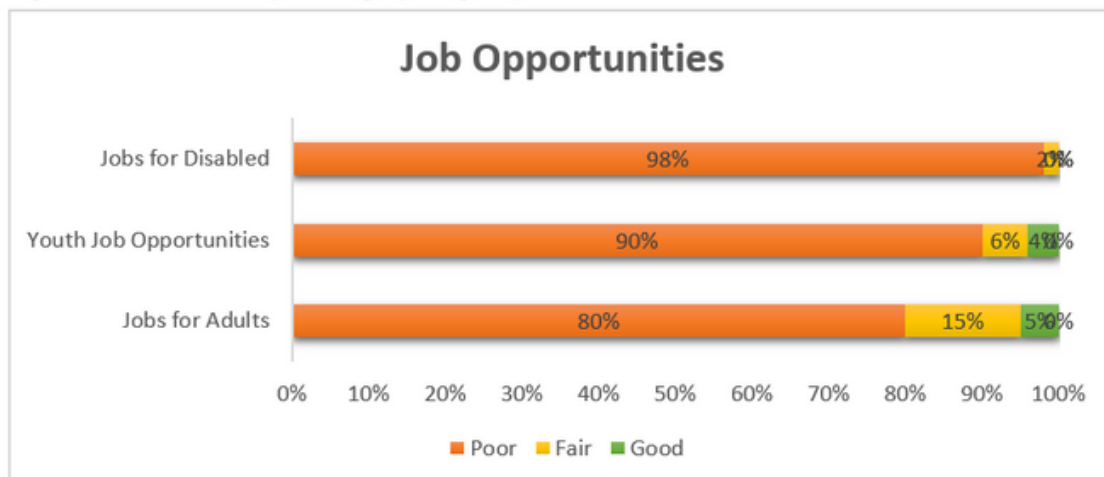
Access to Public Resources by Demographic groups (N=57)



Source: Data Compiled by ZIMCODD

It is worrisome to note that equal access to public resources by different genders has remained a challenge in Zimbabwe. From the sampled districts, 85% reported that access by persons with disabilities is poor while only 13% regarded it as fair. Access to public resources was also significantly poor for the elderly as 56% of districts rated it poor while 31% rated it fair and 11% rated it good. For women and youth, 43% and 52% 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 across all districts.

Fig 6: Access to Jobs by demographic groups



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The June sitrep also established that access to jobs is appalling for people with disabilities which was rated 98% poor in the 57 districts. Lack of job opportunities for youth and adults also received a highly poor rating with a 90% poor rating for the youth and 80% poor rating for the adults. While Zimbabwe has experienced perennial economic crises which has seen the dearth of formal employment opportunities, the situation has been compounded COVID-19. Against this background, the June sitrep therefore calls upon the government to create productive employment opportunities, to improve social protection and to strengthen representation and voice of young people and people with disabilities in both formal and informal economy.

5.5 Access to Budget Information

The June situational report finds out that residents are mainly involved in budget formulation process (70%) than they are in budget execution and monitoring (30%). This is because local authorities tend to seek engagement with residents and other community stakeholders for buy-in of their proposed budgets yet when the same budget is approved, information about how it is being executed is not freely shared by council officials. This scenario thwarts residents' efforts to monitor council budget performance.

Case: PRAZ, Zaka RDC in a road tender scam

Who will police the police? This is the question Zaka residents are pausing to Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ), which is responsible for due diligence before awarding tenders, as it is embroiled in a tender scam with Zaka Rural District Council (RDC). Zaka Rural District Council (RDC) is under fire for conniving with PRAZ, the regulating authority, to award a tender to construct a road to an incompetent contractor Earthlygate Precast and Civil Engineering Contractors which is failing to finish a 2km stretch (a road that links Jerera Growth Point and Musiso Mission Hospital) since awarded the tender in 2021. The company was forced to redo the half stretch it had done after government engineers from the Ministry of Roads and Ministry of Housing and Social Amenities came and condemned the road. However, the remaining 2km stretch has not been completed for over six months and the detour created is hardly passable thereby making it very difficult for residents and motorists to use to ferry their patients to Musiso Mission Hospital.

Zaka RDC Chief Executive David Majaura and the council chairperson Cornelius Mapuranga both confirmed the development but hastened to blame PRAZ saying it was the one that recommended them to hire Earthlygate Precast and Civil Engineering Contractors. "It's PRAZ which recommended this contractor; we had no idea the contractor is very incompetent. We are now under fire from residents as they now suspect that the tender was corruptly awarded to this incompetent contractor. Our hands are clean, we were only misled by PRAZ which recommended this contractor," said Majaura.

How this affects Zaka residents?

The road is critical in that it links Jerera Growth Point and the Musiso Mission Hospital, the second biggest referral hospital in the district after Ndanga District hospital, therefore, the completion of this road will increase efficiency as residents and motorists rush with patients for treatment. Access to health facilities is one of the rights as enshrined in Chapter 4 (bill of rights) of the constitution of Zimbabwe, hence incomplete roads must not hinder citizens from accessing health facilities in time. Zaka RDC paid the dubious contractor using ratepayers' money. This money could have been put into good use elsewhere and improve service delivery, or could have been paid to a more deserving contractor if due diligence was carried out before awarding the contract to a non performing company. There are cases of pregnant women delivering on their way to the hospital as they struggle to get transport amid reports that motorists shun the road since the road was left incomplete and in a very bad state. Thus, how patients may end up losing precious life as there will be no efficient road network hence they have to walk at least 2km to the hospital.



The contractor heaped gravel on the road before abandoning the project for over six months now making it difficult for motorists and residents to rush their patients to Musiso Mission Hospital.



Abandoned equipment

Residents have therefore piled pressure on Zaka RDC over the matter forcing council to debate the issue during a Full Council Meeting in June where a resolution to report the contractor was made to push the contractor to finish the road by August this year, failure council will take appropriate measures to recover the money paid to the contractor. Zaka Central MP Davison Svuuere/ also assured residents that he will move motion in Parliament so that the matter is investigated as he strongly suspects that the tender was corruptly awarded to an undeserving company.

