



# CSOs Consolidated Report for the Zimbabwe Voluntary National Review 2024.

*Prepared for the SDGs High-Level  
Political Forum (HLPF) 2024*

**1** NO  
POVERTY



**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



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(SDGs) High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)



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The production of this report was made possible through NANGO's partnership with [Forus International](#), with financial backing from the [European Union \(EU\)](#). NANGO appreciates this support, which has enabled the spotlighting of CSOs' perspectives and insights on VNR reporting and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation in the country.

The technical support provided by the Demonstrative Research Consultancy team, under the leadership of Dr. Tracy Kandeya, was invaluable in the execution of this important assignment. Their contribution is highly appreciated.

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### **Produced by**

The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO Zimbabwe), Harare, Zimbabwe, June 2024



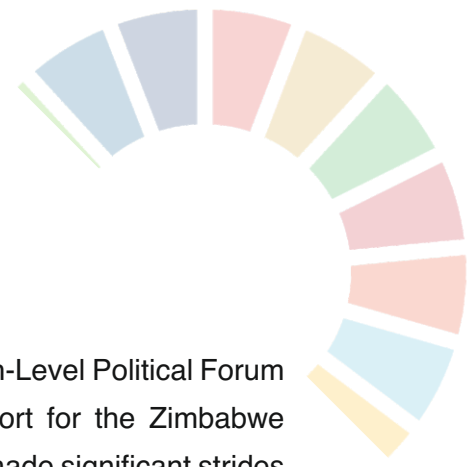
## ACRONYMS

<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organisation
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>HLPF</b>	High Level Political Forum
<b>HLP</b>	High Level Political Forum
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>NANGO</b>	National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NDS</b>	National Development Strategy
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NPRC</b>	National Peace, and Reconciliation Commission
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>PVOs</b>	Private Voluntary Organisations
<b>PWD</b>	People with Disability
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TCPL</b>	Total Consumption Poverty Line
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WASHE</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Educational
<b>ZGC</b>	Zimbabwe Gender Commission

# Voluntary National Review 2024 Zimbabwe

CSOs Consolidated Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





## FOREWORD

As Zimbabwe embarks on the VNR process building up to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), it is my privilege to introduce this CSOs Consolidated Report for the Zimbabwe Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2024. Undoubtedly, our country has made significant strides in implementing the SDGs since 2015. However, it is essential to recognize that progress is not uniform, and there remain challenges that require collective efforts and recourse towards the acceleration and attainment of SDGs by 2030. The VNR process is a mechanism for assessing countries' progress toward achieving the SDGs.

Zimbabwe has so far voluntarily submitted its VNR reports twice, and the country will be presenting its third report in 2024. The commitment is commendable as the VNR process involves a comprehensive review of national policies, strategies, and actions related to sustainable development and evaluating if there is progress towards meeting the SDGs targets and aspirations. The VNR presents a unique opportunity for the government to engage in a transparent, accountable, and inclusive dialogue with various stakeholders, including CSOs, the private sector, academia, and citizens thereby reinvigorating political commitment towards the achievement of SDGs and satisfaction of its key principles such as the 'Leave No One Behind'. The VNR Reports serve as a valuable resource for shaping policies, mobilizing resources, and fostering accountability.

The civil society sector plays a crucial role in advocating for sustainable development, social justice, and inclusivity. This report, therefore, represents the collective voice of diverse CSOs from across Zimbabwe under the amalgam of NANGO, reflecting their insights, concerns, and recommendations around SDGs implementation in Zimbabwe. The active participation of CSOs in the VNR process is key as it ensures that the review is comprehensive, balanced, and reflective of the realities on the ground. The grassroots presence of CSOs allows them to gather information directly from communities, providing a more accurate picture of progress and challenges.

A CSO's Consolidated Report, such as this one, complements the official national VNR report. It offers an independent assessment, highlighting areas where official national VNR reports may fall short. CSOs bring diverse perspectives, drawing attention to marginalized groups and underserved parts of society. Through the VNR process, CSOs can objectively advocate for policy changes, monitor implementation, and hold government accountable. The involvement of CSOs in the implementation of SDGs is key in ensuring that the goals are not merely aspirational but translate into tangible actions that improve people's lives.



In this report, you will find an analysis of our country's progress across 2024 HLPF priority SDGs. We delve into the successes achieved and the gaps that persist. We aim to provide a comprehensive perspective that complements the national VNR report, ensuring that no one is left behind. I extend my gratitude to the NANGO Secretariat and the consultant for their dedication in compiling this report. As we navigate the path toward inclusive and sustainable development, we keep emphasising the need for greater collaboration, dialogue, and innovation. Together, we can build a Zimbabwe where every citizen thrives, regardless of their background or circumstances. Thank you for engaging with this CSOs Consolidated Report. May it inspire meaningful action, advocacy, and policy change, and drive positive change for our beloved nation.




**Mr. Ernest Nyimai**

**Executive Director, NANGO**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Datagraphic is focused on sustainability in line with the UN SDGs.

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**CARBON STRATEGY** Become a carbon-negative organisation.

## ETHICAL & MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Treat people fairly and equally and support employees' good health and well-being.

**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY**

Help employees, their families and our local community reduce poverty and hunger.

**ENCOURAGE INNOVATION**

Develop a culture of environmental ambassadorship to encourage innovation and challenge teams to share ideas that can deliver our work more sustainably.

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**PARTNERS FOR A BETTER WORLD**

Listen to, learn from, and partner with sustainability specialists to become the UK's first provider of 'green' outbound and inbound mail.

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING




**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION**

Source, consume and produce client work using materials, equipment and processes that consider and mitigate environmental impacts.

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**IMPACT AWARENESS**

Deliver measurable and impactful Social Value projects to support client communities and their goals through agreed contracts.

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**CLEAN WATER**

Ensure our processes don't pollute water sources, and we encourage water conservation.

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION




**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES






## INTRODUCTION

The SDGs, officially launched in September 2015, aim to transform our world. They serve as a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice, and prosperity. Compared to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs address environmental sustainability more directly, integrating social sustainability through universal actions at local, regional, and global levels that tackle growing poverty, empower women and girls, and address the climate emergency. Economic growth can no longer be pursued at the expense of the environment. Understanding the dimensions of the SDGs, their interlinkages, and alignment with locally adapted priority targets and indicators is crucial for delivering sustainable development and ensuring a prosperous future for all.

Beyond their inclusivity and universality, one of the more notable features of the SDGs and their 169 targets is their equal emphasis on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. They represent the logical progression of past international processes promoting the integration of the environment into development plans. The failure to recognize the important role of the environment in development plans is already having adverse effects on the health and well-being of populations and could ultimately undermine other socio-economic achievements. However, the explicit integration of the environment into policy decisions could stimulate economies and address equity concerns.

The SDGs consist of 17 goals, 169 targets, and 232 indicators. They are significant because they provide a global agenda for countries to benchmark their progress and address key issues such as poverty eradication, climate change, and sustainable development. The SDGs aim to leave no one behind and promote peace, prosperity, and environmental protection by 2030.

Zimbabwe, a United Nations (UN) member state, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, prioritizing 11 of the 17 SDGs. The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) coordinates the implementation of the SDGs in Zimbabwe, facilitated by the fully operational SDGs and Agenda 2063 Coordination Unit. This unit promotes a Whole-of-Government approach, enhancing coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness in achieving sustainable development outcomes.

President Mnangagwa committed to accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the 2023 SDGs Mid-Point Summit. Zimbabwe has produced two VNR Reports to date and is preparing its third, which will be presented at this year's HLPF. These VNRs share experiences and lessons learnt to expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.





NANGO, Zimbabwe's umbrella body for CSOs, is mobilising CSO involvement in the VNR process. The government's inclusion of CSOs and other non-state actors in drafting the national VNR report has opened opportunities for input and contributions. NANGO, in partnership with Forus and supported by the EU, has launched an initiative to strengthen CSO participation in Zimbabwe's 2024 VNR process.

Previous VNR processes in Zimbabwe included stakeholder consultations, but there were concerns about their depth and inclusivity. The initiative aims to address these gaps by facilitating inclusive consultations, providing evidence-based inputs, recommendations, and alternative narratives, and raising public awareness about the SDGs and the VNR process.

Four CSO sensitisation and consultative meetings were held in Mutare, Harare, Gweru, and Bulawayo, with 60 CSOs participating. The data gathered have been used to develop the Position Paper and CSOs Consolidated VNR Report, focusing mainly on SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17, which will be incorporated into the National VNR to be presented at the HLPF.

### **Rationale**

During previous VNR consultations, concerns were raised about the depth and inclusivity of engagement with non-state actors and communities. The civil society sector missed opportunities to highlight local perspectives. Critiques of past reports identified a lack of grassroots data and insights, leading to an incomplete picture of progress and challenges. Most indicators lack timely and disaggregated data, making it difficult to track and monitor the progress of the SDGs. Furthermore, awareness of the SDGs and the VNR reporting process is low among the National Government. Shocks such as droughts, floods, cyclones, and the COVID-19 pandemic, along with macroeconomic risks, affect the progress of the SDGs.

