ZAMBIA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION'S SHADOW REPORT ON THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (1,3,4,5,6,11 AND 13)

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ACRONYMS
ACJ-Advocacy for Child Justice
CZ-Caritas Zambia
CCNRMD -Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Department
CP-Cooperating Partners
CSPR-Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
CSO-Civil Society Organizations
CSTZ-Children Sentinel Trust Zambia
EA-Environment Africa
ECE-Early Childhood Education
ESSP-Education and Skills Sector Plan
FSP-Food Security Pack
GCF-Green Climate Fund
GEF-Global Environment Facility
CBOs-Community Based Organizations
CHAZ-Churches Health Association of Zambia
CHI-Church Health Institutions
FBOs-Faith Based Organizations
HIV-Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
ICT-Information and Communications Technology
IGAs-Income Generating Activities
JAR-Joint Annual Reviews
LCZ-Life Line Child Line Zambia
MNCRD-Media Network on Child Rights and Development
NPCC-National Policy on Climate Change
NUP-National Urbanization Policy
OECD-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
MoGE-Ministry of General Education
MOHE-Ministry of Higher Education
NGOs-Non-Governmental Organizations
RIA-Rapid integrated Assessment
RF-Rural Finance
RHCs-Rural Health Centres
SDG-Sustainable Development Goals
SGP-Small Grants Programme
SRHR-Sexual Reproductive Health
TTU-Teachers Trade Unions
TEVET-Technical Education, Vocation and Entrepreneurship Training
NDP-National Development Plans
NCRF-National Child Rights Forum
PISA-PANOS Institute Southern Africa
WA-WaterAid
WaSH-Water Sanitation and Hygiene
ZAPD-Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities
ZDHS-Zambia Demographic Health Survey
ZCCN-Zambia Climate Change Network
ZNWL-Zambia National Women’s Lobby
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been generated through a consultative process by various Civil Society organizations that provided input to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purpose is to provide an alternative picture of the progress report on the SDGs in Zambia and thereby, pointers for a way forward for the country in as far as achieving the SDGs is concerned. The report has been done with the knowledge that Voluntary National Review (VNR) report for Zambia shall be presented in July 2020, whose objective is to facilitate sharing of observations, mutual learning, successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to inspiring commitment and speeding the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

It has been observed that at the political level, there has been a strong commitment to delivering a vigorous strategy that has resulted in the adaptation of the national development plans such as the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) as a measure of implementation and monitoring of SDGs. However, at the national level, there is a challenge in investing and adhering to the plans due to the high debt repayment burden which the country has been faced with, which poses a huge threat in achieving the outlined SDGs targets.

The Policy and enabling has been undertaken that looks at the Leaving No One Behind, highlighting the fact that while all Governments including Zambia, are keen to ensure service provision has equity, equality and quality, there is a tendency to leave out other players especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. It notes that Demographic imbalances, including rapid population growth, particularly in low-income areas; ageing populations; and the large share of young people in internal and international migration generate additional challenges to meeting the pledge to leave no one behind.

Selected SDGs (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 13) have been presented with a focus on highlights of Government’s approaches in CSOs View towards the implementation of programs. The report also highlights CSOS initiatives to complement Government’s efforts. Challenges and gaps with regards to implementation of sustainable development programs are presented. Key recommendations have been provided to inform future decisions on policy interventions.
INTRODUCTION

This report is reflective of feedback from various NGOs contributing towards the success of the SDGs in Zambia, obtained through consultative processes; a series of meetings, reports on reviews of Government’s and stakeholders’ work done using different methodologies. The purpose is to provide pointers for a way forward in as far as achieving the SDGs is concerned.

Zambia will present its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report in July 2020. The objective of the VNR is to facilitate sharing of observations, mutual learning, successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with a view to inspiring commitment and speed the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In line with international good practice, the Zambia Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Child Rights Forum (NCRF), has prepared this Shadow Report to complement the Government of Zambia's VNR report. Through this Shadow Report, an alternative picture of the progress report on the SDGs in Zambia is provided.