5.6 Access to devolution funds information

One of the objectives of devolution of governmental powers and responsibilities to the provincial and metropolitan councils and local authorities is to ensure the equitable sharing of local and national resources, according to section 264(2)(e) of the Constitution. This is in line with the principle of equitable and geographical distribution of resources. In this regard, section 301(1) of the Constitution stipulates that an Act of Parliament must provide for the equitable allocation of capital grants between provincial and metropolitan councils and local authorities; any other allocations to provinces and local authorities, and provision of any conditions on which those allocations may be made. However, the status quo has created a lacuna that has become an avenue for corruption, embezzlement, misuse and misappropriation of devolution funds as there is no framework for implementing and accounting for devolution funds. For this to work, an Act of Parliament must provide for this, however, the current PFM Act does not have any provision dealing with this. This has left devolution funds at the mercy of local and central government public officials who will use their discretion considering how much to allocate/disburse, when and how while residents have little or no say but just mere beneficiaries/recipients. The following cases are illustrative of the laissez faire approach to devolution by the government:

Case: The demand by Minister July Moyo to redirect Devolution funding is a serious setback for service delivery in Masvingo Urban

A month after the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Local Government was at Town Hall, where it was listening to residents' concerns regarding the handling of devolution funds by the local authority. Member of Parliament, Miriam Chikukwa blasted Masvingo city council for not being transparent and for failing to conduct proper consultations with residents in all the 10 wards. "Devolution funds are not council funds; that money is not yours." You should do different consultations in every ward because communities have priorities. "The bottom line is that you haven't been going to the people to hear their priorities when it comes to what they want the money to be used for," Chikukwa said. City of Masvingo officials were grilled by parliamentarians and residents over the continuous lack of transparency and accountability concerning the use of devolution funds since 2019.

However, in a letter to executive heads of local authorities, namely town clerks, secretaries, and CEOs, Zvinechimwe Churu, who is the permanent secretary in the ministry, urged local authorities, both rural and urban, to 'reprioritize the Devolution Funds to accommodate the cost of the fire tenders, each whopping US \$464,296 each. This is blatant corruption and against the spirit of devolution, as it is enshrined in the constitution. The government sets aside devolution funds for local authorities so that they can carry out projects that they want. The devolution funds are disbursed by the Treasury through the Ministry of Local Government. As it stands, councils have priority projects that they want to carry out, and they have since submitted these to the Ministry of Local Government for approval. Now the minister is coming up with his own projects without having consultations with the residents.

In Masvingo urban, many major projects face a new threat from the Minister's directive. Mucheke Trunk Sewer, Cambria Landfill Development, Rujeko secondary school are some of the projects which are going to be affected by the minister's directive. City of Masvingo has consistently assured residents that it will no longer borrow money to complete work on the nearly 10-year-old Mucheke Trunk Sewer project, saying it will make use of internally-generated revenues and its share of the devolution that are normally disbursed by central government. This means Masvingo will have no money to continue with the Mucheke Trunk Sewer Project over the next several months, if not years. Due to absence of proper sewer line system, raw sewer discharged in Shagashe has killed aquatic life in the river. The completion of the project is a welcome development as the trunk sewer is set to ease blockages and connection of sewer to the fast-growing Victoria Ranch which is currently a health ticking bomb where over 5000 households are using eco sun toilets.

Residents in Runyararo West, South and Victoria Ranch will continue for more years living adjacent to the current dumpsite which is few meters from residential areas. Under the devolution program, council received ZW\$400 000 in 2019, ZW\$9 million in 2020, ZW\$86.5 million in 2021 and 2022 an allocation of ZW\$235 816 500. For 2022 the city council had proposed to use ZW\$50 million to Rujeko Secondary, ZW\$100 million to Mucheke trunk sewer and ZW\$85 816 500 towards Cambria Landfill Development.



Pictures showing 750 mm asbestos cement pipes for the Mucheke Trunk sewer, and some of them broken and vandalized.

Case: Checheche residents up in arms with RDC for misappropriating devolution funds

Chipingwe rural district council continue to disappoint Checheche residents. This time around the RDC has erected street lights that are substandard and that fail to meet the expectations and needs of the residents. The Street lights project came as a surprise to Checheche residents as it was never mentioned in their priority list for devolution use. Late November 2021, the councillor for ward 24 set for a planning meeting to list the projects that residents prioritised for devolution funds and among the priorities were the issue of water reticulation, electricity, roads rehabilitation just to mention the major ones.

However, to the surprise of Checheche residents, substandard street lights are being erected as part of the devolution project. The RDC is failing to disclose the real figures but sources from the internal staff said the bill funded for the project costed more than 3million Zimbabwean dollars. The residents expressed their disappointment and lack of trust. The residents are saying council is failing to meet the needs of the residents but instead using devolutions for unjustified causes.

Case: Political interference impedes full devolution in Kwekwe

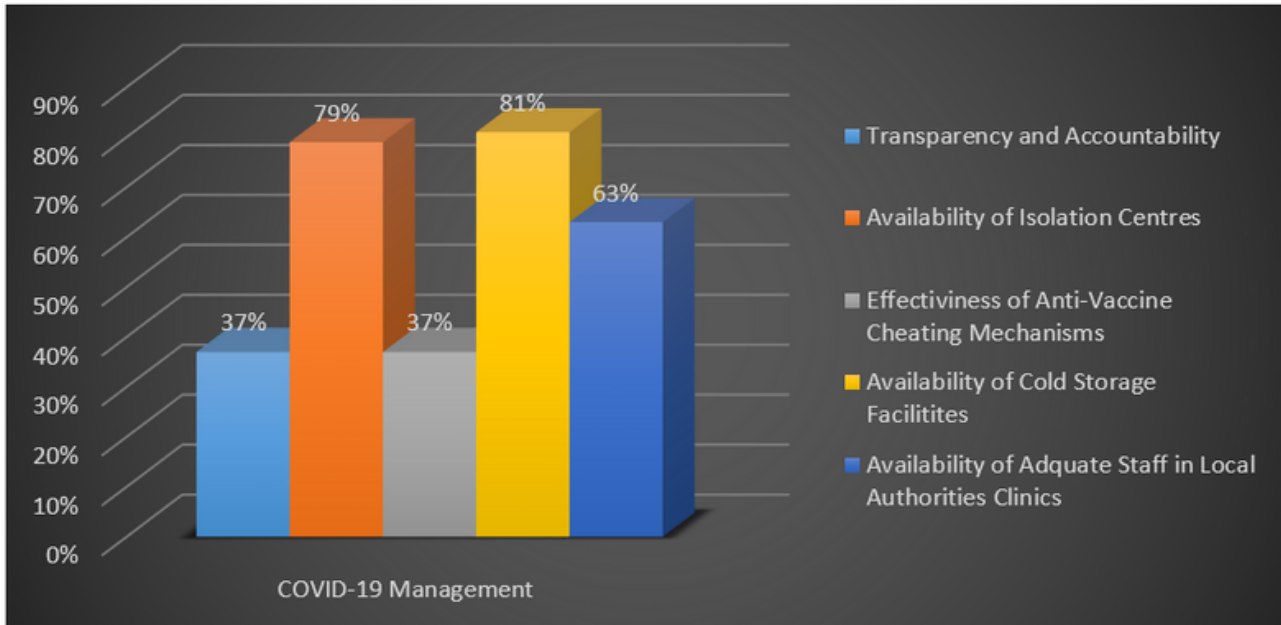
The Kwekwe public institutions continue to be captured by political activists hence the politics override the actual concerns of the Citizens. Political allegiance takes the centre stage as opposed to respecting the people's will. This has been evidenced in the Council Operations ranging from employment, stands allocation, tender selection and allocation to the election of school SDC's. On the 17th of June 2022, the Mbizo Community witnessed the commissioning of 2 houses in Mbizo section 7. The background of the matter is that the incessant rains in two successive seasons (2019 and 2020) left two blocks in Mbizo section 7 single quarters on the verge of collapsing. The Kwekwe City Council responded by relocating the 6 endangered families to Mbizo section 22 followed by the demolition of the two blocks. The City Council then used Devolution funds to construct 2-three roomed houses which were then Commissioned on the 17th of June and handed over to their beneficiaries.

