

# ZIMCODD

ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

## WEEKLY REVIEW

11 October  
2022

### ABOUT ZIMCODD:

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) is a social and economic justice Coalition established in February 2000 to facilitate citizens' involvement in pro-people public policy. ZIMCODD views indebtedness, the unfair global trade regime and lack of democratic people-centred economic governance as the root causes of socio-economic crises in Zimbabwe and the world at large.

*"Celebrating 20 years of People driven Social and Economic Justice in Zimbabwe"*

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### Weekly Dashboard

#### RBZ Interbank Rate

Week	Week
30.09.2022	04.10.2022
ZWL 621.8929 per USD1	ZWL 626.1893 Per USD1

#### Consumer Price Index

August	September
12 286.26	12.713.12

#### Month on Month Inflation

August	September
12.4%	3.5%

#### Year on Year Inflation

August	September
285.0%	280.4%

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### 1. A Peep into Masvingo City Council 2022 Half-Year Budget Review Report

ZIMCODD applauds Masvingo City Council (MCC) for releasing the 2022 Half-Year Budget Review Report. Budget reviews are integral in promoting prudent public finance management and optimum public governance. Budget reviews serve as transparency, accountability and integrity mechanisms that help in building public confidence. The release of the Budget Report should be celebrated as a positive milestone although a peep into the report shows that there are areas that need immediate attention if MCC is to remain on this positive trajectory with respect to public finance management. The report findings also show that the government is not sincere with respect to devolution. This is because, the allocation for devolution funds for the year was a meagre ZWL\$253.8 million amounting to approximately USD 2.4 million. Nevertheless, as at 30 June 2022 only 14.7% had been disbursed which is ZW\$37.2 million or US\$ 351 974. The failure by the government to make timely disbursement is not a new phenomenon as it has become the hallmark of the second republic. MCC received only ZW\$40.2 million or US\$ 380 359 under the Emergency Roads Rehabilitation Program (ERRP) 2 yet the total expected ZINARA grant for the year 2022 is ZW\$125 million or US\$ 1.182.708. This is a deliberate strategy and ploy by the government to redirect public resources to projects that enable them to manipulate public finance management systems in order to loot public funds. This verdict can be

reinforced by agriculture expenditure in the year 2021 when the sector utilised approximately 170% while the health sector had an under expenditure as only 47% of the expected amount was disbursed. At the same time, only 17% was disbursed for the housing sector.

Attempts to get comments from the Ministry of Finance for the rationale of having an over expenditure in the agriculture sector while other sectors are deliberately neglected did not yield any positive response. However, it is critical to note that, the agriculture sector has many porous public finance management systems and thus it becomes strategic for syphoning public resources. The Command Agriculture scandals, Farm Mechanisation Program, Presidential Agriculture Input Scheme and Pfumvudza have all become havens of tenderpreneurship and under dealings.

Moreover, MCC also presented the proposed 2023 budget whose theme is **Re-Tooling for Improved Service Delivery**. Thus, the primary focus of the budget is acquisition and construction of critical assets for service delivery. Of concern are some areas of the budget for example under refuse collection where MCC states that one litre of diesel will only be able to cover two kilometres. At the same time, four vehicles will be used and they will require 400 litres per week which is approximately US\$ 11 840. If one is to assume that refuse collection will be done every week for the whole year MCC

will require US\$ 615 680<sup>1</sup> that is more than half a million dollars. Vehicle maintenance costs were pegged at US\$ 15 000, assuming that the servicing of vehicles is done once after every 2 months MCC will require US\$ 90 000 per year<sup>2</sup>. These are just but some of the anomalies in the proposed budget for the year 2023. It is therefore critical for MCC to explain to the residents what kind of refuse collection vehicles is it using that require 1 litre per every 2 kilometres? The money for the fuel can actually be used to reinvigorate service delivery in alignment with the budget theme. Below is an extract from the budget with further insights.