Therefore, it is crucial to advocate for a robust VNR process with active CSO participation to hold the government accountable for its SDG commitments. To address these identified gaps, the CSO consultation process aims to build CSOs' knowledge, skills, and resources to effectively engage in the VNR process. This includes facilitating inclusive consultations, providing evidence-based inputs, recommendations, and alternative narratives, and raising public awareness about the SDGs and the VNR process.

### **REVIEW OF COUNTRY-LEVEL SDG PROGRESS**

The government of Zimbabwe, development partners, local authorities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) including Faith-Based Organisations, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and other stakeholders are contributing towards accelerating the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2030. The following is a synopsis summary highlight of Zimbabwe's timeline-





based level SDG progress related to VNR reports to the HLPF on Sustainable Development, which was articulated in detail, in the introduction.



*Zimbabwe SDG HLPF reporting and SDG rollout timeline.*

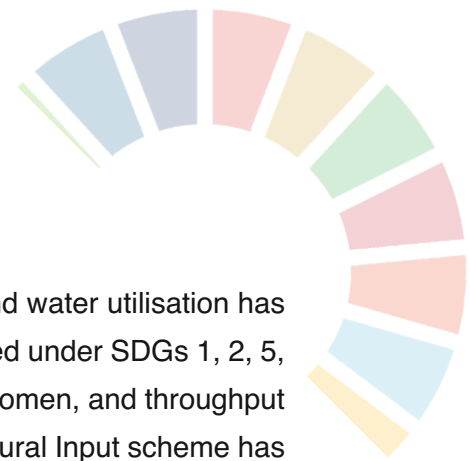
### Fighting Poverty

At the centre of the country's development agenda is to promote development that fights poverty, enriches the value of the country, and improves the quality of life of its people under the President's mantra (Nyika Inovakwa Nevene Vayo translated in English as A Nation Is Built By Its People). Guided by the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS I) and Vision 2030, the country's development is anchored primarily on the mining sector and the agricultural sector, with a need for bold and transformative measures to underpin the drive towards the attainment of our Vision 2030 through progressive change that delivers the transformation that the people of Zimbabwe deserve.

### Agricultural Developments

With regards to the agricultural sector, following the launch of the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) manual which aims to impart climate change knowledge and best practices to agriculture students, multiple stakeholders, including the academia and communities in Zimbabwe, have been embracing the CSA development through adopting innovations such as Pfumvudza/Intwasa (climate proofing agriculture) supported by the government, CSOs and the private sector. The government has been utilising the capacities of the country's agricultural colleges to empower stakeholders on the new agricultural development, also optimising the adoption of the 2020 Government launched Agriculture Food Systems Transformation Strategy (AFSTS), which has been contributing to increased agriculture production and productivity; food and nutrition security enhancement; commercialisation of smallholder agriculture, all in





contribution to the US\$8,2 billion targeted agriculture economy by 2030.

High agricultural production and productivity through improving land and water utilisation has also been noted and this has contributed to progress milestones realised under SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 8 through increased agricultural output, incomes, participation of women, and throughput from agriculture to agro-processing industries. The Presidential Agricultural Input scheme has also been addressing the needs of under-resourced marginalised groups and communities.

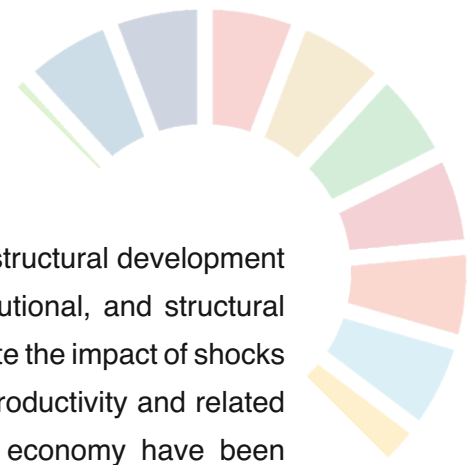
### **Health Service Delivery, Access to Education, Mining Development, and Other Sectoral Developments**

The government and CSOs have, therefore, been robustly driving a good governance and responsible investment agenda in the mining sector and other critical sectors that mostly rely on external investors. Despite the challenges related to public health infrastructure, equipment, and human resources gaps in the health sector, there has been notable procurement and distribution of medicines and sundries as well as a review of health-related legal and policy frameworks, with mainstreaming of gender in some of the regulatory frameworks. The government also made efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through lockdown measures aimed at reducing the spread of the coronavirus, mass COVID-19 testing in health institutions, and awareness raising on vaccines to the citizens and so the post-COVID-19 era survived. In terms of the education sector, there has been increased access through inclusive programmes, infrastructure, human skills capital development, and innovation, despite the significant effects that were imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic phase. With regards to mining, several contracts and agreements were signed, especially in the mining sector, with investors under Zimbabwe being open for business mantra, with a US\$12 billion mining economy target.

### **Advancing a Green Economy and Energy Transition**

The country has been implementing the long-term Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS, 2020-2050) in response to the climate change crisis, to transition from current energy utilisation to pursue a low-carbon trajectory through mitigation measures in the four Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sectors of Energy; Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU); Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU); and Waste. Under the GCF-supported Readiness Project, a Green Climate Fund, Zimbabwe Country Programme (2021 – 2025) was developed. There are opportunities for Zimbabwean stakeholders to utilise the country's progress mentioned above, to drive the sustainable agenda of the country, and form a holistic perspective.





## National Transformation

Several transformations have been noted in the country including infrastructural development and the stakeholders in the country have pursued policy, legal, institutional, and structural transformation as well as positioning systems and mechanisms to mitigate the impact of shocks with a focus on agriculture, while continuously improving agricultural productivity and related services to promote climate resilience. All the other sectors of the economy have been supported to realise the Constitutional rights of all Zimbabwe whilst at the same time transforming the economy through upscaling value chains as well as domesticating relevant conventions, legal instruments, and value chains that contribute towards the achievement of the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The stakeholders in the country have also been exchanging productive capacities and fostering economic transformation through advancing industrialisation that emphasises commodity diversification and value addition.

## Respect for Constitutional Rights.

The Government is encouraging the upholding of Constitutional rights through the alignment of Acts to the Constitution with over 15 Acts aligned to the Constitution to enhance human rights. The CSOs acknowledge that the initiatives being implemented by the Government through improvement in food security, health, and education also enhance human rights as articulated in the Constitution. Several independent commissions have been active in the country, establishing a Memorandum of Association with various stakeholders across the country to support democracy and entrench human rights through Chapter 12 of the Constitution (Independent Commissions supporting democracy).



**METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CSOs  
ALTERNATIVE VNR REPORT**

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A mixed modified positivism and interpretivism philosophy was the basis for the study that led to the development of the CSO Consolidated VNR Spotlight Report. The rationale for mixing the philosophies was to counter potential limitations related to data collection and objective interpretation of data. The interpretivism phenomenology was used to tap the CSOs' experience and knowledge of SDGs implementation in Zimbabwe. The selected CSOs were able to share their lived experiences about the implementation of the SDGs in Zimbabwe. The basis for positivism is related to knowledge of facts based on pragmatic experience in the CSO sector and session observation.

The study gathered important data through consultative discussion forums with CSOs based on a list provided by NANGO, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and a review of existing National Frameworks, Strategies, and Plans (including Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks for SDGs), Zimbabwe VNR reports, Global VNR reports, HLPF VNR reports, regional and international VNR reports and other resources on SDGs and VNR reporting. The comprehensive list of reviewed documents is annexed at the end of the report. The consultative meetings were used to gain a deep understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by the targeted CSOs in the implementation of SDGs in Zimbabwe. The participants who were not able to attend the consultative meetings physically were reached online.

The document review process provided the researcher with a systematic procedure for identifying, analysing, and deriving useful information from existing documents. Information from the document review assisted the consultant in triangulating findings which were collected through an adapted government semi-structured interview/ consultative guide that was customised. The data was collected through a hybrid of virtual and physical engagements from strategic level respondents selected from the regions provided by NANGO as the Western region (Bulawayo), Midlands region (Gweru), Mutare region, and Harare region. The virtual approach used video calling, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams. The study also used online surveys to collect both quantitative and qualitative data, asking respondents to complete the open-ended and closed questions. The study triangulated the collected quantitative and qualitative data with the existing relevant local, regional, and international VNRs reports.

Multi-layered data quality assurance was incorporated into data management through triangulation, validation, reliability, and data accuracy checks. This led to some of the low-quality data (based on an adapted Likert scale), being disregarded, for instance, the baseline values from CSOs, targets, and output level data, that were shared with no means of verification. The study targeted a sample of about 80 to 120 respondents. The participants were drawn from the CSOs in the targeted 4 towns, namely Bulawayo, Harare, Gweru, and Mutare. However, only 60 respondents were reached.