Zambia has well embraced and recognized the major role that quality implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will bring to the development of Zambia and Africa. At the political level, there has been a strong commitment to delivering a vigorous strategy that has resulted in the adaptation of the national development plans such as the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) as a measure of implementation and monitoring of SDGs. However, at the national level, there is now a challenge in investing and adhering to the plans due to the high debt repayment burden which the country has been faced with, which poses a huge threat in achieving the outlined SDG targets. While realities on the ground demonstrate the complexity of achieving real results, Zambia’s national budget and implementation of its plans has continued to be divergent from set targets in the 7NDP, a document which would have greatly helped the country in achieving SDGs at national level.

While cooperating partners, Civil Society Organizations and the private sector have been part of the in-country implementation of programs towards the achievement of the SDGs, a majority of rights holders groups like women, children, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized and disadvantaged groups have been excluded from sustainable development processes due to various factors
that include high poverty levels, gender stereotypes, stigma and discrimination, structural barriers, limited access to health services, low access to education and the now devastating effects of climate change. Despite establishing the Ministry of Gender and the presidential efforts in appointment of women into decision making positions, Zambia still has no law to compel systems to deliberately deal with gender inequalities.

The consortium of CSOs from the National Child Rights Forum (NCRF) of Zambia has prepared this shadow report with the view to compliment the VNR and inspire the state to continue putting efforts of the gains achieved so far and also hold Government to account and inspire them to put more effort on the areas proving to be challenges in the implementation of the SDGs.

Due to available time and resources this report only focused on SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 13 to provide the national context on the status of the SDGs implementation by CSOs.

**THE PLEDGE TO LEAVE NOONE BEHIND**

While all Governments, including Zambia, are keen to ensure service provision has equity, equality and quality, there is a tendency to leave out other players especially the vulnerable and marginalized groups. These include people from low income households who often cannot access quality education, healthcare and other critical services for their wellbeing and development. Women, children and people with disabilities are most affected. The plea to leave no one behind has been resounded world over but need not be mere pronouncement but reality. Applying the human rights approach and an equity lens to policy and programming can assure the achievement of this global theme. The Agenda 2030 points out fundamental elements that are key to leaving noone behind, including the trends of poverty particularly in rural areas and low-income communities of our country, education, housing and others. Likewise, Agenda 2063 explicitly recognizes social inclusiveness and equality as a key enabling factor in creating “an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by and managed by its own citizens.”
Demographic imbalances, including rapid population growth, particularly in low-income areas; ageing populations; and the large share of young people in internal and international migration generate additional challenges to meeting the pledge to leave no one behind. Extreme inequality persists within communities and cities as well as among local setups. Zambia has for a long time, in budgeting processes, not taken into full consideration the child rights principles\(^1\). Specifically:

1. **Non-discrimination** – efforts to address inequalities among the most vulnerable girls and boys (including those with disabilities) in public policy and programme design, targeting, budget allocation and disbursements are inadequate. In the 2018 national budget analysis by ZANEC, it was reported with concern that Government had no budget line for the procurement of teaching and learning materials for learners with special education needs such as braille and sign language. These, along with rural children, girl children, orphans and vulnerable children are usually marginalised in budget allocation and other;

2. **Best interests of the child** – budget allocations towards health, education and social protection have mostly been declining with disbursements far below approved budgets\(^2\) and contrary to the country’s commitment to international protocols such as the Cairo protocol where Zambia committed to a minimum allocation of 20% of the national budget to education and skills. The sector has seen reduced allocations from 2014 at 20.2% to 12.4% in 2020, also contrary to Government’s commitment to national development. An inadequately financed education and skills sector leads to poor service delivery, increased failure rates and low skill-level labor force which cannot meet the demands of the economy and national development process.

3. **Right to life, survival and development** – there are no regular, rigorous child rights impact assessments to inform budgeting for vulnerable children who require a disproportionate share of spending in order to have their rights to education and development realized; and

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\(^1\)United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC [articles 2; 3; 6; and 12])

\(^2\)GPE (April 2020); Zambia Ministry of Finance (Output Based Budgets 2016 – 2020)
4. Right to be heard – there is no real opportunity and funding to achieve the meaningful participation of children in all decisions affecting them particularly in public budgets\(^3\).

There is a critical need for all stakeholders in Zambia to accelerate the implementation of the pledge to Leave No One Behind, pursuing inclusive progress through reaching the furthest behind groups first. Improving monitoring and review processes so that they track inequalities in a clear and systematic way is an important step. It is only when inequality trends are made visible and are understood that we can expect meaningful action and accountability.