It is concerning that Residents continue to be left out on decision making regarding devolution funds allocated and usage. The amount used in the construction of the houses in question remain unknown to the Residents. As if was not enough, the selection of the beneficiaries of the houses excluded the residents hence it became the sole responsibility of the politicians. This notion defeats the Constitutional right of citizens in participating in developmental processes that affect them notwithstanding their oversight role in PFM matters.

5.7 COVID-19 Management and Key Issues

The survey discovered that, the government is still wanting with respect to transparency and accountability as the rating fluctuates between 34%- 40%. In the previous month (May) it was 34% and 37% in June. While analysis of the effectiveness of anti-vaccine cheating mechanisms was rated 37%, retaining the same rating attained for the month of May which was a decrease from the 39% and 44% attained in March and April respectively pointing to weak and porous anti-vaccine cheating strategies. A same rating was recorded in the availability of isolation centres which registered 79%, testifying to the decrease in COVID-19 infections. Cold storage facilities also retained the same rating of 81%. A 2% decrease in rating was witnessed in the availability of adequate staff in local authorities. The rating for the month of May was 65% and 63% for the month of June.

Fig 7: COVID-19 Management

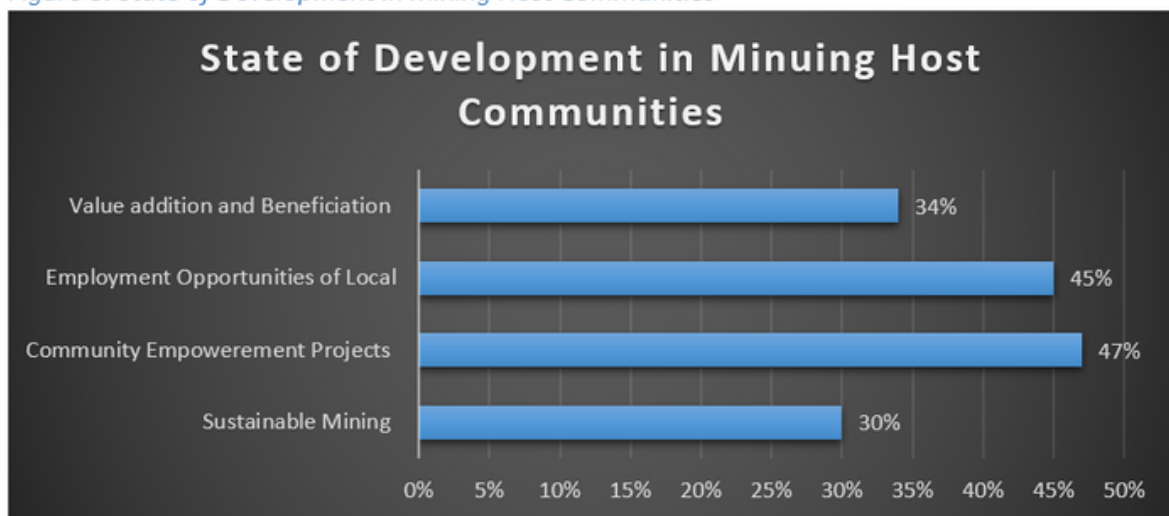


Source: Primary Data Compiled by ZIMCODD

5.8 Natural Resource Governance Issues

A positive rating for sustainable mining was witnessed with an increase of 5% from 25%. Community empowerment projects retained the same rating of 47%. While, employment opportunities of local continues to shrink with a further decrease of 5% from the 50% rating of May and 53% of April. This can be attributed to the closure of the Great Dyke Investment. A positive rating was gained in value addition with a 5% increase from 29% recorded in May. The figure below shows the state of development in mining host communities.