11.3.2. Refuse collection tariff

CITY OF MASVINGO	
SERVICE: REFUSE COLLECTION	
NO OF BIN COLLECTIONS	72414
<b>Cost build-up</b>	<b>2023 Projected</b>
	US\$
Ave fuel consumption / km	2km/litre
Fuel cost: 4 vehicles @400 litres per vehicle per week	11,840.00
Vehicle Maintenance	15,000.00
Landfill Maintenance Costs	15,000.00
Labour : 1EHT,5 supervisors, 8 drivers, 98 general hands	11,786.02
HQ Costs	12,306.05
Capital Expenditure (1 Refuse compactor, Landfill Extension)	68,333.33
Other (protective clothing,cleaning mats, consumables)	15,000.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>149,265.41</b>
Cost per bin collection before VAT	2.06
Cost per bin collection after VAT	2.36

## 2. Commemorating 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child

ZIMCODD joins the rest of the world in commemorating the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child. On December 19 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [Resolution 66/170](#) that declared October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child in a bid to draw attention on the need to address the challenges that young girls face. This was also an attempt to promote girls’ empowerment and

fulfilment of their human rights. In these past 10 years, it is important to take stock of progress made thus far by member states to ensure that the living standards of women and young girls in particular have improved. Investment in girls’ rights remain limited and girls continue to face a myriad of challenges to realising their full potential. Challenges faced include exclusion from decision making platforms, gender-based violence, limited access to social services, limited access to resources, societal harmful practices among other challenges. The situation has been exacerbated by the concurrent crises of climate change, COVID-19, natural disasters, war and emerging conflicts. Globally and within the Zimbabwean context, a lot of girls particularly those living the rural and peri urban areas continue to face unprecedented challenges in their quest for their right to education, their physical and mental wellness, social protection, water and sanitation and the protections needed to lead lives that are free from all forms of violence and abuse. Girls with disabilities face additional barriers in terms of accessing support and services that are central to their wellbeing. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the plight of unpaid care work which has stripped women of their dignity and opportunities to participate and engage meaningfully in decision making platforms. This year’s commemorations which are celebrated under the theme: *Our time is now, our rights, our future* comes at an opportune time when the Zimbabwean girlchild is still facing a number of challenges that impede them from leading decent and prosperous lives including harmful practices for example early child marriages. In a recent but sad

<sup>1</sup> A year has 52 weeks, MCC needs US\$ 11 840 weekly for refuse collection so US\$ 11 840 multiply by 52 weeks

<sup>2</sup> Vehicle maintenance cost multiplier

development, a 15-year-old girl died whilst giving birth at an apostolic shrine. Her death is in direct contravention to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Zimbabwe is a signatory. This is also despite the adoption of the Child marriage Act which prohibited marriage of children under the age of 18 and the Constitutional Court ruling which set the legal age of sexual consent at 18 years. In this regard, there is need for the Zimbabwean government to ensure enforcement of national policies that will guarantee full protection of young girls from all forms of sexual violence and harmful practices.

There is need for government to invest meaningfully in a future that believes in the girlchild and realisation of their full potential. Ensuring the rights of women and girls across the socio economic and political divide will fundamentally drive a more inclusive society and place the nation on a footing towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

### 3. Water Supply Woes and Challenges for Residents in Harare

The water situation in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare is worsening. This is despite the concerns raised over the issue, promises and investments made by the government of Zimbabwe, the Harare City Council (HCC) and various local and international non-governmental organizations. Although the government blames an increasing population as the major culprit for the water crisis in Harare, financial misappropriations, lack of accountability and politicking also play a significant role in the worsening the water crisis. The water crisis in Harare has historically crippled livelihoods, negatively altered (social) gender relations and resulted

in outbreaks of waterborne diseases – cholera, typhoid and dysentery and has put a big strain on managing the Covid-19 pandemic. While several donor organizations have chipped in over the years to try and alleviate the problem of water shortages in Harare, new water supply questions emerge around management of water supply points, gender dynamics of access to water and the degree of community participation and management of water supply systems. This brief presents the water crisis in Harare, the origins and impact thereof and the new water supply questions that emerge after various interventions by government and its partners.