It is important that the Government track not just progress at the aggregate level, but also the pace at which disparities between socioeconomic groups are narrowing. This should be done at the national and sub-national level and disaggregated by age, economic group, gender, sex, race, ethnicity and geography or migratory status, and be reported publicly in accessible formats.

As well as monitoring inequalities and convergence, the Government should take steps to ensure that resources should be aligned with need by embedding equity-based allocation criteria in budget processes to reduce disparities in child survival and development outcomes. The CSOs shadow report is speaking to the gaps and challenges with a clarion call that…. LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!!!!

**Recommendations**

- Put in place more pro-poor and pro-child policies as well as those that support inclusion of a cross section of people.
- Government to be more deliberate and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Government to strengthen collaborations with the Private sector and CSOs in a bid to meet the needs of the vulnerable.
- Government to come up with action plans in order to ensure fulfillment of international obligations and commitments made to promote inclusion.

\(^3\)UN CRC/C/GC/19 (2016: Part III pg. 11 – 13); UN CRC/GC/2003/5 (2003: Part I pg. 4)
The Government of the Republic of Zambia has taken a multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of programmes geared towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and carefully endeavored to align them to the 5 pillars of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). The set indicators are to be a measure of the progress in implementation. To compliment these efforts, CSOs in the country have also been programming their work with the aim of achieving SDGs related to their thematic areas. The following are the SDGs that this report focuses on: SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 13.
Introduction

Poverty is multidimensional, complex in nature and manifests itself in economic and social wellbeing of the general national population. Poverty can also be defined as a state of deprivation, lacking socially acceptable amount of material possessions, good health, lack of education, not having enough to eat, etc. According to the 2018 ACPF report on ‘Child Hunger in Africa,’ poverty is especially extreme among children and is the number one driver of child hunger. Zambia was reported to have one of the highest Global Hunger Index scores in Africa with 37.6. Therefore, alleviating poverty will deal with hunger and its associated problems.

Goal 1 has fourteen indicators. Six are fully reported while 5 have no metadata and 3 have missing data.

Government Approach in CSOs’ View

According to the 7NDP (2017-2021) Government is committed to reducing poverty by 20% through the following result areas:

Result area 1: Enhanced Welfare and Livelihoods of the poor and Vulnerable.

\(^4\text{Child Hunger in Africa (2018: pg. 11)}\)
Result area 2: Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation for reduced vulnerability.

Result area 3: Reduced Vulnerability associated with high HIV/AIDS prevalence.

Enhanced welfare and Livelihoods of the poor and Vulnerable

It is concerning to note that midway through the implementation of the 7NDP, the Social Protection Bill has not been enacted. It is also a concern that the Social protection coordination unit, council and advisory committees have not been constituted. These are critical if we are to ensure that the administration of social protection programs in Zambia is enhanced. The other indicator poorly scored is the “number of districts providing single window social protection services.” These areas all have to be expedited if we are to be successful with the implementation of social protection programs in the 7NDP.

The Social Cash Transfer continued to have a caseload of 632,327 against a target of 700,000 households, out of which 465,804 were female headed households. Six months of payments were still being owed to the beneficiaries of the social cash transfer program due to non-release of funds.

On the positive side, the following indicators have been progressive with a positive mid-point score; number of districts linking cash transfers and other interventions through referral mechanism, number of programs linked through referral mechanisms and harmonized guidelines, number of districts utilizing social protection Registry of Beneficiaries and Proportion of persons with disabilities registered in Disability Management Information System.

Improved coverage and targeting of Social Protection

The general overview depicts that the “percentage of poor individuals receiving benefits from social assistance transfer programmes by programmes, rural, urban, sex, age, disability, socio-economic status”, of basic social protection programs with a functioning complaint mechanism has also been very poor and this needs to be scaled up. Further, the percentage of poor and vulnerable households accessing agricultural inputs and other livelihoods has not been favorable. Furthermore, Government has poorly
implemented the social protection coordination mechanism, percentage of poor and vulnerable covered by social health insurance, percentage of employees covered by maternity protection and social insurance scheme.