## Diversity, Intersectionality Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Approach

NANGO utilised an intersectional approach in working with over 60 CSOs in Zimbabwe, to identify multiple identities including elements-of gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, ethnic background, etc. An inclusive approach was used to gather data for the report, with participants from diverse backgrounds, philosophies, ideations, belief systems, and affiliations, contributing to the report. The research team respected diversity and GESI approaches in engaging with the participants including women, people with disability, and men. Efforts were made to ensure that there were no deliberate gender downplays or social identity-based discrimination during engagements. The consultants did not restrict gender to the binary norm of male and female, but considered it from a spectrum of identities, and included transgender, queer, and other gender identities and gender expressions, to remain inclusive throughout engagements.

NANGO upholds a fundamental obligation to protect and promote the rights of all the people served by the organisation including civil society representatives. To that end, specific needs, behavioural aspects, and other key ethical considerations such as shared confidentiality, guided the diversity and GESI approach, to ensure that among the participants who responded to NANGO engagement requests, no one was left behind.

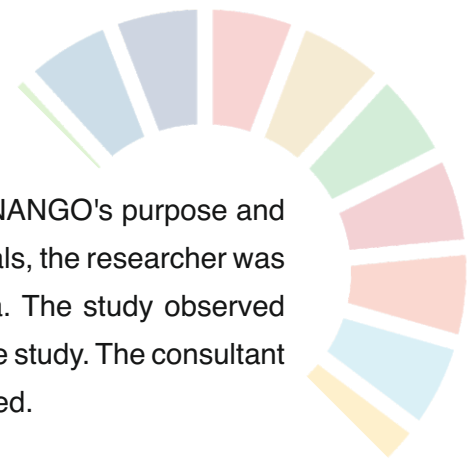
During the consultation, the-consultant informed both male and female participants about the objectives of the consultation and the need for them to safely engage and interact, to share their views and opinions, without judgement, from a safeguarding perspective.

The complexity of intersectionality was taken into consideration and staying alive to the intersectionality, of issues encouraged active participation in solidarity. All the inputs from the CSO actors that responded to the study were considered, including vulnerable, underprivileged groups and people living with disability were represented during the consultation.

### Ethical Considerations

Ethical principles were religiously adhered to, to safeguard the rights of the participants and the involved organisations. The consultant followed the ethical principles which guided the researcher on kindness and how to avoid harm; to be trustworthy, responsible, and to have respect for people's rights and dignity. NANGO sought permission to carry out the study from the targeted organisational heads. Furthermore, consent was sought from the participants at the time of survey administration, and they were informed that they had a right to choose to participate or not. The participants' rights to participate voluntarily or to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences were explained.





The consultant research actions were guided by contractually agreed NANGO's purpose and values. The research participants were treated with respect, and as equals, the researcher was open, transparent, and accountable in the way she collected the data. The study observed confidentiality with respect to information disclosed or revealed during the study. The consultant took responsibility to ensure that the research participants were not harmed.

**TARGET 1-1**



**ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY**

**TARGET 1-2**



**REDUCE POVERTY BY AT LEAST 50%**

**TARGET 1-3**



**IMPLEMENT SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

**TARGET 1-4**



**EQUAL RIGHTS TO OWNERSHIP, BASIC SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES**

**TARGET 1-5**



**BUILD RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISASTERS**

**TARGET 1-A**



**MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO END POVERTY**

**TARGET 1-B**



**CREATE PRO-POOR AND GENDER-SENSITIVE POLICY FRAMEWORKS**

A photograph of a meeting in progress, overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. A woman in a bright yellow suit is standing and pointing towards a document on a table. Other participants are seated around the table, some looking at the document. The table is cluttered with papers, water bottles, and a laptop. The background shows a window with blinds and a white wall.

**TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS IN  
IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS AND KEY  
ACHIEVEMENTS**

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## 1 NO POVERTY



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ONE: NO POVERTY FOCUS AND KEY PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

*Goal 1 focuses on ending poverty in all its forms through strategies such as improving health and education, reducing inequalities, and spurring economic growth.*

**GLOBAL OVERVIEW SNAPSHOT ON SDG ONE:** If current trends continue, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty and only one-third of countries will have halved their national poverty levels by 2030. Despite the expansion of social protection during the COVID-19 crisis, over 4 billion people remain entirely unprotected. Many of the world's vulnerable population groups, including the young and the elderly, remain uncovered by statutory social protection programmes. The share of government spending on essential services, such as education, health, and social protection, is significantly higher in advanced economies than in emerging and developing economies. A surge in action and investment to enhance economic opportunities, improve education, and extend social protection to all, particularly the most excluded, is crucial to delivering the central commitment to end poverty and leave no one behind.

#### CSOs in Zimbabwe's Key Notable Achievements

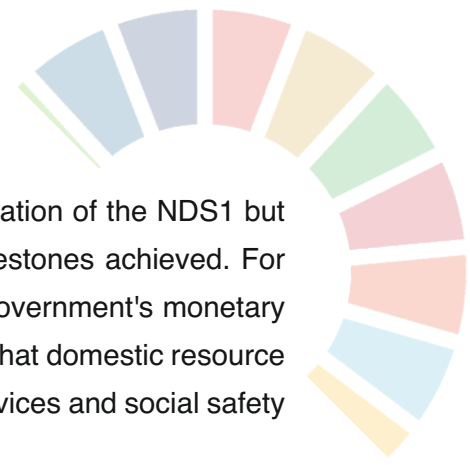
Under SDG 1, the CSOs consulted in Zimbabwe made the following achievements:

- Empowerment of women in the agricultural sector and food sector on financial literacy and access to information to enhance their ability to participate in profitable businesses thereby reducing their vulnerability to poverty.
- Establishment of livelihood projects in rural communities including people with disabilities (PWDs). Young people with disabilities were supported with starter packs for income-generating activities.
- Empowerment of artisanal small-scale miners to improve mining efforts to curb poverty.
- Addressing education through social justice education, promoting equal academic opportunities, and provision of school necessities discreetly.
- Climate change awareness raising in the country.
- Provision of handouts of basis to vulnerable communities.

#### Identified Key Gaps and Challenges.

Despite the country's achievements to date, poverty alleviation and sustenance of safety nets for vulnerable women, People With Disabilities (PWDs), the elderly, orphans, and vulnerable





children, remain key challenges not just with regards to the implementation of the NDS1 but broadly demonstrating contribution to GOAL 1, with substantiated milestones achieved. For instance, social protection for people living in poverty especially the Government's monetary and fiscal policy measures need to be more socially inclusive ensuring that domestic resource mobilisation takes place through progressive taxation to fund public services and social safety nets for households living in poverty, the poor and not made poorer.

To build response resilience, the establishment of sound early warning systems in the face of climate change and other natural or human-induced disasters or hazards and effective multi-stakeholder informed response are required. The number of people under the food poverty line was estimated to be about 6 million in 2019 and between 7.6 to 8 million in 2020, as reported in the country's VNR report for 2021, a trend primarily caused by droughts, cyclones, and floods which exposed several citizens to food insecurity, hunger, and starvation. Inflationary pressures and COVID-19-induced contraction in economic activity have further exposed the livelihoods of many Zimbabweans, with notable extreme poverty on the rise. Also, pro-poor budgeting processes should be considered as the country has an abrasively and ambitious development agenda guided by Vision 2030.

The issue of the unemployment rate increased on a quarter-on-quarter basis from 19.3 percent in 2023 Q1 to 19.7 percent in 2023 based on the World Bank, Poverty & Equity and Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practices. Emissions data sourced from CAIT and OECD, Q2 needs to be addressed to reduce poverty in the country.

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TWO: NO HUNGER

#### Focus And Key Progress Highlights

*Goal 2 aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition and ensure that everyone has sufficient food throughout the year, especially children. Strategies include nutrition enhancement, as well as promoting food security and sustainable agriculture.*

**GLOBAL OVERVIEW SNAPSHOT ON SDG TWO:** The number of people facing hunger and food insecurity has been rising since 2015, with the pandemic, conflict, climate change, and growing inequalities exacerbating the situation. In 2022, about 9.2 percent of the world population was facing chronic hunger, equivalent to about 735 million people – 122 million more than in 2019. An estimated 29.6 percent of the global population – 2.4 billion people – were



moderately or severely food insecure, meaning they did not have access to adequate food. This figure reflects an alarming 391 million more people than in 2019. Despite global efforts, in 2022, an estimated 45 million children under the age of 5 suffered from wasting, 148 million had stunted growth and 37 million were overweight. A fundamental shift in trajectory is needed to achieve the 2030 nutrition targets. To achieve zero hunger by 2030, urgent coordinated action and policy solutions are imperative to address entrenched inequalities, transform food systems, invest in sustainable agricultural practices, and reduce and mitigate the impact of conflict and the pandemic on global nutrition and food security.

