



Investing in people for social and economic justice



ZIMCodd 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the period January to December 2022 ZIMCODD had a number of activities planned across its five thematic areas which are movement building, trade justice and livelihoods, public finance management, organizational development and domestic resource mobilization. Implementation of activities went on as planned as the threats posed by Covid 19 diminished and more physical meetings were held as compared to 2021.

The period under review was characterised by uncertainty as Zimbabwe headed towards the 2023 elections with no clear indications as to possible dates for the elective process. This saw the subtle but systematic prosecution of opposition members under the guise of public order as means to silence the political opponents. The passing of the PVO Bill by the National Assembly in December also created tensions within the Civil Society Organisations sector as it was a clear indicator of shrinking civic space further. The passing of the PVO Bill also brought uncertainty for operations in 2023 as indications are highly likely that at some point in 2023 the PVO would have been signed into law by the President of the Republic.

Despite this inhibitive operating environment ZIMCODD continued with its programming and was able to launch #HowFar 2.0 Campaign on the 17th of March 2022. The campaign sought to increase citizen agency while resultantly pushing the government to account to its citizenry on various abuse of public funds in all facets of the economy. The ZIMCODD flagship #HowFar 2.0 Campaign achieved a huge milestone of increasing citizen agency and resultantly pushing the government to account to its citizenry on various abuse of public funds in all facets of the economy. To date the government to date has responded to the accountability calls by replying to the #HowFar through counter campaigns including the #SoFar, #ThisFar and #EDdelivers which all sought to answer the how far questions. These efforts by ZIMCODD did not go unnoticed with the United States Department of State recognizing the work done by ZIMCODD with an award in recognition of the successes of the #HowFar campaign milestones towards fighting against corruption.

ZIMCODD continued to grow its research and evidence unit; producing a number of knowledge products aimed at increasing public awareness and empower its citizens with critical information to perform their social accountability roles. The uptake and demand for ZIMCODD's research products tremendously increased with special reference to the Economic Weekly Review, Monthly Economic reviews, Economic Policy Digest and the monthly Public Resource Situational Report. As part of its resource tracking efforts for prudent public finance management ZIMCODD worked with the Debt and Accountability Champions (DAC) to monitor Special Drawing Rights Monitoring where the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Economic Development committed to have 'backroom chats' with the Minister of Finance and Economic Development on the utilisation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) funds. This saw the Honourable Minister Mthuli giving oral evidence to the Budget Committee on drawdowns and use of SDRs. In addition to the monitoring of SDRs ZIMCODD also tracked the implementation of the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations by local authorities across Zimbabwe.

Over the years ZIMCODD has been calling for the inclusion of the people in local authority budgeting processes. The period also saw the coalition celebrating the successes of these efforts with one success story coming after concerted efforts in Kwekwe. Kwekwe residents had been receiving poor service delivery with irregular refuse collection and poor water delivery against a backdrop of high bills which were beyond the reach of the ordinary citizens. This resulted in a merger of all aspiring Residents Associations in Kwekwe in a bid to lobby the city fathers. The merger enabled residents to present a petition to Kwekwe City Council over hiked tariffs which were against the people's will. They unanimously rejected the proposed budget with the petition being signed by over 200 people. They demanded the immediate slashing of the Council rates that were issued without proper budget consultations; this collective action was one of ZIMCODD's AHA Moments.

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

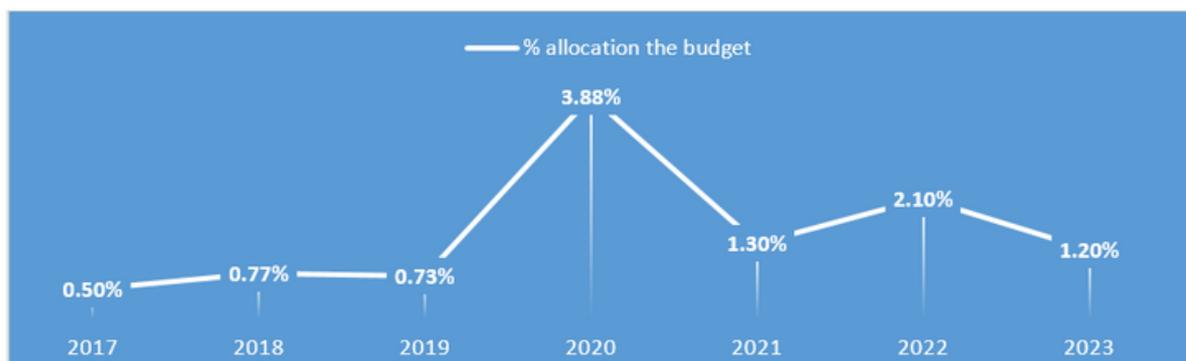
Political uncertainty continues to grow as the nation heads towards the 2023 elections. Subtle prosecution of political opponents under the guise of public order is being used to silence the opposition. The ordeal of Job Sikhala who was arrested in June is a case point. At the same time, the passing of the PVO Bill by the National Assembly in December creates suspense for Civil Society Organisations. The passing of the Bill also shows government's determination to shrink the civic space. Indications are highly likely that, by April 2023 the PVO would have been signed into law by the President.

The 2023 elections continue to generate more anxiety among citizens and investors as wholesome populist policies gain traction. Distribution power is also becoming more evident and vivid with the launch of the Land for Economic Development a shadow ZANU PF group "to fast-track parcelling out of "unutilized" land to party youths ahead of next year's crunch polls.¹ The launch of the Land for ED campaign is reminiscent of the days of the Fast Track Land Reform Program (FTLRP) which brought uncertainty for investors and questions on property rights. It is such past experiences and wholesome populist policies meant for political expediency that make citizens skeptical about the whole process. At the same time, the sincerity of the ruling party in distributing land to the youth is highly debatable given the fact that the majority of the ruling elite and those connected to the high echelons of power are the ones with multiple farms thereby depriving the Zimbabwean populace of their land rights.

The politics of public resources have also reached astronomic levels. A review of the 2023 national budget allocations and 2022 national budget resource utilisation attest to this verdict. As announced in December 2022, at the apex of the 2023 national budget allocations is the Ministry of Education, followed by the Health and Agriculture ministries. Ironically, it can be deduced through an expenditure analysis framework that although the ministries of Health and Education received huge allocations they spend less. This can be seen as a deliberate ploy by the Ministry of Finance to make late disbursements for the two ministries late so that they spend less for the fiscal year. This is reinforced by the 2022 national budget expenditure which shows that, the Ministry of Education and Health were in the bottom ten of sectors which underutilised their resources while the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and Defense were at the top. Although, there is nothing legally wrong in channelling resources to a sector and undermining its expenditure, socially it is wrong and undermines the fiduciary responsibility of state towards providing vital services.

The politics of public resources have culminated in government's failure to allocate 4.5% of the total budget towards social protection as detected by the African Social Policy (2008). This failure has worsened the inequalities and vulnerability status in the country. A trend analysis of social expenditure from 2017-2023 shows government's insincerity in improving service delivery.

1. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/local-news/article/200004910/fresh-farm-invasions-loom>



Source: Compiled by ZIMCODD From The 2017-2023 National Budgets analysis

The government has not made sufficient efforts to meet the 4.5% social expenditure benchmark. The 7 budget years reviewed above show that the highest allocation towards social expenditure was in 2020 when the government channelled 3.88% to social protection. While the government has failed to channel significant resources towards social protection, the following contextual issues remain worrisome and entrenches vulnerability and inequality:

- 7.9 million people are in extreme poverty²
- 3.8 million rural people and 1.6 million urban people facing food insecurity³
- 4.6 million children with Severe Acute Malnutrition and 1.6 million children live in extreme poverty.⁴
- 4.8 million children in need of BEAM assistance⁵,
- 60% of rural girls and women encounter period poverty thus they lack access to menstrual supplies and education.⁶
- 2.5 million youths unemployed

Women and children are heavily affected in all this. Thus, more resources should be allocated towards social protection.