Harare's water crisis has continued to worsen since the mid-1990s. By 2021, more than two million people in greater Harare had no access to clean and safe drinking water, (Afrobarometer, 2021). Natural population increase and an increase in rural-urban migration (owing to a rapidly failing economy) has resulted in pressure on Harare's aging water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Owing to poor water supply and sanitation infrastructure, most high-density suburbs in Harare in the likes of Mabvuku-Tafara, Budiriro, Glen View go for weeks without running taps. This has forced residents to depend on unsafe water supply sources including shallow wells which are often laced with sewer residue and rivers around town like Mukuvisi and Hunyani Rivers. This is even worse for suburbs that started off as squatter slums, particularly Epworth and Hopley. Without adequate water to flush waste down the sewer systems, people also resort to risky and unorthodox forms of waste disposal including 'the bush system.' In instances where the bush is not readily available, using the bucket and then throwing the waste at the 'dumping sites' becomes the next unsanitary way of disposing human waste. A lack of regular water supply has resulted in blocked sewer pipes which often burst the

few times the erratic water supplies are restored.

To access clean portable water, residents in most high-density residential areas depend on public institutions - clinics, schools and churches among other institutions and the richer sections of the population with the capability to drill boreholes and water storage tanks for themselves, their clients or patrons. However, it is a big hustle to access water from such institutions as they are in many cases timed. Some can only open at specific times of the day and specific days of the week. Access to these public institutions' water points is also normally on condition that residents pay a certain amount to offset electricity bills and other costs related to pumping water. For these reasons they are always long queues and pressure at water points. Public fights and quarrels are a common sight. Residents spend more than two hours for them to be able to fill an average of four 20-liter buckets of water. Water woes, therefore mean that residents spend much of their time looking for and queuing for water without using it more productively. Women and girls are most affected by this. The traditional thinking that women are the suitable gender for fetching water makes women and girls more susceptible to the problems associated with the water supply crisis in Harare. They are the ones whose daily livelihoods hustles and school schedules are disrupted by going on water quests. Thus, the water crises in Harare has a negative bearing on livelihoods development in the city's residential suburbs, especially in the high-density areas.

Owing to poor water supply crisis in Harare, Zimbabwe has broken the record as the country recording the highest water borne diseases in Southern Africa since the mid-2000s. In 2008, the country lost an upwards of 4 200 people to cholera. In subsequent years, there was an extended outbreak of

typhoid in Harare between October 2017 and February 2018 and from then reports of occasional dysentery and diarrhea outbreaks in various locations in Harare. Thus, inadequate water supply has generally increased the health burden on a people with an already underdeveloped health care system.

The HCC which has the responsibility of supplying water to residential areas, has not only failed to supply adequate water, but also failed to supply clean safe and portable water. Reasons that presented for this are that the City Council does not have adequate chemicals to treat water to make it safe for drinking. The City of Harare currently requires about seven chemicals for it to be able to treat water effectively. These include *Powdered Activated Carbon, Sulphuric Acid, Chlorine Gas, Sodium Silicate, Liquid Ammonium Sulphate, White Hydrated Lime and Calcium Hypochlorite*. Of interest is that when the water treatment units were built in 1960, only three chemicals were used, i.e., liquid aluminium sulphate, lime and chlorine. The increase from 3 chemicals to 7 chemicals owing to the changes in the chemical properties of the raw water to be treated, is argued to be a huge financial burden to the HCC. To add on to the water woes residents are forced to pay for water which is hardly available or not portable in instances when it is available.

The water crisis in Harare has also resulted in indebtedness. In 2013, Zimbabwe received a loan amounting to 144 million dollars from China to rehabilitate its ageing water treatment and distribution network (Chifera,2013). While the loan was hailed as the panacea for the Harare water woes, 9 years down the line, the water crises has worsened. Instead of rehabilitating ageing infrastructure and expanding water supply infrastructure through the construction of Musami and Kunzvi dams as originally

intended, most of the money was used on installing smart meters for the City Council to increase revenue collection. Thus, misplaced priorities in Harare water supply has resulted in misappropriation of loan funds leading to worsening water crisis. For this reason, Harare residents and Zimbabweans suffer a debt burden which unfortunately did not contribute towards solving a problem the arrangement was originally entered for.