### CSOs in Zimbabwe's Key Notable Achievements

Under SDG 2, the CSOs consulted in Zimbabwe made the following achievements:

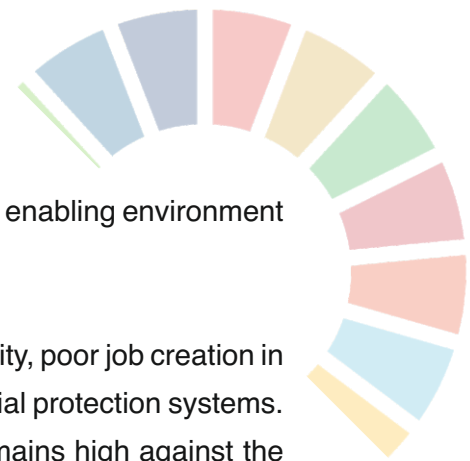
- Household food & nutrition support to marginalised communities
- Supporting communities especially mothers with nursing children, PWDs, and the elderly with food assistance, contributing towards the eradication of hunger in the country and reducing inequalities that lead to hunger.
- Supporting marginalised nursing mothers to mitigate the challenge of high expenses in formula milk for children using goat milk.
- Provision of inputs and seed funding for community livelihood programs and food security initiatives, to promote sustainable household-level agricultural productivity, encouraging farmers to use climate-resilient seed varieties and drive towards seed sovereignty.
- Installation and rehabilitation of boreholes in urban and rural communities to ease the burden of water challenges.
- Fighting hunger through food security initiatives such as horticulture for smallholder farmers.

CSOs have been complimenting government efforts through the Presidential Input scheme by providing inputs, tools, and technical support to under-resourced marginalised groups and communities. They have also been complimenting government efforts in facilitating the adoption of climate-smart agriculture, expansion of agricultural support services, and rural infrastructure to improve food security. However, there are some gaps and challenges that have also been noted.

### Identified Key Gaps and Challenges.

The country continues to grapple with nutritious food; doubling agricultural productivity and incomes by small-scale farmers; sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices; maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds cultivated and domesticated animals; increasing investment in rural infrastructure, research and extension services, technology development and improvements in food commodity markets among others should strengthen capacitation of women and youth, especially those in rural areas or resource-rich areas, to fight food insecurity, hunger, and starvation, through targeted monetary policy reforms that reduce





inflationary pressures but cushioning the welfare of citizens, to create an enabling environment for meaningful contribution to sustainable development.

The poverty in the country has been elevated by macroeconomic instability, poor job creation in the productive sectors, weather and global health shocks, and weak social protection systems. The extreme poverty rate has declined from its 2020 peak, but this remains high against the background of cyclical agricultural production and elevated food prices, based on World Bank economic data on Zimbabwe.

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

#### Focus and Key Progress Highlights

*Goal 13 focuses on urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 calls for national governments to adopt and implement national DRR strategies with their targets, indicators, and timeframes.*

**GLOBAL OVERVIEW SNAPSHOT ON SDG 13:** With a climate cataclysm looming, the pace and scale of current climate action plans are wholly insufficient to effectively tackle climate change. Increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events are already impacting every region on Earth. Rising temperatures will escalate these hazards further, posing grave risks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasizes that deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are essential in all sectors, beginning now and continuing throughout this decade. To limit global warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, emissions must already be decreasing and need to be cut by almost half by 2030, just six years away. Urgent and transformative action is crucial, going beyond mere plans and promises. It requires raising ambition, covering entire economies, and moving towards climate-resilient development, while outlining a clear path to achieve net-zero emissions.

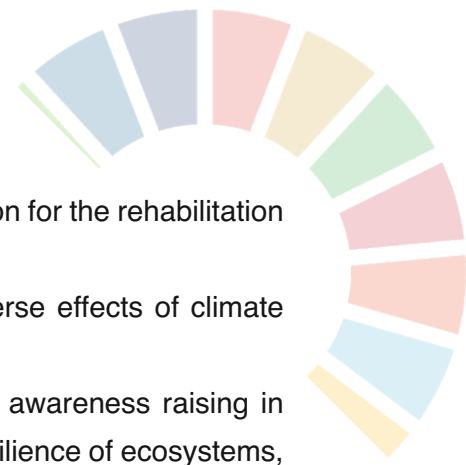
#### CSOs in Zimbabwe's Notable Achievements

Under SDG 13, the CSOs consulted in Zimbabwe made the following achievements:

- Reclamation of mining areas and reforestation and planting of fruit trees to assure food security.
- Supporting communities (especially women and youth) through the establishment of communal nutritional gardens.







- CSOs working on goal 13, partnered with Mutare Rivers Rehabilitation for the rehabilitation of several water bodies and the environment.
- Engagements with traditional leaders and elected officials on adverse effects of climate change and building resilience to natural disasters.
- Resilience Building and Disaster Risk Response (DRR) strategies awareness raising in communities, to help them adapt to climate change, enhance the resilience of ecosystems, and reduce disaster risk through environmental education, awareness on climate change, and tree planting programs in schools. Some CSOs won the best greening project at the Regional Green Expo in 2023.

### Identified Key Gaps and Challenges.

However, immediate measures are necessary to avoid catastrophic consequences of climate change through multi-stakeholder-owned climate-resilient development interventions, that secure a sustainable future to benefit current and future generations. The country has been slow at advancing the climate change bill and yet there is limited climate awareness among various stakeholders. The CSOs have been playing a significant role in empowering stakeholders on climate change, but the funding base has been constrained.

It has been observed that various stakeholders are supporting the national priorities under the country's green climate project (2021-2025). However, there has been limited coherence in rolling out renewable energy and energy efficiency interventions, driving integrated waste management led by local authorities and the private sector, promoting sustainable forestry management, prioritising communities that are behind on CSA; and strengthening early warning systems and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS.

#### Focus and Key Progress Highlights

*Goal 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

**GLOBAL OVERVIEW SNAPSHOT ON SDG 16:** Ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world are derailing the global path to peace and achievement of Goal 16. Alarming, the year 2022 witnessed a more than 50 percent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths, largely due to





the war in Ukraine. As of the end of 2022, 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide – an increase of 19 million compared with the end of 2021 and two and a half times the number of a decade ago. In 2021, the world experienced the highest number of intentional homicides in the past two decades. Structural injustices, inequalities, and emerging human rights challenges are putting peaceful and inclusive societies further out of reach. To meet Goal 16 by 2030, action is needed to restore trust and strengthen the capacity of institutions to secure justice for all and facilitate peaceful transitions to sustainable development.

### CSOs in Zimbabwe's Notable Achievements

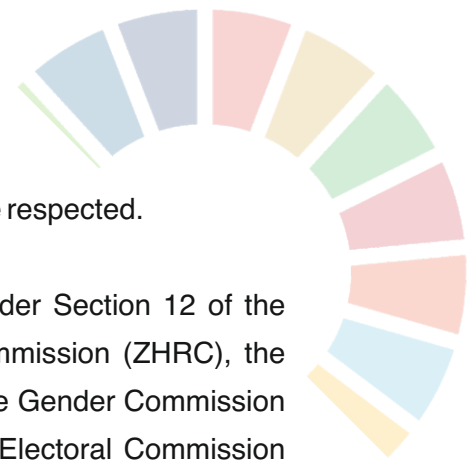
Under SDG 16, the CSOs consulted in Zimbabwe made the following achievements:

- Empowerment of women on land rights to fight gender inequalities in Makoni, Chipinge, and Murewa districts.
- Production of knowledge materials such as documentaries on environmental crimes, laws of corruption, and wetland reservations.
- CSOs working on SDG 16, contributed to the draft bill on Marriage bill which became an Act that criminalized child marriages.
- Some of the CSOs were awarded certificates of appreciation for instance in Manicaland by the Ministry of Women Affairs to the Child Marriages in Manicaland Province.
- CSOs supported HIV-positive individuals, TB patients, survivors of GBV, and women who were assisted to access justice through engagements virtually and in person at the courts.
- Engagements with traditional leaders and elected officials on peacebuilding in communities.
- Contributed to the co-creation of the National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security Agenda under UNCR2250
- Review, analysis, and knowledge generation on various legislative instruments that affect CSOs, and communities served including the PVO bill.
- Empowered Zimbabwean youths on constitutionalism.
- Spearheaded the formation of a youth advisory board to advocate for access to documentation for instance in Pumula, Bulawayo.
- Peace education to communities, justice, active citizenship, good governance, and addressing conflict-related barriers to quality education.

### Identified Key Gaps and Challenges.

However, governance and access to justice should continue to be strengthened in the country. The CSOs, the Judiciary, the legislature, and the media need to be provided room to contribute to upholding the constitution and the rule of law. Independent and democratic public institutions should be justice-driven, transparent, accountable, corruption free and there should be apolitical provision of goods and services. Practices and principles of participation and inclusivity of its citizens in public policy and legislative formulation should be respected and devolution of power for decentralization of goods and services should be accelerated. Citizens,





CSOs, and the media's freedom of expression, and association should be respected.

The Independent Commissions supporting democracy recognised under Section 12 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, include the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), should be free from capture and perform their mandates without reservations. The established institutions aimed at combatting corruption and crime under Section 13 of the Constitution such as The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) need to also be supported with the autonomy they require as well as resources, that enable them to serve the nation as required constitutionally.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS.