The quest for inclusive and transparent public finance management remains at the core of ZIMCODD's programming and activities. In this regard, an examination of the Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank's (ZWMB) claim that it has disbursed loans worth \$224 552 647 and facilitated the opening of 98 876 accounts in 2021⁷ to support female entrepreneurship is vital. According to a Rapid Accessibility Survey by ZIMCODD,⁸ the disbursement of loans earmarked for women development projects are a privilege of the elite. A number of women interviewed across the country demonstrated ignorance on the availability of Women Development Funds. Therefore, it is questionable for the Minister of Women's Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprise Development to say that her ministry facilitated the opening of 98 876 accounts and disbursement of 224.5 million given the people's response to an independent and oversight research conducted by ZIMCODD in 2021. To this end, it is also integral to note that Gender Responsive Public Service Delivery in Zimbabwe remains in the intensive care unit.

2. World Bank 2021 Report

3. 2022 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report

4. <https://borgenproject.org/child-poverty-in-zimbabwe>

5. UNICEF Report 2021

6. <https://www.techwomen.org/girls-education/vheneka-khanyisa-eliminating-the-shame-of-period-poverty>

7. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2022/07/womens-bank-disburses-2245m-loans/>

8. <https://zimcodd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Women-Development-Fund-Accessibility-Rapid-Survey.pdf>

Furthermore, as an import-dependent nation Zimbabwe continues to face spill over effects from the uncertainties around the future path of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. The pandemic severely disrupted activity in the informal economy thereby affecting vulnerable groups like the elderly, women and youth. Before getting the opportunity for y recovery from the pandemic, the country is now facing elevated prices for fertilizer, food and energy due to global supply and distribution chain disruptions being caused by the war. This has caused acute shortages of goods in the market thus disproportionately affecting the country's deficit-producing regions like Matebeleland Provinces. Although the government has begun to intervene by facilitating grain millers' importation of maize, releasing its grain reserves into the market and suspending duty on basic goods, the cost of food continues to balloon. The economy also continues to experience increased re-dollarization, a move that is hurting ZWL earners, particularly public servants.

The over-reliance on resource-backed loans (RBLs) as a result of prior debt defaults and arrears accumulation are now constraining Zimbabwe in accessing concessionary borrowing terms provided by international financial institutions like the World Bank. This highly explains Zimbabwe's natural resource curse; this occurs when a country with an abundance of natural resources such as mineral commodities achieve less economic growth and development than those countries without abundant resources.² The only benefits being enjoyed by mining host communities are negative and these include the degradation of the environment, pollution of water sources and exposure to human-wildlife conflicts. More so, unsustainable debt is constraining the countercyclical (contrary to or tending to counteract the fluctuations in an economic cycle) effects of fiscal policies, leading to regressively high taxation and inflation. A high cost of doing business is shunning away investment thus disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups like the youth who are desperately in need of employment. The youth constitute at least 65% of the total population who are now indulging in prostitution, early marriages, drug abuse and other forms of crime as they are faced with tightening macroeconomic environment characterised by unemployment. The government is failing to provide quality and affordable public services to help cushion them and other vulnerable and marginalized communities. The above narratives accounts for greater need of work in the area of social and economic justice if Zimbabwe is to attain Vision 2030.

9. <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/anthropology/the-resource-curse-of-natural-resources>

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT IN 2022

As a show of the growth of our digital presence, ZIMCODD has seen the following developments:

Increased policy influence In PFM Issues: Recognition by the Ministry of Finance

ZIMCODD continues to be recognized by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as a key stakeholder in PFM issues, hence it was invited to input into the Mid - Term Budget and Economic Review (MTER) and the 2022 Budget Strategy Paper and 2022 budget, as well as participating in the Structured Dialogue platform for Zimbabwe's Debt and Arrears Clearance Strategy.

Increased public expenditure tracking

Capacity building workshops for Parliamentary Committees, namely; the Portfolio Committees on Budget Finance and Economic Development and the Public Accounts, resulted in sustained demands by Members of Parliament (MPs) for transparency and accountability. MPs from these Committees have been bold enough to move motions in Parliament and ask pertinent questions regarding the management of public funds in particular the US\$961 million in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) that Zimbabwe received from the IMF in August 2021. On the 3rd of March 2022, Hon Mushoriwa a ZIMCODD Debt and Accountability Champion and a member of the Budget Committee moved a motion in the house demanding the Minister of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) to be summoned in Parliament and account for the utilisation of the SDR funds. Following a meeting with Debt and Accountability Champions (DAC) on 11 March 2022, Hon Dr Nyashanu committed to have 'backroom chats' with the MoFED on the utilisation of SDRs funds. On 4 April 2022, Minister Mthuli gave oral evidence to the Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Economic Development on the drawdowns and use of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) although the data was not disaggregated. DAC vowed to continue engaging the Minister.

ZIMCODD and SAPST convened a capacity building workshop for the Budget Committee members, the Public Accounts Committee and officials from the MoFED on monitoring Special Drawing Rights Funds and projects under the First Five- Year National Development Strategy (NDS1.) As a follow -up action, MPs who attended the workshop also raised the issue of SDRs utilisation in Parliament requesting the Speaker of Parliament to direct the MoFED to submit a detailed report on the utilisation of SDR funds. Members of Parliament also raised the issue during the debate on the Mid-Term Policy Review Statement (MTPRS) and the 2022 Supplementary Budget led by the Budget Committee Chairperson Hon Mathew Nyashanu (DAC member) when he presented the Committee's Report. Other Members who raised the SDRs issues are [Hon Tapiwa Mashakada](#), [Hon Caston Matewu](#), [Hon Temba Mliswa \(DAC\)](#) and [Hon Mushoriwa \(DAC\)](#) among others.

Recognition of Thought Leadership Status in PFM issues

ZIMCODD has been recognised by Parliament of Zimbabwe, MoFED and multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a thought leader in public finance management (PFM) issues in Zimbabwe. Because of this recognition ZIMCODD was invited by the IMF to participate in the [IMF Article IV Consultations](#) on the 13th of September 2022 at the IMF offices to discuss the country's economic policies and outlook. It is a milestone for ZIMCODD to be considered as a technical partner by the government whose default position is to brand all civil society organisations as antagonistic and bent on regime change. Further, [ZIMCODD input into the annual budget](#) is considered.

Tabling of the 2023 Budget Strategy Paper: A sign of Increased Budget Transparency

For the first time since the promulgation of the 2019 Public Finance Management Regulations, 9 (Statutory Instrument 135/2019,) the Minister of Finance and Economic Development tabled the 2021-2023 Budget Strategy Paper (BSP) in Parliament within the legally stipulated time-frame. This was as a result of ZIMCODD and SAPST advocacy work with the Budget and Public Accounts Committee.

Increased transparency on Zimbabwe's Public Debt

Through continued advocacy by ZIMCODD, there has been notable transparency in sharing information regarding Zimbabwe's public debt. This is a positive development in line with ZIMCODD's recommendations in Annual Debt Management Reports. Action points from the Annual Multi-Stakeholder Debt Conferences held in the past three (3) years by ZIMCODD and AFRODAD have resulted in some notable changes regarding transparency in sharing information on Zimbabwe's public debt. During the 2022 National Budget Statement presentation, the MoFED presented a [comprehensive report](#) on the country's public debt for the first time. In 2020, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development provided a report on public debt to parliament but it was not made public. In 2021 the Minister provided a comprehensive report to Parliament and made it public. However, the report did not include the US\$1.4 billion Afreximbank loan despite the High Court Ruling that compelled him to make the loan public. US\$3.1 billion which partly caused increase in public debt in 2021 was a result change in government policy and moral hazard by farmers. For the first time, the Minister of Finance brought the [US\\$35.7 million Loan Agreement](#) between International Fund for Agriculture Development and Government of Zimbabwe for ratification as required in terms of Section 327(3) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. This is a positive development in line with our recommendations in Annual Debt Management Reports. The government also continues to publish [Borrowing Plans](#) which provides predictability to the market and also the regular publication of annual debt bulletins which is keeping citizens informed of the debt management trends. More importantly, the Debt Conferences have unlocked opportunities for engagement with the Ministry of Finance, the African Development Bank.