Figure 8: State of Development in mining Host Communities



Source: Data Primary Compiled by ZIMCODD

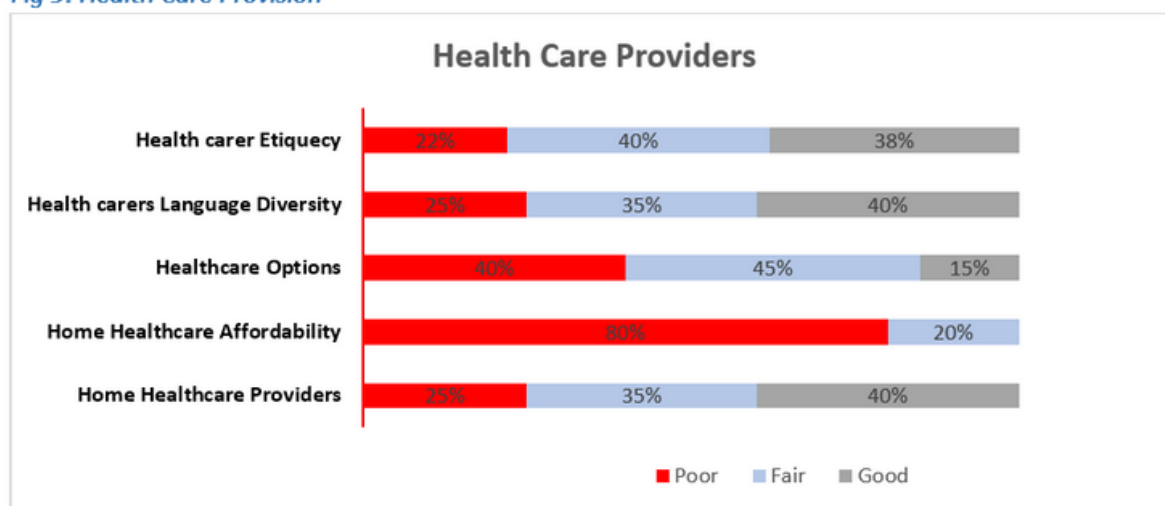
6. Social Service Delivery Findings

The tightening macroeconomic environment characterized by massive depreciation of the local currency and skyrocketing inflation is plunging the majority of the population into abject poverty with deepening income inequalities. In such an environment, affordable and quality social services and strong social safety nets become the last line of defense for poor citizens. As such, this section presents the survey findings on the state of service delivery in Zimbabwe amid persisting volatility in the domestic markets.

6.1 Availability of Home Health Care Providers

Home health care (also known as domiciliary care, social care, or in-home care) is a wide range of health care services provided by a professional caregiver for an illness or injury in the patient's home as opposed to care provided in group accommodations like clinics or nursing homes. Generally, home health care is less expensive, more convenient, and just as effective as a hospital or skilled nursing facility care.

Fig 9: Health Care Provision



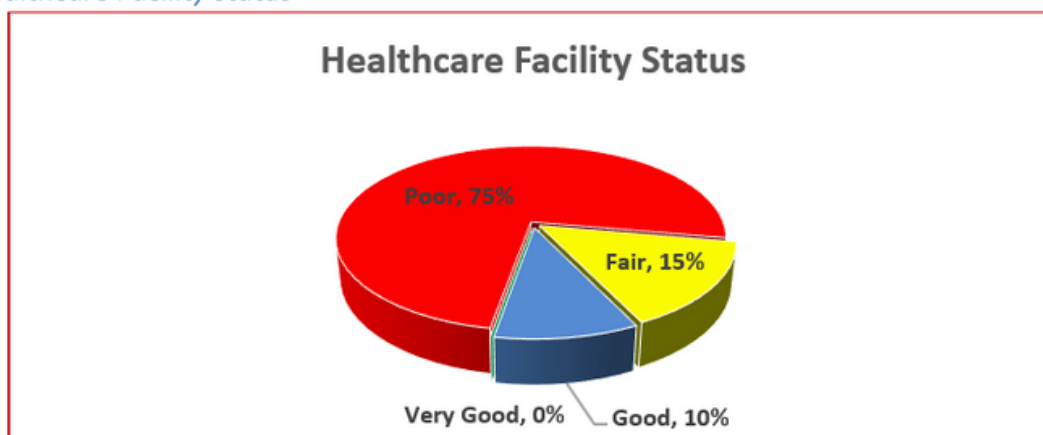
Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The findings show that only 40% of home health care providers in the 57 districts surveyed offer good service and these services are unaffordable in the majority (80%) of the districts covered. This largely affects the chronically ill, elderly, and People with Disabilities (PWDs) who rely on in-home care the most. Also, the results are appalling given that the country is still fighting a resurging COVID-19 pandemic which requires increased decongestion of group health care accommodations. As such availing of quality and affordable in-home health care services becomes imperative.

6.2 Quality of Health Care Facilities

Generally, because of their low-income levels, food purchases constitute a larger share of the poor's monthly budgets thereby living little savings for other non-food purchases like health care. Unlike mandatory state pension schemes, there are no mandatory health care schemes for all citizens. Hence, poor citizens are forced to rely on public health systems which are relatively cheap when compared to private health care which has dollarized.

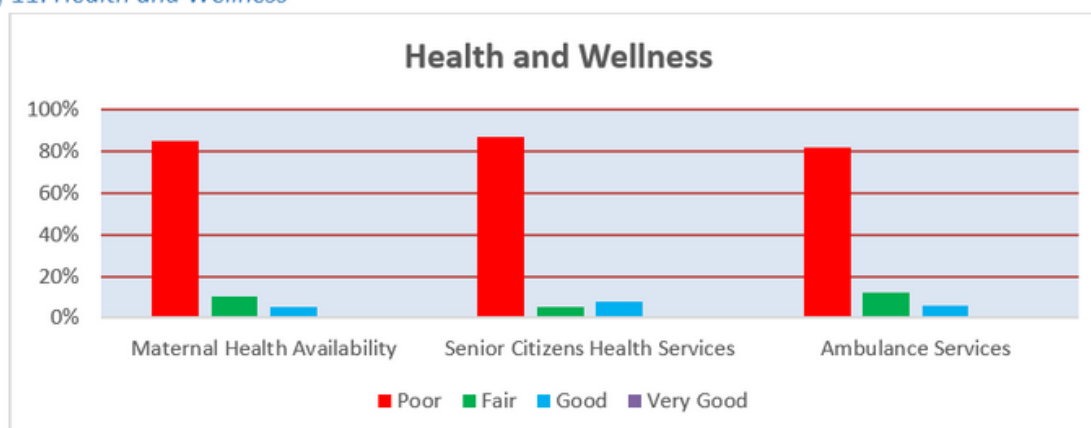
Fig 10: Healthcare Facility status



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

However, the survey established that 75%, 15%, and 10% of surveyed areas had poor, fair, and good public health care facilities respectively. The deterioration of these facilities is attributed to a lack of maintenance as the government's health budget is dominated by recurrent expenditures.

Fig 11: Health and Wellness



Source: Data Compiled By ZIMCODD

The findings show that 85% and 87% of districts surveyed are offering poor maternal and elderly health care services despite the government promising free health care for these groups. The public health institutions are also struggling in providing ambulance services as many of them have broken ambulances while some are facing fuel challenges.

Case: Maternity facilities delays affect expecting mothers in Mutasa District

The efforts and commitments to accelerate progress on health service delivery in Mutasa District are being compromised by the lack of maternity infrastructure. Despite more than 40 years of independence from colonial rule, access to maternal health facilities and services in Nyamukwara, Muchena, and Tsvingwe villages remains limited.