#### Focus and Key Progress Highlights

*Goal 17 focuses on ensuring that individual actors and institutions are not left alone to deal with poverty and environmental degradation. The Goal stimulates the need to find new financial means to implement the 17 SDGs, while also cultivating cooperation at the global, regional, national, and local levels.*

**GLOBAL OVERVIEW SNAPSHOT ON SDG 17:** Developing countries are grappling with an unprecedented rise in external debt levels following the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by challenges such as record inflation, escalating interest rates, competing priorities, and constrained fiscal capacity, underscoring the urgent need for debt relief and financial assistance. While official development assistance (ODA) flows continue to reach record peaks, the increase in 2022 is primarily attributed to spending on refugees in donor countries and aid to Ukraine. Despite a 65 percent improvement in Internet access since 2015, progress in bridging the digital divide has slowed down post-pandemic. Sustained efforts are required to ensure equitable access to the Internet for all.



### CSOs in Zimbabwe's Key Notable Achievements

Under SDG 17, the CSOs consulted in Zimbabwe made the following achievements:

- Strategic partnerships and collaborations were made with government institutions and other line ministries such as the Ministry of Health and Childcare, Department of Social Development, National Peace, and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), development partners, and the private sector.
- Regional and international partnerships were secured to enhance advocacy capacity and efforts aimed at promoting sustainable development in the country and beyond.
- Strategic CSO alliances and consortiums were formed to work on debt issues and other fiscal, economic, environmental, and basic rights issues affecting the country.
- Partnership was strengthened with NPRC implementing in implementing UNSCR1324, together with the Ministry of Women Affairs, and Zimbabwe Gender Commission.
- Multi-actor partnerships were formed to enhance educational outcomes and sustainability.

### Identified Key Gaps and Challenges.

However, geopolitical tensions, sanctions, the globalisation agenda, and other developments have derailed sustainable development cooperation and coordination, highlighting the importance of collective action as well as financing and technologies to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030. Access to information remains a challenge, as do issues of financial flows and technological advancements. The triple-digit inflation experienced in the first half of 2023, driven by both monetary expansion and external shocks, and the hyperinflation reached in June 2023, need to be managed through robust partnerships that enhance sustainable national development. However, there was a slight decline in inflation after June 2023. This reflects the success of the government in implementing various measures to curb currency depreciation.

The negative perceptions of the country, associated with the high-country risk perception, affect the capacity of the country's stakeholders to establish sustainable relationships of trust. There are limited trusted partnership demonstration platforms with limited space for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to freely engage with international engagement and re-engagement policies of the country. This is especially limited by developments related to the shrinking civic space envisaged from the PVO bill and the Amendments to the country's laws such as the Cyber bill and the Patriotic Provision to the Criminal Code. The CSOs are concerned about the infringement of the right to freedom of expression, the restriction of civic space, and the reduction of access to humanitarian services, and general CSO-led developmental support in the country. As CSOs will be in a bid to align to the regulation and reregister their operations, this will have significant implications for the country's poverty alleviation efforts, democratic governance, and the protection of human rights.





Beyond the above-mentioned factors, the space for citizens to learn more about their rights, and for advocacy with regards to respect for their human rights and social justice, will be constrained by the reduced actions of CSOs that would have failed to regularise their operations but were key drivers for CSO-led development in the country. The CSOs are concerned about the seemingly inconsiderate criminal and civil penalties for “offences” such as civic default, that are not elaborated on, some related to violation of administrative justice rights.

The proposed stricter regulations on CSOs will limit their ability to mobilise resources, receive financial donations, or collect contributions from partners that have been supporting the CSO's trusted channel to communities, especially for local development that then ultimately contributes to national development. The CSOs are concerned about the wider definition of funds or other assets under the proposed bill, since it is too broad and bear the risk of potential abuse of power by responsible authorities in criminalising acts by PVOs, thereby straining relationships between CSOs and the government.

CSOs are also concerned about the increased ministerial powers over perceived high risk or vulnerability to misuse of funding terrorism given the limited clarity on the categories of actions that can be deemed to be high risk or extent of vulnerability for organisations to be forced to register as PVOs. The CSOs are concerned that their submissions which were solicited on the bill were not considered. Overall, the new NGO-related regulations severely restrict the ability of CSOs to meaningfully contribute to national development and broadly the SDG agenda since they will not be able to contribute meaningfully independently and harmoniously to sustainable development in the country, with trust and confidence in the government. This will also significantly affect partnerships with the global developmental community that has been supporting national development through CSOs, including the private sector, individual actors, and other affected NGO sources of funding.



**CSO INNOVATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES**

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The 2008 Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra HLF) has commitments focused on promoting CSOs as independent development actors given the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Global Agenda recognizes the critical role that CSOs play a key role in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs and that includes bringing innovative approaches and good practices that can influence the nature of assistance provided in the country, service-delivery, research, policy development, formulation of laws and enhancing transparency and accountability from governments and other stakeholders, all of which are factors that can significantly contribute to realization of the SDGs. Often working closely with marginalized populations and communities, CSOs contribute to inclusive meaningful development that meets the rights and needs of marginalised communities in the country, ensuring that progress towards the SDGs leaves no one behind.

The following is a synopsis of some of the innovations and good practices that were shared by CSOs during the VNR consultations.



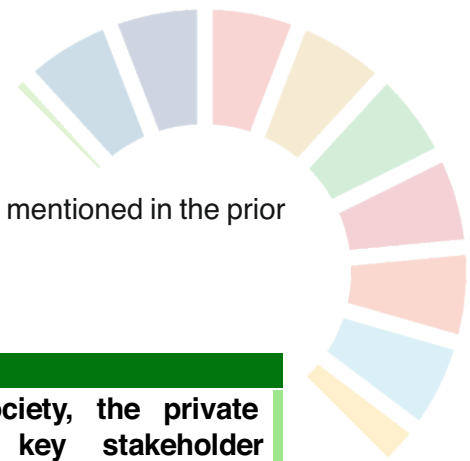
*Innovations and good practices pitched by CSOs in Zimbabwe.*

### **Value Addition of the Good Practices to SDGs**

CSOs at a global level have been joining hands on sustainable development activism, to accelerate progress on SDGs, supporting governments to reach the people furthest behind, marginalised communities and communities with limited representation, through promoting local action, innovation, promotion of good governance, contributing to strengthening data, information systems, and institutions, rebalancing the relationship between people and nature, thereby unlocking opportunities for sustainable development.

Local CSOs recognise that at the core of the 2030 Agenda, is the need for action to tackle growing poverty targeting to empower women and girls addressing the climate emergency.

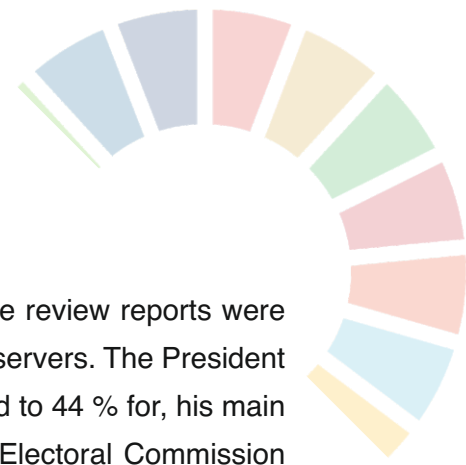




The following are some of how the good practices of CSOs in Zimbabwe mentioned in the prior section, can contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

Good practice summary	Relevance
Working as partnerships and networks in collaboration	<b>Government, civil society, the private sector, and other key stakeholder partnerships, are key to the realisation of the SDG agenda since they promote agency on SDGs, mainly through movement building, resource mobilisation, and enhancing the country's SDG agenda financing ability.</b>
Alignment to government regulations and plans	<b>Embracing sustainable development policies, plans, and programmes, accelerates the achievements of SDGs prioritised by the country.</b>
Leveraging technology, social media tools, and theatrics for advocacy	
Working with and empowering community champions, especially women and girls	<b>Promoting women's and girls' rights and reducing conditions that contribute to their vulnerability creates an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potential in leadership spaces, politics, economic development, environmental protection, and other areas of their active participation that contribute to quality growth and development of a nation.</b>
Prioritising the greening agenda, environment safeguarding, and climate resilience promotion	<b>Planet, people, and partnerships are a key combination of SDG guiding principles that CSOs in Zimbabwe, consider in promoting the greening agenda, climate resilience, and environmental safeguarding, to reduce the risk, loss, and damage related to manmade and natural disasters.</b>





## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The country held its general elections last year in August 2023 and the review reports were observed by several observer missions that included SADC and EU observers. The President (Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa) won 52.6% of the votes compared to 44 % for, his main challenger, according to official results announced by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), thereby declaring the President duly elected president of the Republic of Zimbabwe. However, the elections were marred by delays that fuelled opposition accusations of rigging and voter suppression, and the foreign observer missions were concerned that the elections fell short of some regional and international standards. Some irregularities were also reported by the Southern African Regional Bloc SADC's mission related to voting delays, issues with the voter roll, bans on opposition rallies, and perceived biased state media coverage. Independent observer missions cited several recommendations for electoral reform, that remained outstanding when the country headed for its elections in 2023.