Owing to persistent water woes in Harare and particularly after the 2008 cholera outbreak, several international organisations chipped in to help solve the situation. This was mainly through drilling community boreholes around deserving suburbs. UNICEF for example rolled out a programme of drilling hand pumped bush pump boreholes in most high-density residential areas including Glen View, Mufakose, Warren Park and Budiriro among other areas. In recent times, some organisations are also installing solar pump boreholes in communities like Stoneridge. This was aimed at providing residents with safer alternatives to water supply beyond the City of Harare Municipality. However, reports indicate that while these boreholes helped relieve water supply fatigue in an emergency, the water was still not as safe due to the proliferation of sewage leaks underground. Furthermore, most hand pumped boreholes are now dysfunctional. This owes to the incapacity of communities to form strong and resilient committees to manage the established water points. Thus, the communities lacked trained technicians to fix the boreholes whenever they broke down such that they had to wait for technicians from the districts to fix the boreholes, thereby lengthening the down time of the boreholes.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change#:~:text=Climate%20change%20threatens%20>

In conclusion, the water crisis in Harare has resulted in multi-layered challenges for the residence. Poor water supply has put the health of the people at risk as evidenced by outbreaks of water-borne diseases in the country since the turn of the century. Outbreaks of cholera, dysentery, typhoid and diarrhoea in recent years have cost many lives and have put a health burden on a population already groaning under other economic challenges. Further, poor water supply has also negatively affected Harare residents' livelihoods for mostly women and girls. Productive time is lost as they spend time queuing for water and at some distances away from their homes. Water challenges have also resulted in indebtedness. Although Zimbabwe got a loan from China to rehabilitate its water supply system in 2013, the water crisis has even worsened. This owes to misappropriation of funds and misplaced priorities. Community managed water supply systems seem to be the future of sustainable water supply in Harare. However, greater care should be placed on the development of strong community water management systems which include technical capacitation of communities to establish and fix water supply infrastructure.

#### 4. Overview: A Feminist Perspective on the Climate Crisis

Climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of a range of human rights including but not limited to the right to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture and development.<sup>3</sup> Existing climate governance does not adequately support inclusivity as women are rarely heard when decisions on climate issues are being made. Women, youth, indigenous people, and other

[the%20effective,%20determination%2C%20culture%20and%20development.](https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change#:~:text=Climate%20change%20threatens%20the%20effective,%20determination%2C%20culture%20and%20development.)

marginalized groups are the most noticeably absent – and yet these groups, especially in the Global South, bear the brunt of climate change impacts.<sup>4</sup> States have an obligation to prevent the adverse effects of climate change and ensure that those affected by it, particularly those in vulnerable situations, have access to effective remedies and means of adaptation to fully enjoy their rights and live dignified lives.

The key climate change risks in Zimbabwe stem from increasing temperatures, more variable rainfall, and the intensification of extreme weather events. The climate crisis is a societal challenge with ethical and human rights impacts occurring alongside a number of already existing inequalities based on gender, socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, sexual orientation, and age. For purposes of this article the climate crisis will be briefly analysed from a gendered lens through a feminist perspective. A feminist perspective in this regard is important as feminism is about challenging and transforming power structures that allow for inequalities to persist. To challenge patriarchy as a system of social structures and practices in which women are oppressed and exploited requires that we challenge systems of oppression and exploitation that frequently mutually support each other. Feminism is about all genders having equal rights and opportunities and more importantly respecting the diversity of women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths, while striving to liberate all women to enjoy their full rights.

Climate change negatively affects the production, availability and accessibility of resources, such as land, water and food. Women constitute most of the world's poor

and are often directly dependent on natural resources as their main source of food and income. Many smallholder farmers are women, and their livelihoods and food sources are at risk from climate change. Women are more exposed to food insecurity than men and this can affect them differently because of their nutritional needs especially during pregnancy and lactation. Male-dominated structures often govern land ownership, making it a challenge for women to access, control and own fertile land. The record-breaking heat, floods, storms, drought, and wildfires devastating communities further underscore the grave risks women already face. Recurrent drought and flooding disasters, deforestation, scarcity of water for household, industry and agriculture, and pollution are just a few ways that climate and human behaviour are taking a toll on our resources.

