



## THE WEEKEND READER

"Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Socio-Economic Justice"

### **SOUND PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT, A KEY TO ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL INCLUSIVITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY.**

Approximately, 15% of the world's population, or one billion people identify as People with Disability (PwD) and the prevalence of disabilities is higher in developing nations. Adverse socioeconomic outcomes, including lower levels of schooling, poor health, lower employment rates and higher rates of poverty, are more common among people with impairments. The risk of disability can be elevated by poverty in several ways including poor access to health care and education, unsafe working conditions, a contaminated environment, and a lack of clean water and sanitary facilities. Due to reduced employment and educational prospects, lower wages, and higher living expenses, disabilities may potentially raise the likelihood of poverty.

Complete social and economic integration of PWDs is hampered by inaccessible physical spaces and modes of transportation, a lack of assistive technologies and devices, communication methods that are not modified, gaps in the provision of services, stigma and discrimination in the community. Nonetheless, governments across the globe are embracing the concept of disability-inclusive development. This is because the complete integration of PWDs into society is encouraged by the 185 nations that have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The significance of the international community in addressing the rights of PWDs is explicitly mentioned in the CRPD. As disability cannot be a justification or criterion for being denied access to development initiatives and the enjoyment of human rights. Consequentially, seven targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework specifically mention PWDs, while six more targets focus on people in vulnerable situations, which includes PWDs.

Zimbabwe being a member of the global community has made positive strides in addressing the plight of PWDs by ratifying the CRPD and launching the ZNDP in 2021. Currently, the government is in the process of repealing the Disabled Persons Act (17:01) of 1992 and move away from the Charity Based Approach (CBA) to the Rights Based Approach (RBA) in dealing with PWDs. While Zimbabwe's efforts are commendable there are operational and governance glitches that need immediate redress if the nation is to attain an inclusive and comprehensive upper middle-class economy by 2030. This is because there are infrastructure and institutional gaps when it comes to dealing with PWDs. The entire public sector needs to be revamped and recalibrated to advance the interest of PWDs. Thus, a comprehensive needs assessment must be undertaken utilizing several data sources such as Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStats), CSOs, UNICEF and development partners. The data sources must provide adequate information on the following PWD's dimensions:

- **Prevalence of disability:** that is to provide estimates of the number and percentage of PWDs in Zimbabwe.
- **Type of disability:** that is to provide data on the types of disabilities, such as visual, hearing, mobility, and mental disabilities.
- **Age and sex distribution:** that is to provide data on the age and sex distribution of PWDs.
- **Education and employment:** that is to provide data on the educational attainment and employment status of PWDs.
- **Access to healthcare and social services:** that is to provide data on the access to healthcare, social services, and assistive devices among PWDs.

In addition, Zimbabwe needs to increase expenditure towards PWDs services. This should be complimented by comprehensive and inclusive social protection systems that are calibrated to advance the rights of PWDs. The PWDs Funds housed in the Department of Disabled Persons Affairs under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare must be allocated after a thorough needs assessment utilizing the five dimensions of disaggregated data on PWDs as aforementioned.

Finally, there is also a need for strengthening accountability and transparency mechanisms in the institutions responsible for handling PWDs Funds. This is because the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Report for the year 2022 reports on misappropriation of the PWD funds by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. Thus, strong accountability and transparency mechanisms will deter under dealings and promote sound Public Finance Management (PFM).

## Opportunities

Look for this section every Friday as we share various opportunities in the development sector, from jobs, internships, consultancies and funding.

1. Applications for 🇺🇸 #DirectAidProgram (DAP) 2024-25 are now open! The DAP provides funding for small-scale community projects. Applications will close on the 14 July 2024. Info on how to apply is available at <https://zimbabwe.embassy.gov.au/hare/DAP.html>
2. The Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa (RTIA), funded by the EU, is launching 2 calls for proposals to address the challenges faced by teachers in crisis-affected environments where they must adapt pedagogical methods, manage stress and trauma, & work with limited resources. Visit: [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zimbabwe/call-proposals-regional-facility-teachers-africa\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zimbabwe/call-proposals-regional-facility-teachers-africa_en)
3. Grants Admin Vacancy: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/higher-life\\_vacancy-grants-administrator-activity-7212155206459879424-E7RK?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/higher-life_vacancy-grants-administrator-activity-7212155206459879424-E7RK?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios)
4. Stanbic Field Opportunity: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/stanbic-bank-zimbabwe-limited\\_seize-the-opportunity-to-lead-in-the-field-activity-7212003622820204545-9-hB?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/stanbic-bank-zimbabwe-limited_seize-the-opportunity-to-lead-in-the-field-activity-7212003622820204545-9-hB?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios)
5. Higher Education Scholarships: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/giz-african-union\\_scholarships-highereducation-daad-activity-7211011895854567427-KKJW?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/giz-african-union_scholarships-highereducation-daad-activity-7211011895854567427-KKJW?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios)



Are you passionate about Social & Economic Justice?  
Do you believe in the movement for equality?

**JOIN NOW!**

Become a registered member of ZIMCODD today:  
<https://rb.gy/ewz45>

Join our Mailing List by sending us your email address to stay caught up on our activities, weekly & monthly reading resources on the Social & Economic justice movement.



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**#Youth4Integrity pledge**

Are you a member of the youth (18-35 years) with a passion for fighting social and economic injustice? Do you want to join the action for Integrity? Do You want to become an Integrity Icon? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, take the pledge today: <https://rb.gy/9ogzgx>

**Quote of the week:** President William Ruto after protests in Kenya against a Bill to increase taxation.

*The people have Spoken*

**Picture of the week: Kenya Finance Act Protests**



*Image: James Wakibia/ ZUMA PRESS/ picture alliance*