The political climate in Zimbabwe, based on the challenges shared by CSOs appears to be characterized by polarisation and tensions between the government's main political parties, intra-political party in-fighting, and the ever-lurking risk of political violence breakouts. There are also differences in priority development perceptions between CSO players and the government, which limits trust when it comes to collaboration in development planning, implementation of initiatives, monitoring, and reporting. Based on the feedback gathered from CSOs, there is fear of questioning the political will of the government to uphold constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of conscience, political rights, freedom to demonstrate and petition, and freedom of assembly and association, especially after several publicised incidences of CSOs who have been incarcerated after engaging in perceived anti-government activities, often lined to rights-based work.

Further, state-power consolidation by the executive remains an issue of concern, since in most cases CSOs noted that it captures the key oversight bodies that should execute their mandates independently to uphold constitutional rights, as guided by the provisions in constitutional amendments such as the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No. 2, 2021. Amendments to the country's laws such as the Cyber bill, the Patriotic Provision to the Criminal Code, and the advancement of the PVO Amendment Bill, were identified as key constraints to the civic space and constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms such as media freedom and freedom of expression, the right to privacy and access to information. According to CSOs, it is difficult to get legal and social justice as the judicial appears captured and CSOs have fears in engaging the government since they do not trust the agenda.



## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the above-mentioned progress and operating context, an assessment of how means of implementation of SDGs by CSOs are mobilized and financed, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed to implement the 2030 Agenda, including in terms of financing, capacity development and data needs, technology, and partnerships, the following was established.

Most of the funding that CSOs use for developmental work comes from local, regional, and international partners and there is limited funding from the private sector and government. There is room to strengthen Public-Private Partnerships, domestic resource mobilisation, and financing.

Coverage of domestic resource mobilization could include the contribution of the private sector, but currently, few CSOs are benefitting from this.

Few CSOs are conversant with the technological developments that are taking place globally and this was observed during virtual interfaces with the CSOs during the VNR consultations. There is a need to identify concrete capacity development plans and technology-based support needs for CSOs in the country, to enhance their contribution towards sustainable development.

CSOs consulted also highlighted that some development partners do not perceive value in the prioritised SDGs and so this makes it difficult for CSOs who support those priorities to access required funds. The CSOs also cited that UN funding and technical support is limited to certain spheres of work/categories of stakeholders, mostly government, and so there is limited capacity to meet the financial and support needs of CSOs. In terms of policy alignment and integration, efforts are to be made to ensure that national policies, strategies, and plans align with the SDGs. This includes integrating SDGs into sectoral policies related to social service delivery and human capital development. The formulation of NDS 2 presents an opportunity to push for this. While we appreciate the Whole of Government approach, more can be done to establish mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination to promote synergies and avoid trade-offs between different goals.

Enhanced efforts are required to strengthen the institutional frameworks for SDG implementation. While we appreciate that the country has already put in place a Steering Committee to guide SDG implementation, the absence of clear sub-national structures down to grassroots levels leaves a vacuum, especially in ensuring national ownership of development trajectory and programmes. Enhancing coordination among government ministries, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners should be a priority as we push for harmonisation and synchronisation of programmes at all tiers of government.





Data/Information Management and Monitoring SDG Progress: While the M&E framework is in place, increased investment in data collection, analysis, and reporting to track progress towards the SDGs is key. Regular monitoring and reporting are crucial for effective implementation. The use of disaggregated data is encouraged to ensure that no one is left behind.

Whilst we appreciate the ongoing efforts for international re-engagement for example the debt dialogue, there is room for improvement in leveraging and benefitting from international cooperation and development assistance, which mostly comes through CSO-established relationships. Zimbabwe can benefit from partnerships with other countries, regional organizations, and international agencies, hence the need to ensure that the civic space is conducive for them to contribute effectively to the country's development agenda. The country needs to advocate for fair trade, debt relief, and increased Official Development Assistance (ODA), to support SDG implementation.

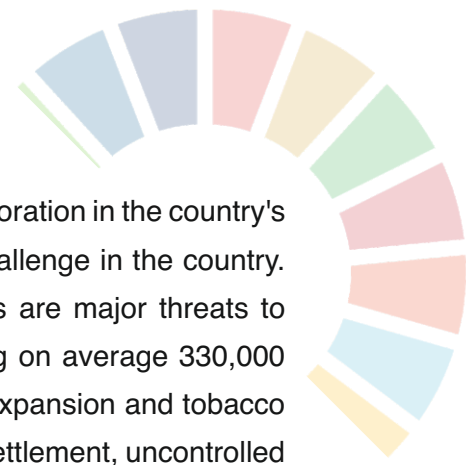
Finally, the country needs to promote awareness and education on SDGs at all levels of society, empowering marginalized groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities, in decision-making processes related to SDGs.

## EMERGING ISSUES

The triple planetary crisis, which interlinks climate change, pollution, and biodiversity, has been derailing global development progress, and Zimbabwe has not been spared. There is increased demand on the environment, emanating from population growth and the growing demand for natural resource extraction. Inequalities and climate change are threatening to undo the gains of sustainable development. Collaborative investment in inclusive and sustainable economies can unleash significant opportunities for shared prosperity. The political, technological, and global economic developments require participatory inclusive leadership and rapid response to emerging issues, management of crises or unprecedented developments, and management of partnerships for the achievement of sustainable development objectives in unison.

The country continues to grapple with socio-economic challenges, that have led to increased multi-layered poverty, which has also triggered social ills including deepened inequalities, drug, and substance abuse predominantly among youths, early child marriages, escalation of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, human and wildlife conflict (HWC), the adverse impact of climate change, resulting in loss and damages, unsustainable national debt, increased poverty levels, and policy inconsistencies.





The country has been experiencing rapid depletion of forests. The deterioration in the country's wetland's ecological biodiversity and integrity also remains a major challenge in the country. Unsustainable agricultural activities, resource extraction, and wildfires are major threats to wetlands. According to the Forestry Commission, the country is losing on average 330,000 hectares of forest land per year. This can be attributed to agricultural expansion and tobacco curing, over-reliance on fuel wood energy, greater demand for human settlement, uncontrolled wildfires, and invasive alien species among others.

The above factors influence climate change responses, increase poverty, and reduce progression towards sustainable development in the country.



# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Government of Zimbabwe, as acknowledged in the last VNR Report, recognizes that development will only be sustainable if it is inclusive and has embedded the principle of leaving no one and no place behind within its development policy framework. The pursuit of an inclusive development strategy; building climate resilience; natural resources management; value addition and beneficiation; sustaining macroeconomic stability; investment promotion and infrastructure development are key enablers that the government has identified, for the attainment of the country's Vision 2030 and the SDGs, with prioritised infrastructure and utilities areas within the NDS1 including Energy, Water & Sanitation, Housing, Information Communication Technology, and Transport sectors. However, some gaps remain with regards to strengthening the following.

**Social protection of marginalised people** such as people living in poverty or excluded populations (people living with disabilities, the elderly, orphans, and vulnerable children remains an area that needs to be strengthened. However, there is a huge social protection gap, and the COVID pandemic worsened the situation, which left several families living below the poverty datum line. The [Total Consumption Poverty Line \(TCPL\)](#) for one person was ZWL 198,981.37 in January 2024.





**Promotion of women's empowerment** that enables their participation in decision-making processes requires improvement. Women's access to, control over, and ownership of resources including finances and land, needs to be strengthened, with safe leadership spaces and other self-expression spaces. that facilitate their meaningful contribution to national development.

**Subsidised gender-responsive and socially inclusive public services** such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Educational (WASHE) services should be considered to accelerate SDG achievement that is inclusive of women, PWDs, the elderly, and other socially excluded groups.

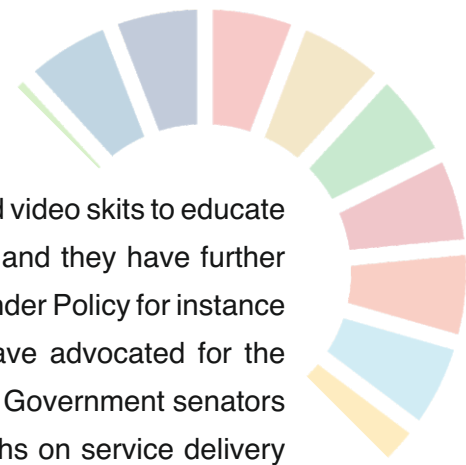
**Meaningful inclusion of young people and the elderly in development priorities** is key to the realisation of SDGs and Vision 2030 for Zimbabwe, they comprise of huge part of the productive age group of the country. The country's productive age group of 15-64 years constitutes 94% of the population and 6% is comprised of the elderly. Youth require decent forms of employment that help nurture their career trajectories and the elderly play a role in stabilising and sustaining development through net provision of financial transfers to their children and grandchildren.