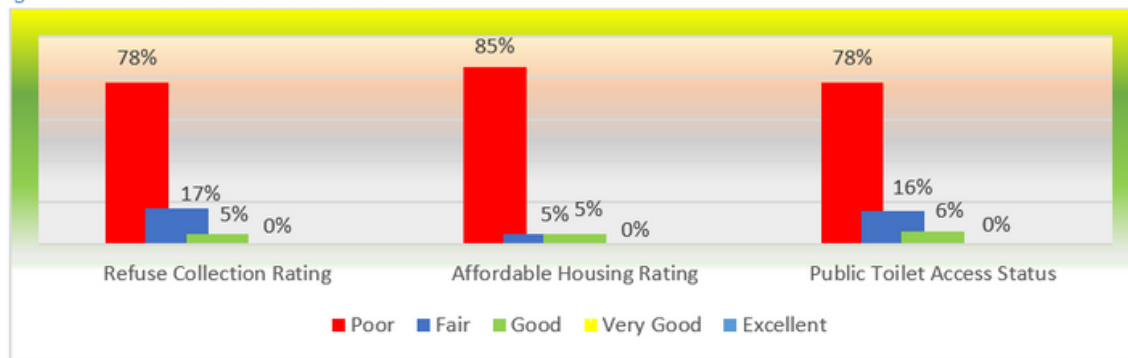
This disproportionately affects the welfare of expecting pregnant women as well as their babies. Mutasa Rural District Council established the Tsvingwe clinic in 2010 with the help of IRC, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the residents also taking part in the construction of the nurses' houses. The clinic became functional in 2017 after 7 years of construction. The clinic is ever busy and most expecting mothers are being referred to Old Mutare Mission hospital for their baby delivery. The failure to provide the mothers' shelter by Mutasa RDC is a challenge to most expecting mothers. "The situation is getting worse by the day as most women visit the clinic whilst they are already expecting, on the 15th of May 2022 a woman gave birth at the gate around midnight. To make matters worse there is no ambulance provision to ferry patients to the referral places," said one staff at Tsvingwe clinic.

It is unacceptable that women remain at risk of losing life whilst giving birth in such conditions. MRDC must urgently address the mother's shelter at the 3 clinics. Despite collecting tax from residents, MRDC is failing to provide adequate infrastructure for good health service delivery. In a 2020 council meeting, the construction of the Tsvingwe mothers' shelter was approved but nothing has materialized to date. Again, in December 2021 the council agreed that the mothers' waiting shelter, water tank stands, and solar power backup system must be constructed at a budget cost of ZWL6 454 260 .74. To date, there is no progress on the construction project and residents are fuming for effective public service delivery to be availed by MRDC.

6.3 Access to Safe Sanitation and Social Amenities

All citizens should have access to safe sanitation and social amenities to reduce the spread of medieval diseases like cholera and typhoid.

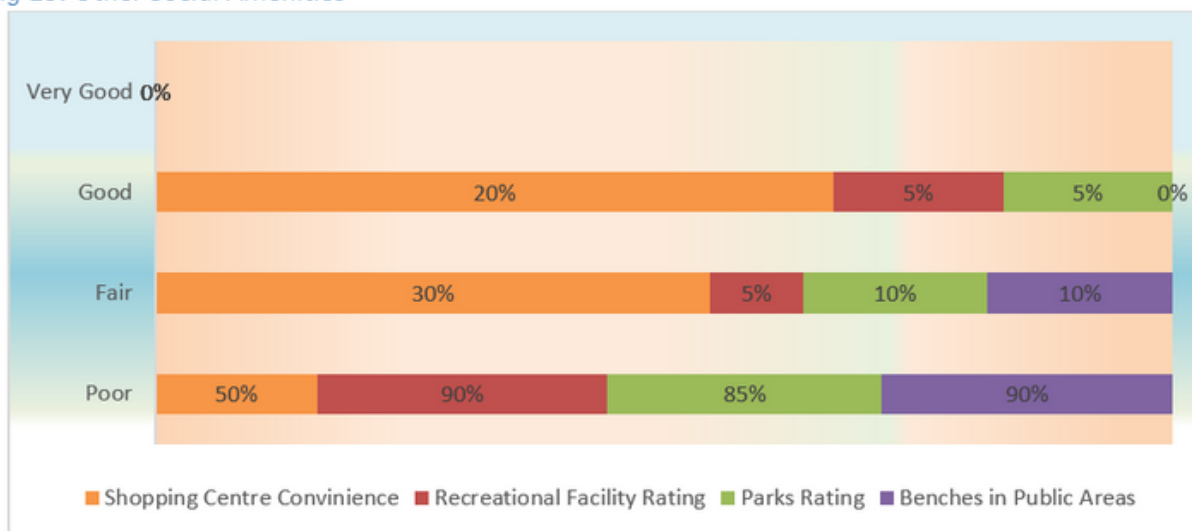
Fig 12: Sanitation and Social Amenities



Source: Primary data compiled by ZIMCODD

As shown in the chart above, the study established that many (75%) local authorities are struggling to collect refuse. Residential areas have been reduced to garbage dumps even though housing remains unaffordable for the majority. Also, public toilets are rated poor in 78% of the districts surveyed and hence are regarded as a health scare.

Fig 13: Other Social Amenities



Source: Primary data compiled by ZIMCODD

The survey established a 5% improvement in shopping center convenience relative to May 2022. However, recreational facilities which are crucial for the mental well-being of residents through sport and other forms of socialization continue to deteriorate.

Case: Dilapidated sewer system threatens public health in Mutasa District

Tsvingwe high-density suburb residents in Ward 21 of Mutasa District are facing a health scare from old dilapidated sewer pipeline infrastructure constructed in 1980. Mutasa Rural District Council is failing to upgrade the depleted sewerage infrastructure resulting in the disposal of sewer effluent near residential areas. Despite a growing population, there has not been improved sewerage collection and conveyance for Tsvingwe, a suburb with a population of approximately 5 000. The continuous inadequacy of sanitation compounded by the lack of a waste treatment and management system posed more challenges to the residents. The figure below shows raw sewage disposed of on the ground.



Residents are now living in fear of outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as typhoid and cholera. The regular leakage of sewage is causing environmental pollution that plays host to the breeding of mosquitoes in the area. Malaria cases are rampant with Mutasa district having one of the highest malaria statistics in the Manicaland province. Erratic maintenance and protection of septic tanks coupled with irregular spraying by teams from the Ministry of Health and Child Care have contributed to a decline in health service standards.