Women tend to suffer more from indoor air pollution due to their use of polluting fuels used for cooking and heating.<sup>5</sup> Extreme weather events and increased incidence of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, coupled with unequal care burdens, can cause undue pressure on women to support their families. In this regard, women have less “formal” working time and this deepens inequalities in the job market where women already face significant obstacles. Intersecting dynamics, such as indigenous or disability status, compound the vulnerability of some women, particularly when adequate social protection systems are lacking. Climate action that excludes women intensifies these challenges. Following natural disasters, women may be expected to attend to increased family demands and deprived of time and opportunities necessary for re-

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.akinamamawaafrika.org/global-south-perspectives-on-why-the-climate-crisis-is-a-feminist-issue/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Document/s/Issues/ClimateChange/materials/2PGenderLight.pdf>

joining the labour market, limiting their income generation.

Adequate climate financing is one of the ways in which we can address the issue of climate change. However, climate finance is repeatedly failing to reach local solutions together with the people that need it most. Most climate finance efforts have been focused on mitigation creating an increasing need to mobilise more adaptation finance to help achieve the targets set in the Paris Agreement<sup>6</sup>. Feminist approaches in climate justice focus on women and marginalized groups/communities and calls for the re-imagining of usual gender mainstreaming strategies in climate action by integrating feminist intersectional approaches, theories and principles. For lasting, sustainable solutions, emphasis must be placed on building women's socioeconomic and cultural agency in coping with climate change impacts instead of merely seeking handouts. With the above in mind, the following recommendations are proffered:

- Development of climate-resilient agricultural value chains and increased knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change-induced risks through climate information services for agriculture targeted to smallholder farmers.
- Strengthening resilience of agricultural livelihoods of vulnerable communities, particularly women.
- Creation of climate-smart food systems that promote sustainable productivity improvements, resilient crop and livestock production, enhanced digital tools, and inclusive, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations Paris Agreement, 2015. Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf).

## 5. Making Access to Education a Reality for Girls in Zimbabwe

Education is one of the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Quality education is a prerequisite for human development in general and the empowerment of the girl child in particular, as it narrows the gender gap for girls and women. Against this background, public investment in the education sector remains critical and for this human right to work, there must be equality of opportunity and universal access. However, for a long time, governments in Africa, including Zimbabwe have been failing to honour the Dakar Declaration of committing 20% of the national budget to the education sector. This has seen a decline in public investment in education thereby reducing the state's capacity to subsidize the sector and ensure education for all. The attendant effect has usually seen the girl child being the sacrificial lamb in contexts where families have had to make a choice between sending a girl or boy child to school or choosing between buying food for the family or sanitary wear for the girl child. The COVID-19 pandemic has not made things any better. The pandemic saw governments prioritizing the health sector and, in some instances, repurposing funds in favour of some preferred sectors with the education sector also bearing the brunt of such choices. As Zimbabwe joins the world in commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child, it is prudent to reflect on how the Zimbabwean government can make access to education a reality for girls.

Access to education for the girl child should also be viewed in the context of the crowding out effect of public debt on education

financing. Huge debt overhang impacts on the countries' credit worthiness, raises countries' risk profile and results in massive disinvestment. Empirical evidence has shown that in many poor countries, debt repayment is made at the expense of basic human rights such as food, health, education, water and housing. Debt servicing and harmful conditions linked to loans and debt relief often limit investment and undermines provision of accessible and inclusive public service delivery. Africa's debt burden has continued to affect governments' ability to meet the needs and aspirations of their citizens which relate to social and economic rights, service delivery and social protection. The effects of debt are debilitating as it has plunged many African states into an economic crisis, widening inequalities and abject poverty. The costs of servicing debt are disproportionately borne by women, while the funds borrowed are rarely spent in ways that prioritise women and girls' rights. The servicing of excessive debt comes at the cost of reduced spending on health, education and safe energy for the girl child. Reduced health spending affects sexual and reproductive health spending for girls and education spending reduces gender equity efforts. While trying to raise resources for servicing debt, governments mete regressive taxes that affect lives of women and girls alike. Further, austerity measures as a response to debt distress manifests as increased vulnerability to families, and more so for the girl child. This signals a betrayal of citizens by the duty bearers that are entrusted to safeguard the right to education.