Studies such as those from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division have shown that in developing countries such as Zimbabwe, older persons aged 60 to 69 years give net financial transfers to younger generations in an amount equivalent to 28% of older persons' consumption. They become net receivers of familial transfers only at more advanced ages (70 years or over), in an amount that accounts for 12 percent of their consumption. The country therefore needs to adequately provide safety nets for the elderly and also provide the young population with job opportunities that can accelerate economic growth and sustainable development.

### **CSOs Initiatives/Strategies Implemented to Promote Social Inclusion in SDGs Implementation (leaving No One Behind).**

CSOs indicated that despite the efforts being put by the various players not to leave anyone behind, the following groups are still being marginalised, women, girls, people with disabilities, LGBTQI, rural communities, children, and elderly. Therefore, the CSOs have continued to advocate for diversity and inclusion policy, enforcing section 56 of the constitution of Zimbabwe. Several CSOs are being guided by the following policy frameworks in carrying out their work, Accountability Policy, Crisis policy, Communication Strategy, and Conflict and Mapping Response Mechanism strategy.



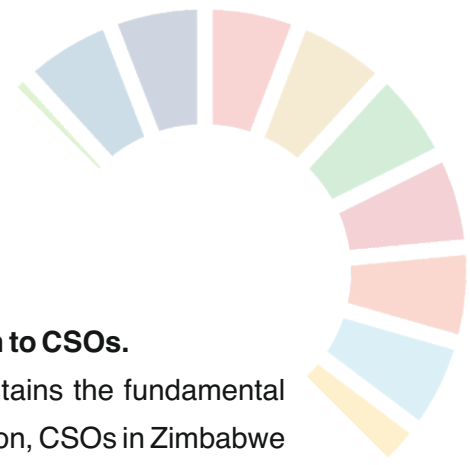


CSOs advocated for the criminalisation of child marriages and developed video skits to educate PWDS on inclusive budgeting. They have developed toilets with ramps and they have further advocated for inclusion of gender equality in some of the city Council Gender Policy for instance the Gweru City Council Gender policy. CSOs working with PWDs have advocated for the Inclusion Policy and their advocacy work has led to the inclusion of two Government senators with disabilities. Several capacity building of PWDs, women, and youths on service delivery issues have been conducted. Established a disability desk at Gweru City Council, engaged rural youths, and submitted a position paper to the council on youth inclusion in By-law making. Advocated for a youth desk and vocational school for PWDs, which has since been registered and programs have commenced in Gweru.

CSOs are implementing inclusive programming targeting all societal groups and vulnerable communities such as pregnant women, youths, widows, PWDs, mining areas, drought-prone areas, the elderly, and people with albinism. The CSOs are promoting the use of sign language, skits, and podcasts, and lobbying for the construction of disability-friendly infrastructure. During the consultation, CSOs shared that they are conducting public consultation on unpaid care and domestic work. CSOs advocacy work has resulted in the proposed PWD bill and the Zimbabwe Early Child Development Program. The CSOs are conducting awareness campaigns on disability discrimination and stigma, implementing economic strengthening activities to economically empower PWDs. There has been the inclusion of men, more emphasis on gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and peacebuilding and this has reduced GBV cases in their areas of operation.

The vulnerable groups are being incorporated into decision-making, for example, the inclusion of minority San communities in Bulilima. However, the inclusion of LGBTQIs is usual because of the donor specification. CSOs have compensated for discrimination against vulnerable groups by having affirmative action, having more women on board than men, and having committees with young women representatives, PWD representatives, and gender champions.

CSOs acknowledged that because of the inclusive advocacy policy, each ministry now has a youth desk. There is a One Stop Centre at Mpilo Hospital, in Bulawayo to address inclusivity with access to all relevant authorities and help that one may need for example a victim can access police, medical assistance, and legal aid, all in one place.



## Institutional Mechanisms, Structural Barriers, and Other Challenges

### Protection of rights/freedoms, and social justice situation in relation to CSOs.

The 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe which was amended in 2017, contains the fundamental rights and freedoms for Zimbabweans. Despite having a strong constitution, CSOs in Zimbabwe have been facing challenges related to the shrinking civic space. The CSOs consulted expressed challenges with regards to unlawful arrests of CSOs for executing work on democracy, which is regarded as a threat to national interest, with recent cited examples related to CSOs who were arrested as they were monitoring and observing the 2023 country's elections.

Some of the challenges also cited relate to national government office directions that do not directly align with the country's policies and are subjectively interpreted, as well as local-level CSO work clearance related to Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and state surveillance during the execution of work, heavy presence of government representatives in CSO engagements with communities and other issues. There is a need for the government to facilitate a conducive environment for CSOs to contribute meaningfully to the country's development towards Vision 2030.

However, despite the government-level challenges cited, from the end of CSOs, there is a challenge related to coordination gaps and limited awareness of the national development plans and frameworks, which makes it difficult for them to effectively complement government efforts. Therefore, there is a need for CSOs and the government to continue engaging, especially through coordinating bodies such as NANGO, so that there is a common shared vision between CSOs and the government.

The challenges mentioned above significantly derail SDG progress in the country and the CSOs consulted shared a common view that they have a critical role to play in contributing to SDGs, but they need government support in areas that restrict civic space. Addressing differently the socio-economic, social justice, and political issues that are exacerbated daily by the country's macro-economic challenges, the emerging climate change challenge, and the COVID-imposed changes, requires transformative initiatives, grassroots social mobilisation, and collective action.



## LESSONS LEARNT

**Lesson 1**

Capacity enhancement for CSOs to accelerate SDG realisation is not just important for government officials only but also for CSOs and other in-country stakeholders to facilitate partnerships encouraged under SDG 17.

**Lesson 2**

The 2023 People's Assembly held during the Global Week of Action is an important part of the SDG progress advancement, that should have meaningful input from CSOs and other stakeholders in the country. CSOs should also strive to amplify the strides and achievements of the country in international forums and spaces of engagement, working together with the government to facilitate sustainable national development.

**Lesson 3**

Connecting CSOs for solidarity in contributing to sustainable development can be facilitated through regular structured platforms for evidence gathering, knowledge exchange, and peer-to-peer exchanges are useful ways of facilitating coordinated CSO-based development reporting, networking, work collaboration, and reduction of replication of efforts. (However, unhealthy competition or contestation of ideas should also be watched out for)

**Lesson 4**

CSO documentation of lessons learnt, good/best practices, and emerging issues in developmental work is key to gathering insights relevant to spotlighting opportunities for advancing the work and role of CSOs towards sustainable development.





**CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Partnerships, including public, public-private, and multi-stakeholder are key to driving the sustainable development agenda. The government and all key stakeholders including CSOs, citizens, the judiciary, the legislature, the academia, marginalised communities (including women, youth, children, the elderly, and PWDs), the business fraternity, and development partners, are to interface to establish ideas on how the realisation of SDGs can be accelerated in the remaining 7 years towards 2030. The stakeholders need to reflect on how the key priority SDG plans can be strengthened, the appropriate financial systems required, how quality data for the goals can be generated, and how resource allocations can be aligned to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the pledge to leave no one behind. Information gathered from the stakeholders can then guide actions by the cabinet and the technical as well as the steering committees. The following are the key recommendations.

### **Recommendations to the Government**

**Coordination of SDGs Rollout:** Adaptive accelerated inclusive and multi-stakeholder-based transformative action, is required in the country, to deliver on the promise of the SDGs for the remaining seven years up to 2030. The government and UN should address critical bottlenecks that limit the participation of CSOs, the private sector, academia, citizens, and development partners from contributing to the SDG agenda.

**Policy and legislative environment:** Advancement of local people or citizen centres integrated and targeted policies, laws, and actions that facilitate civic action, promote the realisation of rights, eradicate poverty, and reduce inequalities should be prioritised for sustainable development owned by local communities and CSOs. Governance of the private sector in terms of operating practices, tax revenue, and disclosure requirements should be aligned to sustainable development objectives. The government should deliver on national statements of commitment that transform SDG-related progress.

**Multi-level Capacity strengthening:** The national and subnational capacity including the capacity of CSOs, government agents, local leadership, and the citizenry, to understand SDGs and the national development frameworks and plans, to deliver accelerated progress towards achieving the SDGs inclusively advancing the rights of the most vulnerable including women and girls, PWDs, the elderly, etc should be prioritised, considering the significant inequalities that are emerging from the country's macro-economic environment that was also worsened by the prevalence of the COVID phase.

**Accountability and Monitoring:** The government should strengthen accountability address weaknesses and gaps in coordinating SDG implementation and strengthen the data gathering and monitoring mechanisms to reduce double entries and other data quality issues. Oversight institutions on the country's developments need to be provided space to independently execute their mandates without polarisation. Domestic financing for SDG data gathering should be prioritised and independent evaluation or reporting processes on SDGs should be strengthened to create evidence based on SDGs.





**Disaster management:** Crisis mitigation, adaptation, preparedness, and recovery, should be anchored on the principles of multilevel governance, and multi-stakeholder and meaningful multisectoral collaboration.