Increased Citizen Engagement & Reach

In 2022 ZIMCODD reached **9 193** Citizens (**3 783 male** and **5 410 female**), compared to 6 877 citizens in 2021 (**2 923 male** and **3 954 females**) showing a **23%** increase in growth. Through vibrant movement building efforts that have created strong consciousness amongst citizens, the demand for ZIMCODD's interventions continued to expand.

This has seen Coalition expanding its geographical scope of work to new frontiers including the Masvingo and Midlands provinces. This rapid expansion has resulted in the establishment of a new administrative region- Central region covering the two areas of Masvingo and Midlands provinces.

The #HowFar Campaign: Achieving Citizen Agency

The ZIMCODD flagship #HowFar campaign achieved a huge milestone of increasing citizen agency and resultantly pushing the government to account to its citizenry on various abuse of public funds in all facets of the economy. Because of the campaign citizens have so far gone in overdrive mode of asking pertinent questions ranging from public expenditure, budget formulation, domestic resource management, public sector audits as well as resource banded loans (RBLs). In that regard, the Department of State in the United States of America recognized the work that ZIMCODD is doing and awarded the ZIMCODD Team in recognition of the successes of the #HowFar campaign milestones towards fighting against corruption. The government to date has since responded to the calls by replying to the #HowFar through counter campaigns such as the #SoFar and #ThisFar. For the award see link,

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-conversation-with-2022-department-of-state-anti-corruption-champion-award-honorees/>

Mentoring and incubation of Youth Coalition Members

The 4th Edition of the Social and Economic Justice Activists Academy sought to mentor champions of social and economic justice and advocates of transparency and accountability in public finance management. The academy also aimed at creating a network of youth that are economically conscious and equipped with sound leadership skills among other objectives. The academy empowered the youth on Disability Activism for Social and Economic Justice which was an eye opener on challenges faced by the disability sector. Other modules covered at the academy included Activism and Transformational Leadership; Lobbying Advocacy and Movement Building; Stewardship of Public Resources; Public Policy Analysis; Engendering Activism; Campaign for Debt Justice and lastly Data Mining and Digital Activism. The Academy incorporated lectures, conversations, group assignments and role play in order to effectively deliver on the different modules.

2022 SEJA Academy Participants



ZIMCODD has profiled SEJA Alumni success stories as demonstrated [here](#).

SADC Public Speaking Competition

SAPSN organized a public speaking competition that comprised of 38 youth drawn from different SADC countries. The youth recorded high quality videos that were uploaded on the ZIMCODD and SAPSN social media accounts. The Public Speaking Competitions are an opportunity to mentor and shape the discourse around various issues including social accountability and public resource management across the region.

Embracing DigiTech in programming

ZIMCODD became one of the first organizations to embrace digital technology for effective programming as a response to COVID 19 and the shrinking civic space. The digital spaces also provided safe spaces for stakeholder engagements and to that end in 2022. Below is evidence of the digital use across different digital platforms.

Facebook

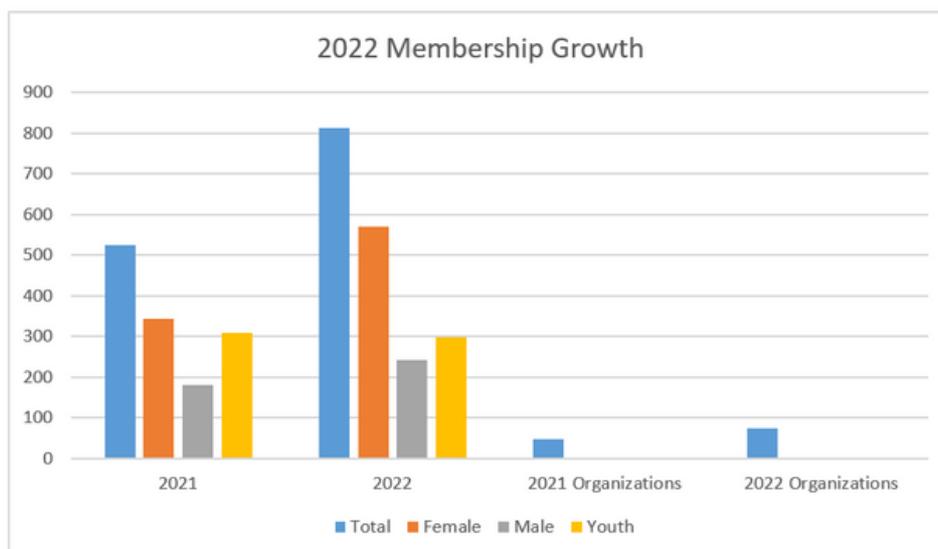


Twitter



Movement building

In 2022, ZIMCODD successfully intensified its movement building drive which recorded an increase in its membership base from 526 individual members to 813 paid up members (571 females: 242 males: 298 youths) an increase by 227 members and an increase in terms of the member organizations from 48 organizations to 74 paid organizations. There was also a proposal to have a central region structure to cover Masvingo, Chivhu, Gokwe, Kwekwe and other surrounding areas triggered by growth of membership across all ten provinces.



CITIZEN AGENCY

Gokwe Cotton Farmers & Residents gain consciousness and demand their rights

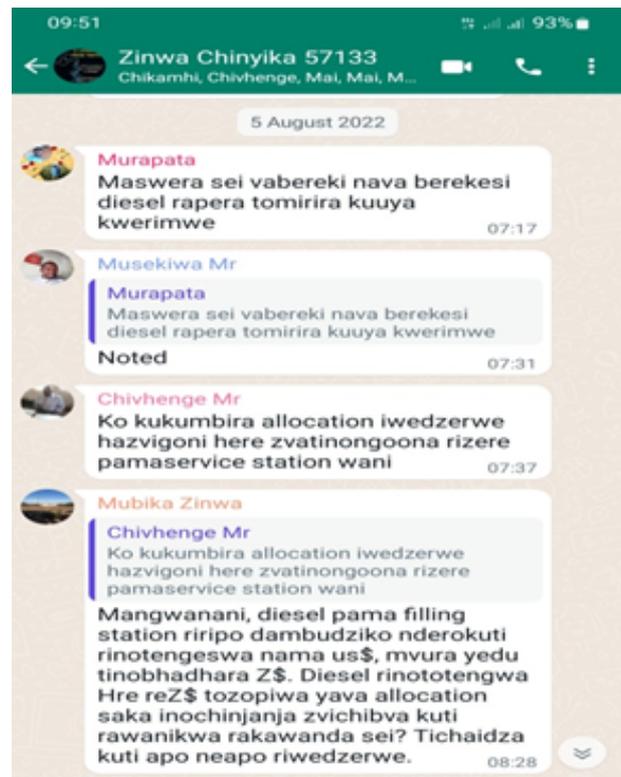
Cotton farmers from Gokwe were incapacitated in their bid to negotiate on the prices of their farm produce as was witnessed by cotton farmers from across Zimbabwe. This saw them being given grocery hampers as payment for their cotton bales with some not having been paid since the 2020 cotton season. This was an unfortunate turn of events as most cotton farmers rely much on cotton production while neglecting other crops. Like other farmers, Gokwe farmers felt intimidated and scared to demand for better services or question duty bearers. Through [ZIMCODD trainings on livelihoods and SEJA led activities](#), the farmers organised themselves in a bid to move away from over reliance to cotton farming. To date the farmers have secured 5 tonnes of red mapfunde and 3 tonnes mhunga to kick start value addition projects among their disadvantaged communities so that they are self-sustainable. They have also managed to build chicken coups that are housing over 3 400 birds in their various constituencies and they owe their success to ZIMCODD programming. Additionally, they now have over 1 480 goats that are being reared under rural industrialisation for Gokwe's out of school youths. It is also encouraging to note that Gokwe residents also pushed for the drilling of 4 boreholes in Sengwa: 2 in Zhamba, 1 in Defe and 1 in Mateta Ward 5 to address the water issue. Faced with the issue of a lack of disability friendly toilets residents also pushed for the construction of disability friendly toilets in schools and this was done in partnership with other organisations and the Ministry of Education. Below is a link on the restoration of the produce market popularly known as Mudurawall after Gokwe residents were empowered to demand their rights through ZIMCODD's radio listening club initiative.