Case: Consistent refuse collection is key to Sustainable Waste Management System.

The major reason Harare's waste management system is weak is that recycling and waste collection remain low. The inconsistent and unreliable refuse collection has therefore become the major cause of the emergence of illegal dumpsites within communities. The generation of garbage in Ward 2 continues to increase as Harare City Council (HCC) battles to cope with refuse collection. With the recent controversial move by Cabinet to transform the Pomona dumpsite into a waste-to-energy management facility operated by Geogenix BV, the capacity of HCC to deposit waste remains questionable. The deal, which has been largely influenced by the central government, will see Geogenix BV pocketing over US\$240 million from Council at US\$22 000 a day over 30 years for waste deliveries; whether or not the Council deposits waste at the dumpsite.

Ward 2 Harare Central District is a clear testament to the local authority's capacity to follow through with its mandate. Following an outcry by residents in May 2022 concerning indiscriminate dumping of solid waste across Ward 2, in early June HCC rolled in front-end loaders and tipper trucks to clear the dumpsites. Supervised by Ward 2 Councillor Eugenia Chipfiwa, the clearing began at the border of the ward but the amount of dumping over the years, especially along Glencore Road in Queensdale, was too enormous to be cleared in one day. As shown in the picture below, over 10 truckloads taken across town to the Pomona Dumpsite could not clear a tip of the dumps spread around the ward.

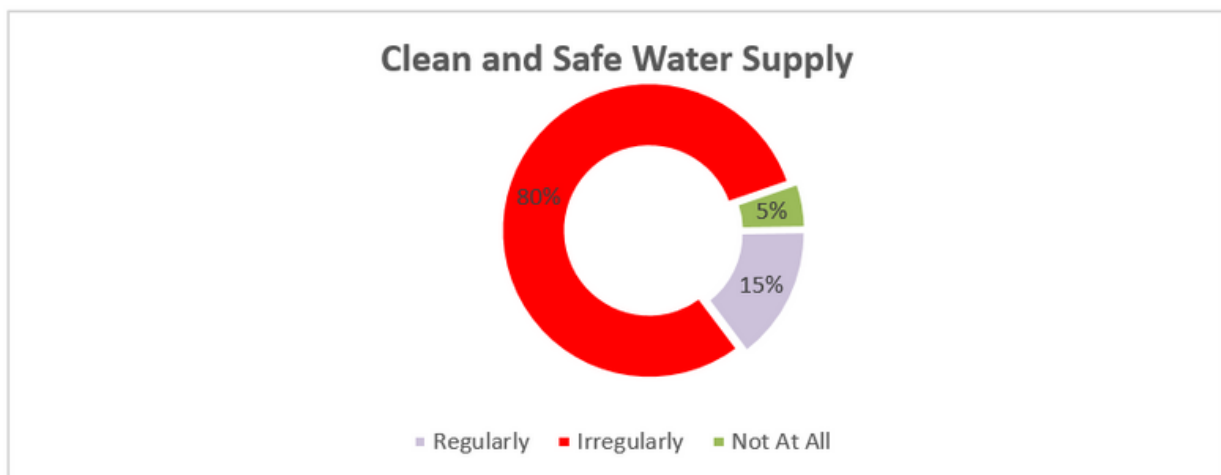


While a single day is not enough to clear years of dumping, the dumpsite along Glencore was successfully cleared. However, in the following weeks, garbage had begun to pile up at the same spot as if to propagate another dumpsite. This is due to the local authority's erratic refuse collection schedule. At this rate, the Pomona Waste to Energy Project is already destined for failure and will be unreasonably costly for the residents and ratepayers as the US\$22 000 per day bill will be footed by them regardless of whether waste has been deposited to Geogenix or not. A consistent weekly collection will discourage further illegal dumping and will result in a clean city.

6.4 Water Supply

The constitution provides for equal access to safe, clean, and potable water for all citizens. A lack of this leads to the spread of deadly waterborne diseases. As such, authorities are expected to provide residents with clean water all the time.

Fig 14: Availability of Clean and Safe Portable Water



Source: Primary Data Compiled by ZIMCODD

The survey established that many residents are receiving safe and clean water irregularly as only 5% of the total districts covered are accessing clean and safe water regularly. This explains the outbreak of waterborne diseases especially in big cities like Harare where the high population is overstretching key infrastructure.

Case: A Gendered look into access to water by Marondera residents

Women carrying water on their heads in the scorching sun is the iconic image of unmet development in Marondera Urban today. This is a day-to-day phenomenon because of water rationing caused by either lack of resources to serve communities or unavailability of electricity. These further highlight women's critical role in the sustainable management of water resources, and its impact on the sustainability of the environment and society. Also, equitable access to water is an empowering factor for women that is key to addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality. Gender norms and roles continue to dictate that women and girls are primarily responsible for fetching water for their families. A random survey at local water points would support that majority of people found in water queues are women. When safe drinking water is not available on household premises, the burden of water collection and treatment falls largely on the shoulders of women and girls. Sometimes girls as young as 8 years old line up for water.

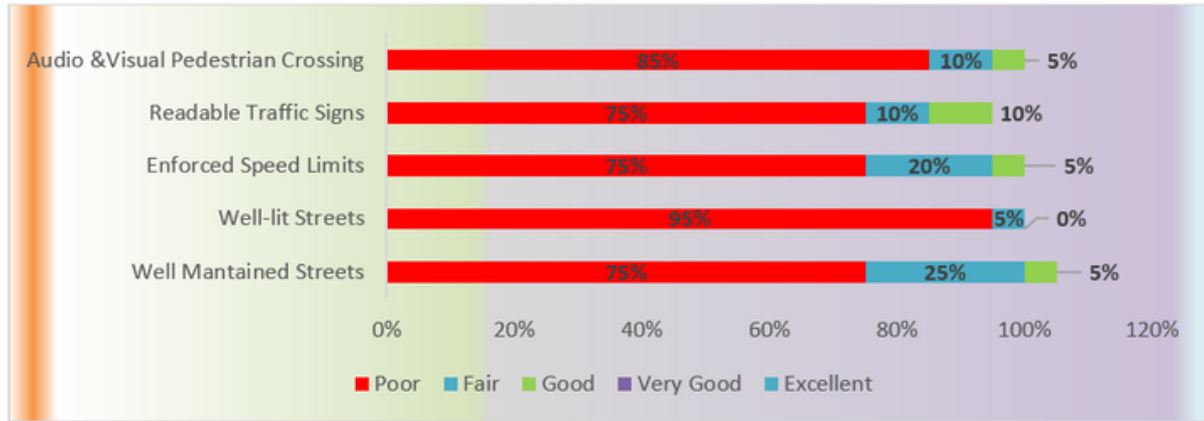


It has been reported that the council had used part of the 2021 devolution funds to do maintenance at the water treatment plant. However, this seems not enough since in most areas the water challenges persist. What is reassuring though is the fact that despite a delayed disbursement of 2022 devolution funds by the Zimbabwe Treasury, the local authority has already expressed intent to invest these funds in water provision. This was revealed by the Acting Town clerk Mr. Nyamuzihwa in an open zoom call with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Local Governments.