**Social protection:** To promote national resilience, there is a need to expand investments in social protection in national budgets and make institutional changes to promote an integrated approach to achieving adaptive and shock-responsive social protection, creating jobs adaptive to the digital era and the green economies agenda.

**Response to CSO advocacy:** Government should consider a systemic way of including recommendations from civil society in VNR reporting, through formalized national review architecture and regular national reporting for demand-driven reporting and policy making. There is a need for a relationship of trust between CSOs and the government.

**VNR reporting think tank:** Exploring the potential of a short-term think tank of varied experts that can form a working group on VNR reporting with a clear mandate, targets, and milestones can help address existing data gaps on VNR reporting, to strengthen VNR data, monitoring, reporting, and accountability.

**Call for inclusive meaningful action:** All stakeholders should continue to call for meaningful participation and inclusion of all key partners in the implementation of SDGs and Vision 2030, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

### Recommendations to CSOs

**CSO engagement on sustainable development:** The establishment of mutually beneficial trusted fora or platforms for civil society representatives' regular engagement with the government on issues relevant to sustainable development can help harmonise SDG efforts, coordinate responses and facilitate constructive development in the country.

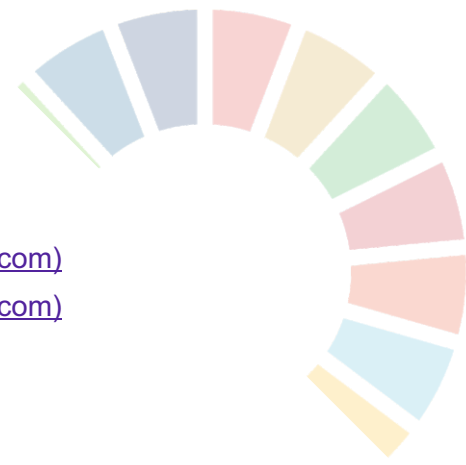
**Collaboration with the government:** CSOs should work in unison with the government, without compromising on citizen accountability principles, familiarising themselves with the country's sustainable development framework, and its priorities as well as supporting policies, strategies, plans, and reports such as the VNR reporting, and NDS progress and review reports. This enables them to contribute meaningfully to the country's VNR reporting processes and national development, from an evidence-informed perspective.

**CSO solidarity:** The Civil society body should work constructively and in solidarity towards the realisation of SDGs, responding to SDG engagements called by peer CSOs, the government, and other stakeholders, actively participating in set platforms, and contributing to CSO Consolidated VNR Annual Spotlight reporting through availing data, information evidence required for quality, structured and consistent reporting that adds value to the country's VNR report.



**ANNEXES**





### List of Documents Reviewed

- 2017 Zimbabwe VNR report [2017 zimbabwe vnr report - Search \(bing.com\)](#)
- 2021 Zimbabwe VNR report [2021 zimbabwe vnr report - Search \(bing.com\)](#)
- 2020 VNR progress report
- Zimbabwe Country M&E framework
- National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy for Zimbabwe
- Global VNR country reports
- HLPF VNR handbook for the preparation of VNRs [VNRHandbook\\_2020\\_EN.pdf](#)
- Zimbabwe NDS 1
- Zimbabwe Vision 2030
- CSO reports
- Zimbabwe SDG Implementation position paper
- UN Country reports
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports
- Handbook for preparation of VNR
- Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Reports (ZIMCAC)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2017. Climate Change: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups 1, 11, and 111 to the Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Core Writing Team, Pachauri, R.K., and Reinsinger, A., (eds). Geneva, Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change.
- UNDP SDG Guidebook for Youth in Action
- Zimbabwe 2023 IVD report
- Zimbabwe SDG Guidebook for Youth in Action, UNDP, Dec 2022
- VNR Review OHCHR Zimbabwe
- HLPF on Sustainable Development key resolutions [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#)
- Zimbabwe VNR and Key Priority SDGs
- Zimbabwe National Review Report on SDG Implementation Presented at the High-Level Political Forum on SDG Voluntary National Review 18 July 2017 By Mr. G. Nyaguse Director for Planning and Coordination: Ministry of Macro-Economic Planning and Investment Promotion Republic of Zimbabwe presentation [Understanding of the application of SDGs in the National Context](#)
- The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special edition Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet, UN [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)
- SDG Implementation overview, Zimbabwe 2022.
- Zimbabwe SDGs M&E framework presented by Muchineripi Nemhara [Microsoft PowerPoint - SDG ME Framework Presentation.Vic\\_Fallsptx November 2021\\_Muchineripi Nemhara - Read-Only \(un.org\)](#)



- GIZ\_TAP\_2020\_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports\_Final-Version (1) [giz tap SDGs - Search \(bing.com\)](#)
- NANGO Strategic plan 2023-2025 [NANGO Strategic Plan 2023-2025: - NANGO \(nangozim.org\)](#)
- The 2019 Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)
- The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023\_0 (1) [The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023\\_0.pdf \(un.org\)](#)
- Spotlight-Reporting-Guidelines\_-Updated-2021-[Spotlight Reporting Guidelines\\_ Updated 2021 .docx \(tapnetwork2030.org\)](#)
- [NANGO: "Zimbabwe's Political and Socio-Economic Landscape Continues to be Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Arbitrary" | Forus \(forus-international.org\)](#)
- [Microsoft Word - PopFacts \\_Ageing and development\\_ Sept2014\\_ Updated30092015 - test.docx \(un.org\)](#)
- A reflection on the SDG framework in Zimbabwe in relation to Zimbabwe: A multi-stakeholder basic guide( Transformative Business Solutions)
- [Guidance and Good Practice on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment.pdf \(effectivecooperation.org\)](#)

> Research

> Can  
build

WHO WE ARE

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**N**ANGO is the official voluntary coordinating body of registered NGOs in their diversity operating in Zimbabwe. NANGO is registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) under the PVO Act Chapter [17:05]. It is a non-partisan, non-profit making and non-denominational organisation mandated to strengthen the voice of NGOs for the betterment of the people in Zimbabwe. NANGO's operations are guided by its constitution which is the supreme operational document that governs the conduct of the NANGO secretariat, board, and members. The board holds the oversight role over the functions and activities of NANGO. The board members are elected every three years during an elective Annual General Meeting. Administratively, NANGO is decentralised into five regional offices that coordinate the activities of the CSOs in all ten provinces of Zimbabwe. Cognisant of the diversity of membership, members are clustered into 10 thematic clusters in line with their programmatic focus and these are; Media, Arts and Culture, Children, Disability, Economic, Health, Human Rights, Humanitarian, Land and Environment, Women, AND Youth. Concomitantly NANGO bears the responsibility of unifying these various sectors by creating spaces for collaboration, networking, knowledge exchange, mutual support, and the development of common best practices.

### Our Objectives

- 01**

**Objective**

To promote, coordinate and organise the participation and contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations in Zimbabwe in the development discourse of Zimbabwe.
- 02**

**Objective**

To promote and facilitate the collective agenda-setting, interaction, consultation, and exchange of information and experience with and among NGOs operating in Zimbabwe.
- 03**

**Objective**

To create an enabling and conducive operating environment for NGOs necessary in ensuring sector independence, improved accountability, and fulfilment of institutional mandates.
- 04**

**Objective**

To create and identify opportunities for NGOs to pursue their visions and missions while at the same time building members' capacities, resources, and synergies.







## Our Vision and Mission Statement

Vision	Mission
<p>A proactive community of NGOs responsive and committed to the sustainable development needs of all people in Zimbabwe and the full realisation of human rights, democracy, good governance, and poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>A proactive community of NGOs responsive and committed to the sustainable development needs of all people in Zimbabwe and the full realisation of human rights, democracy, good governance, and poverty alleviation.</p>

## Our Core Values



### Leadership

We practice what we preach. We model our work to empower NGOs in Zimbabwe by setting exemplary leadership and standards of organisational management and governance



### Membership-driven

Without the members, there is no NANGO, hence we value every member organisation we have and their participation as the backbone of all our programming, believing that it is through them that development reaches the communities in Zimbabwe.



### Integrity

We are firm believers in integrity by abiding by the highest ethical standards of transparency, accountability, and mutual respect.



### Non-discrimination

We believe in and respect the principles of equity, inclusion, and non-discrimination. We are committed to working with all persons without discrimination, to promote an open, democratic, and developed Zimbabwean society.



### Collaboration & Co-Creation

Our strategic partnership approach is one of our key assets. We value and foster partnerships, networks, and strategic mutual relationships with relevant development stakeholders, member organisations, and grassroots communities.



### Engagement

We believe engagement is a critical enabler of critical conversations, policy influencing, building common ground, and finding consensus as we seek to co-create the developed Zimbabwean society we all aspire for.



### Diversity

Our wide membership reflects our sustained belief in a development sector that embraces and converges the country's rich socio-cultural diversity.



### Innovation

We constantly explore creative ways to strengthen NGOs operating in Zimbabwe. We are agile and responsive to the changing needs of our stakeholders.










Any comments, queries, or contributions can be directed to the NANGO Secretariat at the following addresses:

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