Ruwa Residents Trust citizen Agency

ZIMCODD has continued to engage and facilitate collective action and organisation of citizens to assert their rights and demand accountability and has managed to raise economic consciousness among citizens throughout the country thus building horizontal demand towards fiscal accountability and transparency. A capacity building workshop for Ruwa Residents Trust was held on 28 February 2022 to strengthen their capacities and skills to engage in social accountability monitoring. The Ruwa Residents Trust then wrote to the Ruwa Local Board requesting them to furnish the Trust with details on how they were addressing irregularities that were noted by the Office of the Auditor General in the 2019 report. The [Residents Trust also requested](#) that the Local Authority's permission to attend ordinary Council meetings and accessing council meetings. Ruwa Local Board was forthcoming in their [response](#) outlining progress made in addressing the irregularities that were noted by the OAG and also shared a schedule of the 2022 council meetings with the Residents Trust members.

Community Resource Monitoring Agents demand answers from Local Authorities in Gutu

ZIMCODD community-based structures have continued to engage the local duty bearers for improved service delivery. Their effort has not gone in vain as there have been some positive responses to their demands by local authorities and service providers. In Gutu, Community Resource Monitoring Agents (CORAs) approached ZINWA offices to get information on the reasons why ZINWA failed to inform citizens about the poor provision and give feedback pertaining to the crisis. Following the engagements with ZINWA, the issue was published in the July 2022 ZIMCODD Situational Report. As a result, ZINWA created community engagement platforms for consultation and progress updates in all the wards.



CORA WhatsApp Communication with ZINWA

Radio Listening Clubs increase citizen agency in Public Finance Management in Mvuma

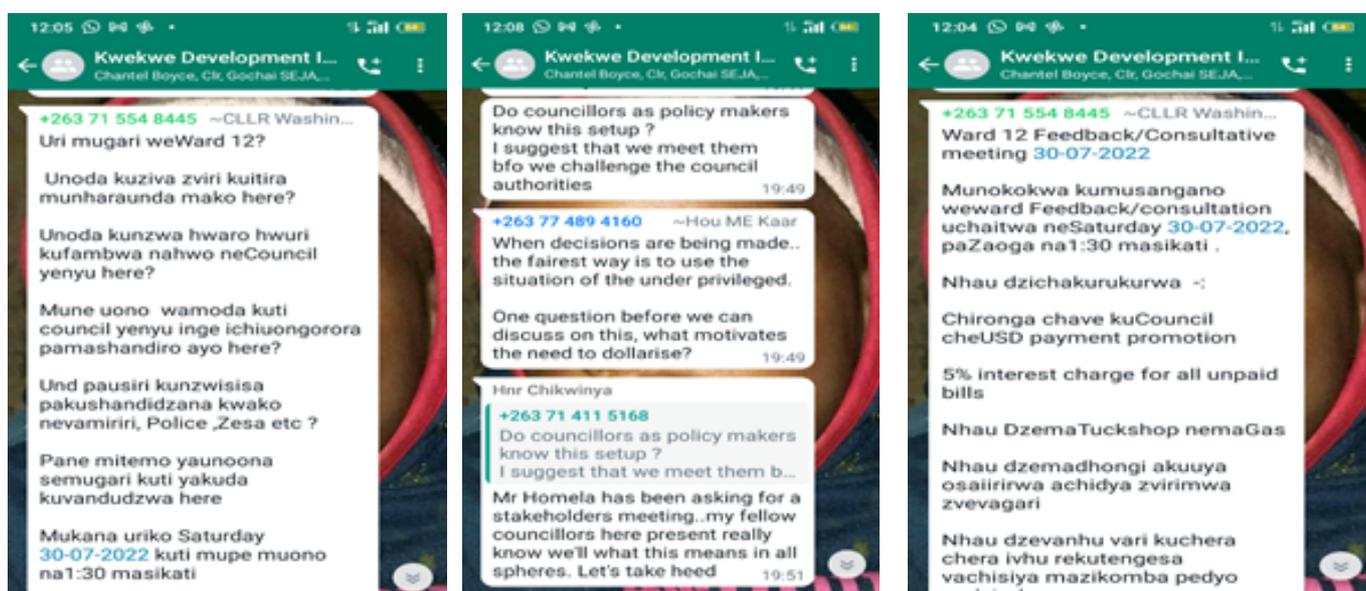
Mvuma residents were not so concerned about the use of Devolution Funds, turnout at budget consultation meetings were very low in the past years. The situation on the ground saw school children walking for more than 5km to the nearest secondary school and there was also poor garbage collection. Poor service delivery in Mvuma was the order of the day. Through the introduction of Radio Listening Clubs, residents in Mvuma were capacitated to demand for better services and a committee was formed to engage Members of Parliament and the Chirumhanzu RDC. Resultantly, turnout for the budget consultative meetings has increased and two schools are now under construction using CDF Funds. Chirumhanzu RDC has started engaging stakeholders on development and governance processes. Refuse collection has greatly improved with the City Council sticking to the collection schedule.

Gweru SEJAs complement ZIMCODD efforts to raise awareness on PFM

Public Finance Management language has often been viewed as too technical by most residents and the issues are regarded as being for the few elites. This has resulted in low participation of citizens in budget processes and development projects for their constituencies. Through Social and Economic Justice Academies & Social Accountability Monitoring Training Seminar for Tertiary Students, young people have been equipped to become ZIMCODD brand ambassadors. To go in their communities and raise economic literacy among general citizenry. Resultantly, young SEJAs from the Central region have created podcasts from weekly readers in different languages to disseminate PFM issues to the grassroots. ZIMCODD members participate actively on the social media platforms and articulate issues from an informed point of view.

Enhanced citizen oversight in the management of public resources in the Midlands

Through convening these RLC, ZIMCODD also managed to increase citizen oversight, agency and demand for accountability in the management of public resources by communities. In Gokwe, club members organized themselves and formed Manyoni Residents Association and Gokwe Residents associations to push for accountability of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and demand access to water. As a result of engaging the council on the water challenges in Sesami Ward 1, the Department for International Development (DFID) managed to drill water access points (3 taps) for the community to access safe and portable water as provided for in the Constitution. In Kwekwe, club members mobilized to form a Residents Association and engaged the council in February 2022 over unbearable water tariffs while petitioning Parliament on the same.



Kwekwe Development Issues WhatsApp group with Duty-bearers

CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

#HOWFAR 2.0

In an effort to simplify activism and bring it to everyone's doorstep, ZIMCODD successfully launched the #HowFar 2.0 aimed at keeping the public debate and dialogue between the citizens and the government relevant to the context. While the launch was ongoing, billboards with new messages asking accountability questions were erected across Harare and started circulating on social media. The launch was live streamed on Identities Media and attracted 9,600 views.