6.5 Road Networks

After more than 40 years of independence, some areas in Zimbabwe are yet to be connected by good highway infrastructure. Also, local authorities are struggling to maintain the local road network as many roads are potholed due to erratic disbursement of funds by the Zimbabwe National Road Authority (ZINARA).

Fig 15: State of Local Roads



Source: Primary data compiled by ZIMCODD

Survey findings show that 75% and 95% of the districts had poorly maintained and well-lit streets respectively. In many of these districts, authorities are not enforcing road speed limits while 75% had poor traffic signs.

Case: Service delivery woes continue in Chimanimani District

Four (4) years have lapsed now after cyclone Idai swept through Chimanimani causing deaths and destruction of infrastructure. Although there has been steady progress in recovery, development has not yet reached the pre-cyclone state. Road network infrastructure, water reticulation systems, and health and education infrastructure to cater to the growing population remain poor. The residents' hopes of improved social services are receding each day, as standards continue to decline regularly.

Kune vari kushandisa road charter machongwe . Pane dhonga riri kudhirikira near machongwe tichingobva pa bridge padhuze nepa lodge so mufambe makaona. Lets have safe drive



← Chimanimani Updates

Kushinga Pry School in Ward 13, Chimanimani.

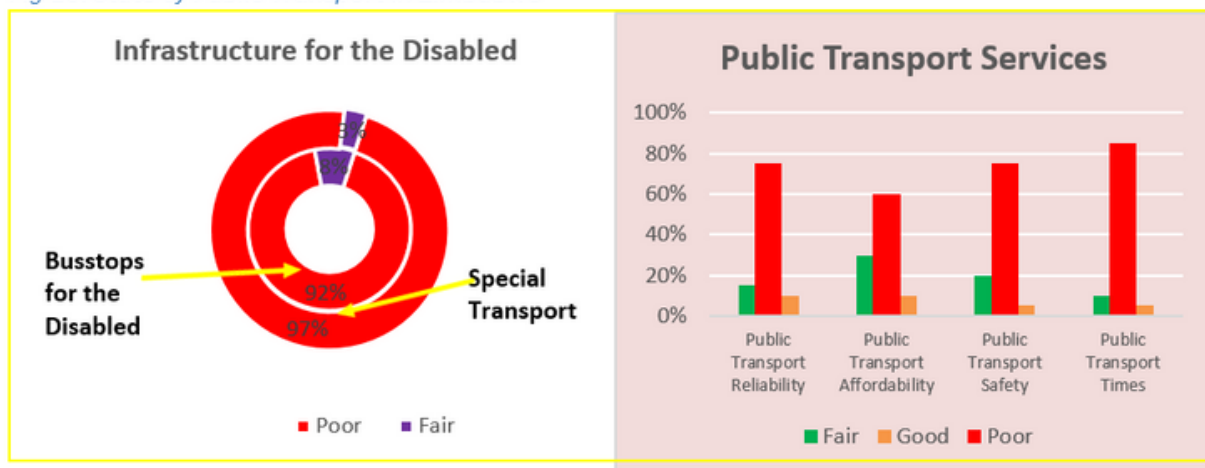
The road to this school is a nightmare. It was damaged during Cyclone Idai in 2019 and nothing has bn done to rehabilitate it.

Despite Chimanimani being among the top ten districts in the country which is endowed with rich gold and diamond deposits, this is not translating to quick recovery of the district from the long-term impacts of the 2019 disaster. This is a slap in the face of the communities that are wallowing in abject poverty. Furthermore, miners not paying their fair share in taxes to authorities burden ordinary residents who are penalized for arrears while corporates evade. This is greatly undermining social service delivery, the gold bar for low-income families.

6.6 Public Transportation

The rising global crude oil price since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022 is affecting net fuel importers like Zimbabwe. This is exerting ripple effects on the economy, especially in the public transport sector. Compounding the problem is a near monopoly enjoyed by the state in this sector despite it having a dwindled bus fleet and aging rail network.

Fig 16: State of Public Transport in Zimbabwe




Source: Primary data compiled by ZIMCODD

The survey found that although relatively cheap than private players, public transport is not reliable, time conscious, and safe for passengers. This greatly affects the poor who are earning in fragile ZWL. Hence, they can't afford private services which have largely dollarized in line with the general economy.

6.7 Gendering Public Service Delivery in Zimbabwe

The June situational report reveals that public service delivery in Zimbabwe is generally poor. Once it is viewed with a gendered lens, it is evident that Zimbabwe has a long way to go regards the fulfilment of women's rights especially where public service delivery is concerned. While it is commendable that some city councils have taken actionable steps to improve the quality and nature of service delivery, the gendered aspect remains neglected.

Water shortages have plagued Zimbabwe for many years now. In areas where council supplies water, residents often complain about the quality of water:



Case: In Gwanda town which has experienced perennial water shortages, residents usually resort to fetching water from Mtshabezi River for domestic use. Mtshabezi River is one of the rivers that people rely on when the town dries up and water is unavailable. The right to water encompasses sanitation services. Such services include the availability of public ablution facilities. The unavailability of public ablution facilities is widespread across Zimbabwe, resulting in open defecation and the outbreaks of antiquated diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery. In Maphisa growth point, vendors have expressed concern over the unavailability of public toilets near the vending bays. Many have resorted to public urination and defecation, behind precast walls that are close to the selling place. Vendors have asked the budget finance committee to prioritize allocation of funds to construct public toilets so that they can operate in a clean environment.