There exist disparities in girls' access to education between learners from urban and rural communities. Gender-based inequalities continue to negatively impact access to

education for girls in most countries in southern Africa and there remain gaps in terms of access to learners with disabilities due to lack of an Inclusive Education curriculum and limited resources for girls with special needs. This has seen girls with disabilities dropping out of school. Girls are still being deprived of their fundamental rights as they are faced with challenges such as cultural barriers, a lack of basic education, health access and safety issues. Period poverty is also one of the key challenges barring girls to access education in Zimbabwe. According to the Ministry of Women and Youth Affairs, 67% of girls miss school during menstruation due to a lack of access to sanitary products and clean sanitation facilities<sup>7</sup>. For an equivalent of US\$2, sanitary pads are beyond reach for most of the country's 3 million menstruating girls who live below the poverty datum line. Even though the government removed value-added tax, in December 2018 which lowered the price of sanitary wear, the price is still high and beyond the reach of many. A study by SNV Zimbabwe further states that 72% of menstruating schoolgirls do not use sanitary pads because they cannot afford them. Therefore, commemorating the international girl for the girl child at an opportune time when the discourse around gender equality and the empowerment of the girl child for social transformation has reached another level.

Zimbabwe also battles macro-economic volatility, rampant corruption, illicit financial flows, climatic shocks, disasters and the recessionary COVID-19 pandemic which battered all sectors with the education sector not an exception. However, within this context, the attainment of SDG number 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long learning

<sup>7</sup>

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/11/zimbabwe-girls-resort-to-cow-dung-for-sanitary->

<pads/#:~:text=The%20government%20of%20Zimbabwe%20has,the%20Zimbabwe%20National%20Statistics%20Agency.>

opportunities for all and SGD number 10 on reducing inequalities requires the government to prudently manage their fiscal affairs and adopt policies that ensure protection of human rights. It is therefore critical to note that the country's ability to fulfil its international and regional commitments and constitutional obligations with respect to education is dependent on the availability and allocation of resources to essential investments in human and social development. However, Zimbabwe as with other countries in the middle east and southern Africa whose allocation to the education sector is yet to meet global thresholds<sup>8</sup> like the GPE summit targets of at least 20% of the total budget and 6% of GDP for example the Zimbabwean Government allocated 13.4% of the budget towards the education sector.

**The following reforms are recommended to make access to education a reality for Zimbabwean girls:**

1. Zimbabwe must go beyond short-term debt servicing and consider sustainable debt servicing. There is need to go beyond debt relief, debt cancellation and debt forgiveness and focus on debt sustainability for sustainable economic growth that is anchored on complementary solutions from public and private sector. This requires complementary measures that alleviate debt and finance public and social services.
2. The government must reform its national Gender Policy to create fiscal space for empowering the girl child through education. Creation of the fiscal space must be part of the gender policy at the

national level with a clear call for gender responsive budgeting.

3. The government should prioritize the commitment to the Dakar Framework for Action and ensure that at least 20% of the countries' budgets are channelled towards education. Increasing access to basic services such as education requires strengthening of the provision of social protection in a transparent and accountable manner through a coherent system that protects the poor and vulnerable. There is need to take lessons from countries such as Zambia in terms of increasing allocations and spending in critical sectors such as health and education which has resulted in attaining free primary education.
4. Government should provide universal basic education. Ministry of Finance, through the national budgets should adequately support government schools to ensure progressive realization of the right to education. This should be supported through the basic state-funded education, with a bias towards the girl child. This can be achieved by ringfencing certain taxes and proceeds from the extractive sector towards girl child education.
5. Gender budgeting must constitute the manner in which national budgets are crafted. Gender training must be across ministries on how gender budgeting must be undertaken to meet the practical needs of women, girls and people with disabilities. Thus, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures must be done to promote gender equality through access to education for disadvantaged girls.

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<sup>8</sup> A study commissioned by Plan International to assess Education Sector budgets for 10 countries in the MEESA

Region: Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Tanzania, Egypt, Somalia and Rwanda.