The launch was covered by various media houses and was trending on number four (4) on twitter on 18 March 2022. The launch was covered by news houses such as [TellZim](#), [The Standard](#) and the [Humanitarian Post](#).



#HowFar Banners distributed across the country

Digital Reach: Over 6 million impressions and 1,2 Million engagements across Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Outdoor Reach: Est: 1000 eyeballs/ day x 42 billboards over 365 days= Est: 15,3 Million.

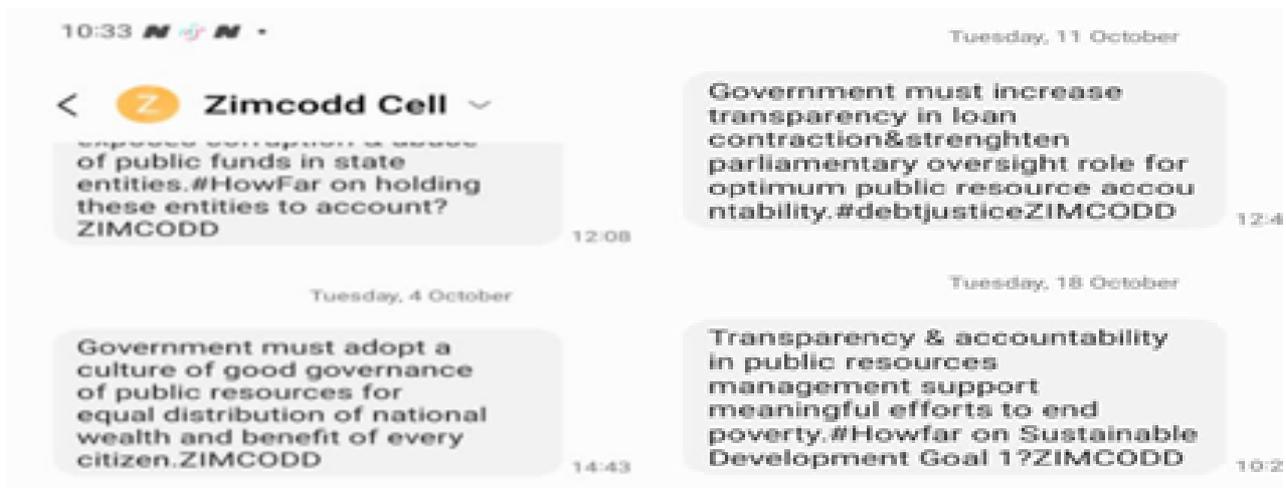
The campaign influenced citizens to respond with #HOWFAR questions to relevant responsible authorities on social media. The campaign also managed to get a response from Government's highest level with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Nick Mangwana, amongst others tweeting under the tags #SoFar #ThisFar and #EDelivers. These hashtags continue to exist today, speaking to the relevance of the campaign; see below.



The pushback to #HowFar, #SoFar

During the reporting period, ZIMCODD distributed bulk messages on transparency and accountability in the management of public resources to different stakeholders including ZIMCODD members who are represented in all provinces of the country. The messages were designed to raise awareness and to activate citizen agency in demanding transparency and accountability on public finances including use and distribution of COVID-19 Resources. The messages also meant to encourage and reinforce positive health behaviours amongst the public. A total of 23 bulk SMSs were distributed in 2022 with a total reach of 49,800 citizens.

Below is a sample of the bulk messages that were distributed during the campaign.



ZIMCODD went a step further to amplify the #HOWFAR Campaign by launching an online platform under the #HOWFAR 2.0 Campaign named Real Talk. Real Talk was aimed at tackling public finance and service delivery issues by holding responsible duty bearers accountable on the platform. It was broadcast on YouTube and ZIMCODD Facebook page. Below are some of the links to the show broadcasts:

<https://youtu.be/rYcKJzPdCL8>

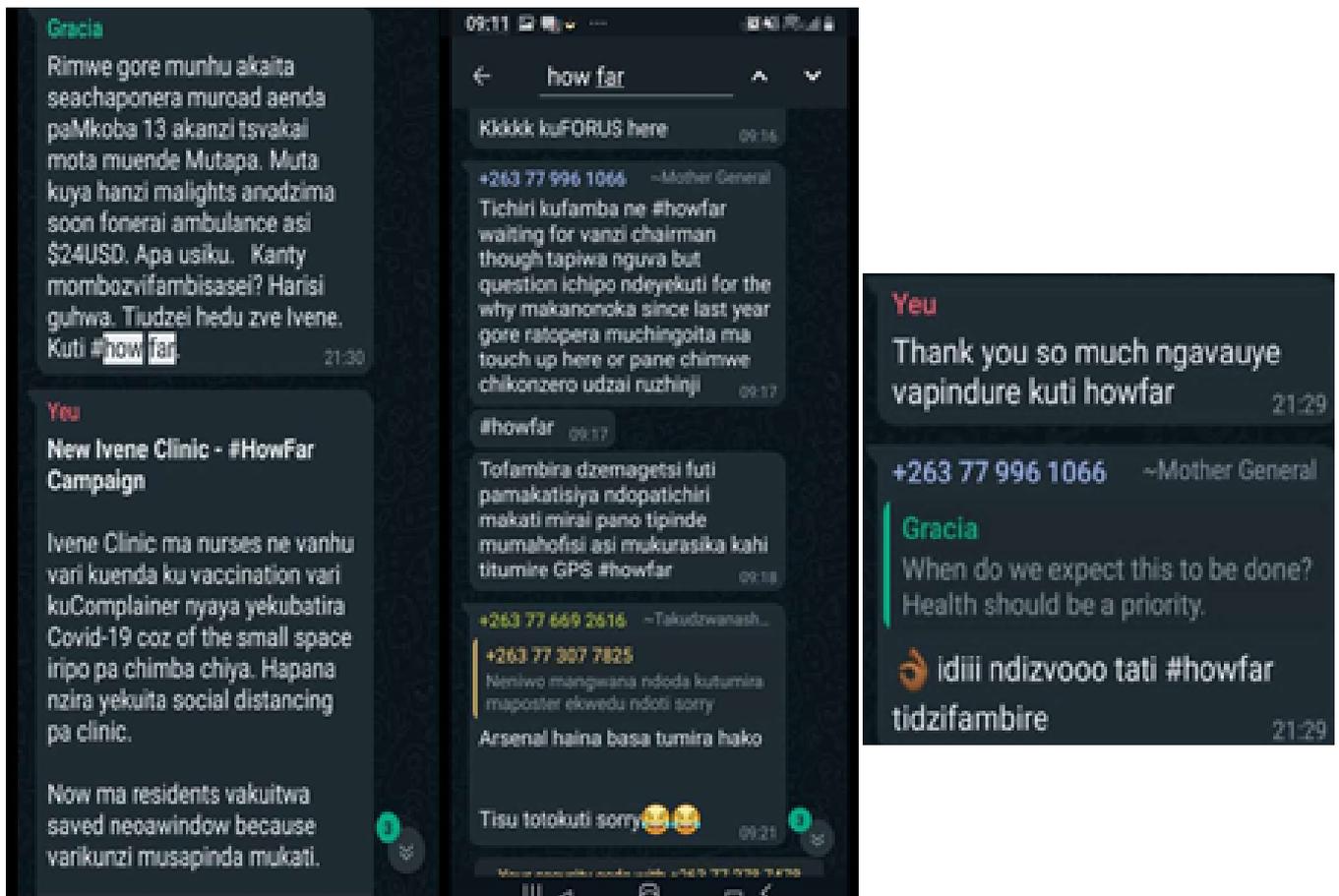
<https://youtu.be/bHXwETaomRU>

https://youtu.be/8j_3nbxnl8c

<https://youtu.be/8UitplrTtel>

Community engages Members of Parliament on poor service delivery at Clinics

During the COVID 19 period residents in Gweru Urban were being serviced by one small clinic with only one toilet that was shared by both staff and patients. To mitigate this problem, the MP for Gweru Urban had used the Constituency Development Fund to renovate a bar in Ivene and turned it into a clinic unfortunately, it had been turned into a white elephant because of political wrangling. Gweru SEJAs created a #HowFar Ivene Clinic campaign targeting City of Gweru on different social media platforms. The MP for Gweru Urban referred the matter to GCC citing that he had done his part and handed over the project to the responsible authorities. Residents demanded for answers from City Fathers. As a result of the pressure from citizens, Ivene Clinic was commissioned within a month of the Campaign, and patients are utilising the facility to date. There is also an improved working relationship between Gweru residents and duty bearers following the success of the campaign.