According to the National Development Strategy (NDS) 1, people must have access to water, sanitation, clean environment, and access to social amenities such as vendor marts among others. It is therefore important to adopt a gender-responsive budget to ensure gender-equitable distribution of resources.

Gender-responsive budgeting is essential both for gender justice and fiscal justice. It seeks to ensure that the collection and allocation of public resources is carried out in ways that are effective and contribute to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Strengthening meaningful participation of women and girls by making water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) management gender-responsive, meaning women and girls take active and meaningful participation in decision-making would go a long way in ensuring that water services are indeed gender responsive. This could be, for example, in community or ward consultations on infrastructure, budget and service planning and development:

Case: In Mutare, after receiving pressure from the Fight Inequality Alliance Zimbabwe, council has started renovating all dilapidated toilets in council rented houses which were in shambles for years and breeding ground for cholera and other water borne diseases. The toilets were affecting the daily lives of residents, especially that of women who are mainly responsible for fetching water and ensuring that it is available for household use, including the cleaning of the toilets, which has fast become a threat to public health given the increased risk of contracting diseases.

In spite of the informal nature of the Zimbabwean economy, incidences of desperate vendors being chased from their self-appointed vending sites by municipal police remain evident in most CBDs across the country including Harare. Many women, young and elderly can be seen hurriedly packing their wares and running in a desperate attempt to evade confiscation of their goods. Some of these women, have children strapped to their backs and in some instances their wares are grabbed violently by the police. Women's rights to dignity, freedom of profession and trade are violated as the municipality police haul the women forcefully into the back of their trucks against their will.

Often these women are abused, harassed and threatened with arrest or even assaulted by the police who demand hefty bribes from them for operating in undesignated areas. Female vendors are usually targeted by police as they are unable to put up as much of a fight as their male counterparts. It is important, therefore, to enhance citizen engagement in public finance management and to facilitate women's representation in decision making processes so as to ensure that their needs are catered for, and their rights are promoted and protected.

The under representation of women in politics and decision-making processes in Zimbabwe remain a cause for concern. A random sample survey revealed that women's reluctance to participate in political structures or in leadership positions within their communities due to fear of violence. This is bolstered by a 2017 study by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) which revealed that: "Seventy-four percent of women said they were not interested in participating in elections for fear of violence". As was the case five years ago, not much has changed as we approach the 2023 harmonised elections. Notwithstanding, the Constitution provides that the State must promote the full participation of women in all spheres of Zimbabwean society on the basis of equality with men by ensuring that both genders are equally represented in all institutions and at all levels of government. The survey further revealed that women are deterred from running successful political campaigns due to resource constraints.

It is without a shadow of doubt that Zimbabwe is endowed with mineral wealth, however, large multinational corporations remain the beneficiaries of our precious stones:

Case: In Gutu district, Zooma gold fields became a harbour of exploitation and discrimination of women and youth towards the benefits of the precious minerals in the country. The gold fields became active in 2012 where mines were allocated to individual miners. The allocation side-lined women and youth as witnessed by the disaggregated allocation of mines as only 1% women, 3% youth and 94% men received mining titles. In this area, youth exploitation is rife as the youth are being used for cheap labour. Underage boys are employed to go underground. Many youth in the area are employed as extractors yet they still live in abject poverty as they are grossly underpaid, with no protective clothing provided for them while carrying out mining activities, leaving them vulnerable to injury and even death. The women in the area, benefit mostly from trading. They stand outside the mines selling food and beverages to miners; however, they are prone to violence. There is also high sexual exploitation of underage girls in the area. This indicative of lawlessness, poverty and desperation in uncontrolled mining area.

More needs to be done to ensure that the needs of women and girls are met, and that their rights are protected. Gender responsiveness, particularly in the context socio-economic rights, is a precondition for sustainable development. This can be achieved through gender-mainstreaming in policies and strategies.

7. Conclusion

In Zimbabwe service delivery continues to nosedive as witnessed by continuous dilapidation of key people sectors such as health, water, sanitation, education and infrastructure. A weak public resources management system at the local authority and central government level has perpetuated a culture of unaccountability, lack of transparency, corruption, embezzlement, rent-seeking and all forms of resource leakages. Natural resources continue to be siphoned outside the country at the detriment of impoverished citizens in general and those in mining host communities in particular leaving the country with little or nothing to benefit from its natural resources. Gender responsive public service delivery remains a pie in the sky as women's needs and concerns are largely side-lined as highlighted in this report. The June Situational report proffers the following policy alternatives that can be implemented to ensure prudent public resource management and viable public service delivery.

Recommendations

- **Sound oversight-** section 299(1) of the Constitution empowers the Parliament of Zimbabwe (PoZ) to monitor and oversee expenditure by the State and all Commissions and institutions and agencies of government at every level, including statutory bodies, government-controlled entities, provincial and metropolitan councils and local authorities. Such oversight is aimed at ensuring that all revenue is accounted for; all expenditure has been properly incurred; and any limits and conditions on appropriations have been observed. This therefore calls for the parliament to monitor and curb the misuse of public funds and corruption. This should improve both the allocation of resources and transparency and accountability in expending those resources.
 1. The Ministry of Justice must ensure that all perpetrators are brought to book and repay the lost funds for the benefit of the vulnerable masses.
 2. Councillors at the lower tier of government must spearhead the oversight and scrutiny of ratepayers' money, devolution funds and all public resources so as to plug resource leakages and abuse of resources at local authority level.
- **Devolution Funds-** The government should ensure timeous disbursements of devolution funds to all local authorities. The currently delayed disbursement of devolution funds in a highly inflationary environment is tantamount to a waste of public funds. Local governments source key supplies and materials from the private sector, a sector that largely benchmarks local prices at parallel market rates. Therefore, ZIMCDD 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 Consultations-** Local 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. Dialogue is one of the best ways to solve wide-ranging societal problems. 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.
- **Public Transportation-** Government should significantly invest 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 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 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 and increase the budget for capital expenditures.
- The government of Zimbabwe should undertake to narrow gender gaps and ensure that strategies are put in place to guarantee gender considerations in the formulation and implementation of policies where public service delivery is concerned:
 1. There is need to employ a gender-responsive budget to ensure gender-equitable distribution of resources and the contribution of equal opportunities for all.
 2. It is important to adapt peace building initiatives and awareness raising on political tolerance, to ensure that women can also participate in these political processes without fear of retribution.
 3. The State, as mandated by section 17 of the Constitution, must take practical measures to ensure that women have access to resources on the basis on equality with men.