<https://gwerucity.org.zw/commissioning-of-ivene-clinic>

Councillor Prioritises Proper Service Delivery in Budiriro

After conducting RLC, Budiriro residents had the urge to raise voices in pursuit of proper service delivery. This urge saw all participants of the RLCs joining a Ward WhatsApp group where residents had access to direct communication with the Councillor and Member of Parliament. It is important to note that after residents raised their concerns including the issue of the water crisis and theft due to poor street lighting among many other concerns, the Ward Councillor urgently acted to address the residents' concerns. Ward 43 led by its Ward Councillor, Blessing Duma in collaboration with the Member of Parliament, Costa Joshua Machingauta are currently pushing for the betterment of Budiriro and CABS Housing communities in Ward 43 through improved service delivery. Commendable acts thus far are the dumb clearance in Budiriro 4 and 5, fixing of roads, tower light maintenance in Budiriro 4 and 5 and the water situation which has improved drastically, even though it is still a challenge as it comes irregularly (2 days per week). The Ward Councillor is also ensuring that through the WhatsApp Ward group, residents get weekly updates and feedback on all issues that would be requiring attention and this has been a rare case in Ward 43, hence it is a positive step forward to a better community.



Chindenga High School Library

Residents deal with the ZESA power problem in Checheche; Chipinge

For the past 5 years residents from Phases 3 and 4 in Checheche have been struggling with power shortages because of the overloaded transformer that was also being used by Green Fuel (a company that makes ethanol and petrol in the area). The area saw more connections being made on the already overloaded transformer and this resulted in phases 3 and 4 being the most affected. Households in the area were no longer able to use electric gadgets like stoves and many households even lost electric gadgets due to power shocks. ZESA failed to add more transporters but instead continued to connect more households on the transformer thus worsening the power problems. ZIMCODD and the local CORAs facilitated an engagement between the residents and ZESA with the power utility realising the seriousness of the matter. Residents showed their gratitude to the ZESA management for paying heed to the residents' voices. ZESA recognised that the issues were related to low voltage that was caused by the incapacity of the transformer and the single phase that was erected to serve the area. Residents wrote 3 petitions to ZESA and later protested against the delay in addressing the electricity problem. Resultantly, ZESA managed to procure all the required material and built a substation to resolve the problems. Below is picture of one of the peaceful protests held by the Checheche residents.



Checheche Residents demonstrate against ZESA and ask #HowFar on electricity provision

Public Resources Management Campaigns #FeminomicsZW

ZIMCODD conducted Localized Public Resources Management Campaigns under the #FeminomicsZW banner in a hybrid format. This format allowed youths and women to participate on social media spaces, radio and during physical meetings. The physical meetings were conducted in Kwekwe and Gokwe reaching out to 75 participants (29M, 46F, 28Y and 1PWD). Impressions and engagements illustrated how women and youths actively advocated for the government to implement policy frameworks that reduce inequalities and promote social and economic justice.

Reach statistics for #FeminomicsZW Campaign

Platform	Impressions	Engagement
Twitter	11 855	547
Facebook	1 529	143

In addition to the Social Media platforms the campaign also took its programming to radio stations with the reach as follows:

YA FM (Zvishavane) had a combined digital and terrestrial reach of 2.5 million. During the show, 77 WhatsApp messages were received together with 60 SMS messages and 15 calls. A reach of 1 500 impressions was achieved on the station's Twitter post on the subject.

Skyz Metro had an average of 50 000 listeners from 15:00 -18:00hrs when the show aired. During the show, 2 567 views were reached on Facebook.

98.4 FM (Midlands Province) achieved an estimated reach of 500 000 listeners.

Research & Evidence

Knowledge products continued to increase public awareness and empower citizens with critical information to perform their social accountability roles. Additionally, the uptake and demand for ZIMCODD's research products tremendously increased with special reference to the Economic Weekly Review, Monthly Economic reviews, Economic Policy Digest and the monthly Public Resource Situational Report. These research products have become a credible source of information to a diverse pool of stakeholders at both local and national government levels, academia, civil society, private sector and to the ordinary citizenry. The research products can be found at: <https://zimcodd.org/research/>

RESOURCE TRACKING

Special Drawing Rights Monitoring

ZIMCODD continues to advocate for prudent public finance management through its work with Debt and Accountability Champions (DAC). During the period under review, ZIMCODD convened a DAC meeting on 11 March 2022 where the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Economic Development committed to have 'backroom chats' with the Minister of Finance and Economic Development on the utilisation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) funds. True to his word, on the 4th of April 2022, Minister Mthuli gave oral evidence to the Budget Committee on drawdowns and use of SDRs. The table below shows SDR drawdowns as of April 2022 as presented by the Minister:

Date of Drawdown	Amount	Use	Commendation
2022	35m	Health	There has been any noticeable change in the provision of health services. The actual use was not defined.
	10m	Education	The education sector remains down-trodden and the actual use of the 10m remains unknown.
	30m	Export revolving fund	The targeted sector is not known and how the fund is managed to avoid looting.
	20m	Irrigation equipment	The recipients and manner of choosing them remains unknown and whether recipients are to pay back or not.
	30m	Industry Retooling – Agro-processing etc.	Retooling is critical in improving capacity utilization, job creation and expanding exports.
	20m	Infrastructure	Specific projects not defined and the cost per project.

Table 1: SDRs Drawdowns

Tracking the Implementation of the Office of the Auditor General's Recommendations

ZIMCODD conducted a research survey, aimed at tracking and monitoring progress in the implementation of the Office of Auditor-General (OAG) recommendations by local authorities across the country. The survey covered city and town councils of Victoria Falls, Bulawayo, Gweru, Kwekwe, Vungu Rural District Council, Zvishavane, Mutare and Hwange Local Board. The incapacitation of local authorities in implementing the Auditor-General's report is at the core of the challenges confronting local authorities. Some of the challenges in implementing the [Auditor-General's](#) recommendations include but are not limited to; corruption, lack of political will, unavailability of resources and excessive interference by the central government. The survey presented an opportunity for ZIMCODD to forge relationships with most Local Authorities and push the public finance management discourse.

Monthly Public Resource Management Situational Reports

Driven by the need to build citizen agency in public resource monitoring (inclusive of COVID-19 resources, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), local authority budgets including devolution funds) and to promote participation in economic governance at the local level and national level. In 2022 the Public Resource Management Situational Reports (PRM SitReps) noted with great concern the continuous dilapidation of public service delivery coupled with poor public finance management. Lack of transparency and accountability in the administration of public resources continues perpetuating poor resource mismanagement, corruption and economies of affection. ZIMCODD through these Sitreps continued to call for, among other issues:

- Implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations to strengthen public resource management systems in order to curb leakages and improve public service delivery in local authorities;
- minimal interference by the central government in the affairs of local authorities;

- the need to minimize political interference;
- need for political will from the Executive to allow for the implementation of bold economic reforms especially in the extractives sector;
- strengthen parliamentary oversight;
- and for the government to inculcate a culture of accountability on COVID-19 expenditure.

Monthly Economic Situational Reports

- [February 2022](#)
- [March 2022](#)
- [April 2022](#)
- [May 2022](#)
- [June 2022](#)
- [July 2022](#)
- [August 2022](#)

Networking & Collaborations

1. ZIMCODD collaborated with AFRODAD, HIVOS, ECONNEWS AFRICA and WIPA – Institute of Public Accountability Tanzania, to host a side event entitled: ***SDGs Financing in the era of digital economies – opportunities and challenges*** at the 6th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
2. ZIMCODD is a member of the City of Harare Budget Advisory Council. In this space the Coalition’s strength in public finance management issues is helping the local authority understand technical PFM issues.
3. ZIMCODD continued to uphold the value of partnership as demonstrated by its leading and coordination role in various networks at both national and regional level: NANGO, ACT UBUMBANO, SAPSN, FIGHT INEQUALITY, PWYP, CRISIS COALITION,
4. Partnerships with ZELA, ZCC, PWYP, TI-Z were sustained. ZIMCODD continues to chair the PWYP Coalition Zimbabwe Chapter

Lessons & Recommendations

ZIMCODD learnt that activity planning has to be more inclusive and well-coordinated through its structures to ensure the right target groups participate in the set activities. This will also enable the institution to have a systematic way of outcome harvesting as different action plans are allocated to the rightful community members at the ZIMCODD supported platforms.

The lessons learnt are:

- There is value for money in collaborations and this often helps to avoid the duplication of efforts.
- Social media has the power to organize citizens and disseminate information in real time.
- Local and traditional leaders need serious capacity building sessions as they are key stakeholders in the communities.
- Citizen and community- based organization (CBOs) have interest in holding the government accountable, therefore there is need for CSOs to create collaborative spaces which will harness their capabilities and innovations in advocacy work.

- ZIMCODD also learnt to stand together with its members in the face of state adversity. As such the Coalition has gained respect and recognition from the State by being consistent and resolute in defending its course of action. This saw the Coalition receiving media coverage on its participation in the) Amendment Bill Public Hearings; following ZIMCODD participation in the parliamentary public hearings on the Public Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill. The Herald Newspaper of 11 March 2022 published negative and false information to the fact that ZIMCODD had bussed people from Harare and Masvingo to attend the Gutu consultations and that ZIMCODD did this through one of its employees by the name Prosper Tiringindi who unfortunately is neither a ZIMCODD employee nor a member of the organisation. ZIMCODD responded by writing to The Herald to retract the story and correct the anomalies in the published story to which The Herald apologised and set the correct record. Below is the letter to The Herald, ZIMCODD Press statement and the response from the Herald.

<https://www.herald.co.zw/participants-welcome-pvo-amendment-bill/>

<https://zimcodd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ZIMCODD-Press-Release-on-PVO-bill-Public-hearings.pdf>

<https://www.herald.co.zw/matter-of-fact-51/>

Risk Assessment & Challenges

- The weaponisation of Covid 19: The stringent conditions imposed by the lockdown disadvantaged a lot of vulnerable people as they were regarded as non-essential services.
- Serious shortcomings in disseminating information around budget consultative meetings and other critical meetings that deal with PFM issues.
- PFM issues are too technical for the general citizens, there is need to break them down for easy understanding and the uptake by citizens.
- There is need to safeguard against the possible high jacking of ZIMCODD programmes by politicians as they try and push their party agendas especially in light of the fast-approaching elections.

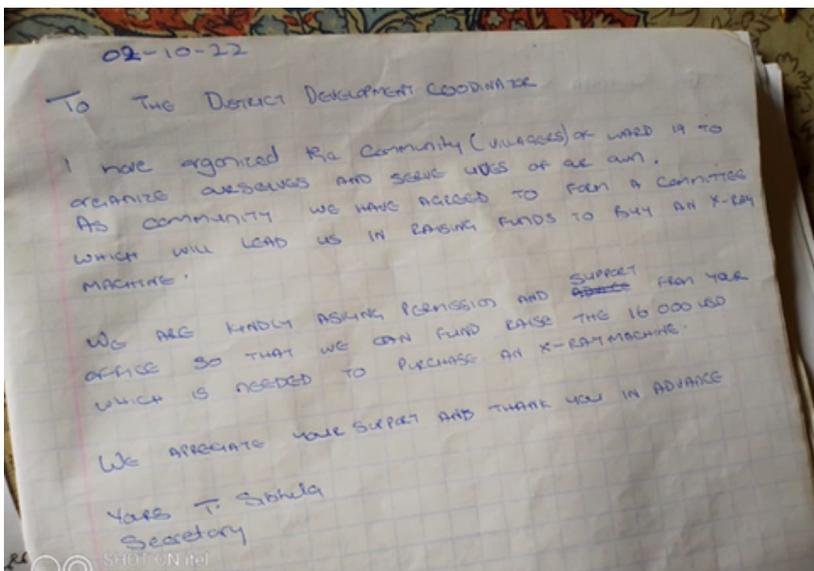
AHAA!! MOMENTS

Citizen Agency in Demanding Gender Responsive Public Service Delivery (GPRS)

Traditionally, the Ndaou community (ethnic group in the Chipinge area) does not recognise women as important members of society. This means Ndaou women are not allowed to speak and address meetings in-order to demand access to gender responsive public services. Expectant mothers in the area were being forced to travel to Chipinge town, covering a distance of 100km of un-serviced roads. Due to the fact that the services being sought were not accessible; the women ended up approaching Mutare hospital for x-ray services and other essential services which is a further 140km or more away.

Tshiyiwe Sibhula, a 53-year-old woman from Chipinge Ward 19 pioneered a resource mobilisation drive to buy an x-ray machine for Mount Selinda Hospital in Chipinge rural. This effort was as a result of the social accountability interface meeting with duty bearers that she had attended as facilitated by ZIMCODD. The meetings with duty bearers empowered rural women in Chipinge rural to be able to have the courage to challenge patriarchy and cultural beliefs that are unjust to women in particular. Rural women in Chipinge, engaged the leadership (local authorities, traditional leaders and the District Development Coordinator's Office) to voice their concerns on the abuse of women's rights in access to health care (as women, especially pregnant women, do not access x-ray services at Mount Selinda Hospital). The group of women approached the District Development Coordinator's office with their letter that sought permission to be allowed to mobilise resources to help the women purchase an x-ray machine worth US\$16 000. The permission was granted by the District Development Coordinator on the 4th of October 2022, and the women's group managed to open a bank account to mobilise the resources for purchase of the x-ray machine.

If this effort is successful, Mount Selinda will be one of the first hospitals to have an x-ray machine purchased through the efforts of marginalised rural women and people will flock from both urban and rural Chipinge to access the x-ray services. The women in Chipinge have been empowered to demand services and leadership has started to recognise their existence in the district. Barely a week after being granted permission by the District Development Coordinator to source funds, the group of 7 women mobilised US\$700 out of the required US\$16 000. The women are waiting for clearance by District Police Inspector (Dispol) to be cleared to organise fundraising campaigns.



Letter requesting permission to mobilise resources in Chipinge penned by Tshiyiwe Sibhula on behalf of rural women in Chipinge

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Correspondence should not
be addressed to individuals



Office of the District Development Coordinator
P.O Box 140
CHIPINGE

Telephone : 0227-2042546, 2042547, 2042285
Telefax : 0227-2042546

Reference:

Tuesday, October 04, 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDRAISING FOR X-RAY MACHINE FOR
CHIRINDA HOSPITAL: CHIPINGE DISTRICT**

This serves to advise that the Willis F. Pierce Memorial Hospital (Mt. Selinda Mission Hospital) has oftentimes been tottering on the brink of collapse due to several challenges including shortages in medical equipment and drugs. It is pleasing to note that despite the various challenges facing the institution, efforts by the Government of Zimbabwe, the United Church of Christ (UCCZ) and staff at this revered have managed to make the hospital stay on track.

One of the problems the hospital is grappling with is the absence of an x-ray machine. This is a very invaluable equipment and operating without one is certainly crippling the administration of proper healthcare at Mt. Selinda Mission Hospital. In view of the above, a committee has been formed to oversee the fundraising activities for purposes of purchasing an x-ray machine as well as procurement of other critical equipment and drugs.

In view of the above mission-critical objective, this office has no misgivings in recommending the fundraising activities of the Chirinda Hospital X-Ray Machine Fundraising Committee.

Your usual support and consideration is greatly appreciated.

W. Mashava
District Development Coordinator
CHIPINGE

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
Ministry of Local Government
Rural and Urban Development

04/10/22
CHIPINGE
TELEPHONE: 2547

The response letter by the District Development Coordinator in Chipinge giving the greenlight for rural women in Chipinge to start mobilising resources for the x-ray machine for Mt Selinda Hospital

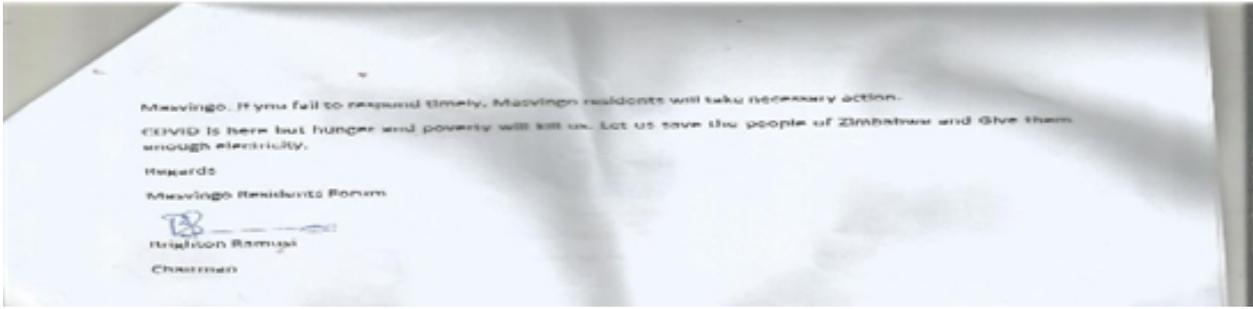
ZESA embarks on a stakeholder consultative meeting in Masvingo.

After conducting two radio listening discussion programmes Masvingo residents mounted pressure on the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) Masvingo region calling for a stakeholder meeting with the power utility. During a during a third radio discussion session held on the 8th of January 2022 the club members led by Masvingo Residents Forum (MRF) complained about extreme power interruptions by ZESA (the country's sole power distributor) without any clear communication or power cut timetable. The members agreed to seek an audience with the ZESA Masvingo Public Relations Officer.

On the 14th of January 2022, a 15-day ultimatum was delivered to ZESA, demanding that the electricity company provide residents with a proper load shedding schedule as well as address other issues that Masvingo residents had with the company. It is important to note that the firm had not reacted to the people's demands for years and was not keen on giving feedback or having conversation meetings. Residents were unaware of the situation, while others were hesitant to confront the corporation. Following the ultimatum residents were invited to a stakeholder meeting on January 27, 2022, as part of the company's response. Unfortunately, on the scheduled day of the meeting, the District Manager rescheduled it to the 4th of February 2022 at Flamboyant Hotel. This was not a deterrent as over 200 residents from the urban and some from peri-urban areas attended the rescheduled meeting.

During the meeting Headmaster from Manunure High School; 43kms from Masvingo urban; narrated how they were living in total darkness since February 2021 after their transformer developed a fault. Many participants complained that the energy company did not communicate and was taking long to repair electrical faults. Dr Manyaya, a representative from ZESA argued that the company was failing to meet the supply demand as a result of continuous loss of equipment to vandalism. He also reported that, from January 2021 to November 2021, ZETDC lost over 30 transformers valued at US\$230 980 in the Southern Region only to theft with the vandals targeting transformer oil and coils. However, the ZESA staff promised to address all complaints raised and shared a load shedding schedule with participants. The meeting was an eye-opener for the majority of the community members and the radio listening club managed to push for a neutral platform for dialogue and communication between ZESA and Masvingo residents.





Ultimatum letter to ZESA by Masvingo Residents



Left: ZESA invitation.

RIGHT: Radio listening club members

Kwekwe Residents Petition Parliament Over the city’s 2022 Budget

Kwekwe residents were receiving poor service delivery in the form of irregular refuse collection and poor water delivery against a backdrop of high bills which were beyond the reach of the ordinary citizens. In a bid to arrest the prevailing situation, Kwekwe residents as organized by the Kwekwe Community Resource Monitoring Agents (CORAs) encourage all aspiring Residents Associations in Kwekwe to merge and build a collective voice to lobby the city fathers. The merger enabled residents to present a petition to Kwekwe City Council over hiked tariffs which were against the people's will. Kwekwe residents unanimously rejected the proposed budget which the City Fathers arrogantly went on to submit to the Minister of Local Government. The petition was signed by over 200 people and demanded the immediate slashing of the Council rates that were issued without proper consultation. The petition was submitted to Parliament by Hon. S. Chikwinya of Mbizo.

The Public Eye

Newspaper for Midlands Province, guided by honesty, truthfulness and ethical reporting 22 April 2022 US\$0.50

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Kwekwe residents' petition to the council to be struck off



Message by government to deal with the petitioners' status



Residents' petition to be struck off

Kwekwe residents petition parliament over 2022 budget

By Fika Kuvumba
Kwekwe residents have petitioned parliament to track into the city's 2022 budget, which is being implemented without their approval. The petition, which was signed by the Kwekwe Residents and Tenants Association, was submitted to parliament.



By Fika Kuvumba



PRESS STATEMENT

CESATION OF INDIKUS OPERATING AS A MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE PROVIDER

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (the Bank) advises the public that it has ordered Indikus Bank (Private) Ltd to cease operating the money transfer service provided at said Indikus, with immediate effect.

In November 2021, the Bank directed Indikus to open for and obtain necessary approvals in order to continue offering the service. To date, the company has not yet regularised the service as directed, hence the requisite regulatory intervention by the Bank.

The cessation of the service means that customers shall no longer be able to deposit funds into the Indikus account or transfer the funds to third parties. However, customers may withdraw their balances for cash or funds at Indikus Branch (Private) Ltd outlets within a period of 30 days from date of this Press Statement.

John P. Masquito
Governor

20 April 2022



Eric Musesengwe

Kwekwe residents petition parliament over 2022 budget

From Page 1
I can confirm that the Kwekwe Residents Association through their secretary general Spencer Gochiwa have petitioned the parliament of Zimbabwe in terms of Section 149 of the Zimbabwe Constitution. They are stating that the current Kwekwe City Council budget of year 2022 is being implemented without the approval of the residents as expected in terms of the law.

"Once the petition has been admitted to parliament, the respective committee of parliament, which is a committee of local government will have to visit Kwekwe and consult the residents and if it is determined that indeed the budget was not approved by residents the budget has to be struck off," Chikwinya said.

He explained that if parliament finds the council at fault the budget could be redrawn.

"The Kwekwe City Council has to be forced to re-consult the residents and come out with a budget that is agreeable to the residents. So we await the opening of the parliament on the third of May when the Speaker will have to direct the petition to the relevant committee," said the Mbozo legislator.

Another faction of the residents' association, Kwekwe Tenants and Residents Association early this year petitioned the local authority to slash rates and service charges.



Engineer John Mhike

The Public Eye

FEATURE

Newspaper articles covering the Petition submitted to Parliament by Kwekwe Residents