**Skills Development**

The Government has not yet reached its targets in terms of skills development in the country. This is evidenced through investments in the youth resource centers. For example, the MYSCD has 23 Youth Resource Centers that are operational across the country. In the first quarter, a total of 1,607 students (902 males, 705 females) at 19 Youth Resource Centers was recorded. 4 Youth Resource Centers did not enroll due to inadequate resources. The Ministry is also running King George VI College in Kabwe District which enrolled 98 (55 males, 43 females) students.

**Empowerment**

There have been limited efforts by Government towards empowering women by ensuring that women have access to opportunities that would increase the productivity of their livelihood activities and their economic status. This can be evidenced by GEWEL Project which has been rolled out to only 51 districts and it was expected that 75,000 beneficiaries will have been trained since the beginning of phase one i.e. 2017 by the end of 2019. Since the beginning of the project, the initiative has trained 23,784 beneficiaries, paid productivity grants to 12,000 beneficiaries, facilitated mentorship for 13,147 beneficiaries, facilitated savings groups among 11,629 beneficiaries, trained 283 officers, trained 1,618 community-based volunteers and procured 31 vehicles for implementing districts.

**Aquaculture Empowerment Fund**

The total amount for the program is US$ 8,322,714 and at the time of this research, USD$ 1,891,985 had been released. The target for 2019 was 580 beneficiaries, and by first quarter 2019 about 18 hatcheries had benefitted. Adverts are running requesting the public to apply for the loan along the aquaculture value chain.
According to the 7NDP shadow report for CSPR, the first quarter of 2019; over 7,000 beneficiary households on the FSP for 2018/2019 agricultural season were affected by the dry spells, especially the Southern part of the country and part of Eastern, Lusaka and Western Provinces. This implied about 6 percent of the total target of 54,663 affected with food insecurity.

Disability Inclusion
The National Disability Survey report was completed, launched and disseminated. The Disability Management Information System (Phase II) was developed with first reports submitted to Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD). Works are in progress to develop a disability Inclusion Monitoring & Evaluation Framework & Baseline which when in operation will strengthen disability mainstreaming across all sectors.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction
Eighty-seven (87) Rainfall stations were procured and installed in the first quarter of 2019. The procurement of Automatic Weather Stations is in progress. There was an Increase in the number of institutions utilizing meteorological data for planning and decision-making by 77%.

CSO’s Initiatives
CSPR has been implementing a number of initiatives/projects aimed at contributing towards sustainable development goals as indicated below.

1) **Enhancing the participation of citizens through the implementation and monitoring of the 7NDP.**
   
The main aim of this project is to ensure that citizens are involved and do understand the development process and also the duty bearers accountable for improved public service delivery in the health, education, infrastructure, social protection, agriculture and water and sanitation.
2) **Strengthening civil society participation in the implementation and monitoring of the 7th National Development Plan (2019-2021).**

The main aim of this project is to ensure that the national development process in Zambia has a voice from the civil society which is one of the main mandates of the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction. The intended outcomes are to have the views/programs of the poor be represented in national development planning.

3) **Promoting agriculture diversification towards sustainable food production and consumption in Zambia.**

The main aim of this project is to ensure that the advent of agriculture diversification is preached to the farmers. Under this, CSPR has partnered with Government to come up with a crop diversification strategy with a view that it will increase crop diversification and food security in the country.

4) **Accelerating citizen’s efforts towards pro-poor national development planning and implementation.**

The main aim of this project is to ensure that citizens do participate in the national development planning process at grassroots level. Further, provide initiatives such as village banking that of economic empowerment by nature to try and uplift the living standards of the majority poor people with regards to vision 2030.

5) **Budget tracking and service delivery monitoring in social protection.**

The main aim is to influence more budgetary allocation toward the programs that boarder on poor people (social protection) such that these programs can be ring-fenced and properly funded. Further, CSPR has been conducting service delivery monitoring to assess the performance of these Government pro-poor programmes and use the finding for advocacy purposes. 

6) **Support to Village Banking Groups (Needs Assessment and Training on IGAs).**

200 Women and Youth have formed Savings Groups in Mufumbwe District. CSPR is providing both technical and material support to the groups as part of promoting economic inclusion.
Challenges and Gaps

- Inadequate resources for Program financing.
  There has been limited financing and poor budget expenditure performance for the social protection program that are earmarked to uplift the living standards of the poor in Zambia. This is evidenced from the national budget allocation for the past three years were funding to these programs have been dwindling respectively.
- Decentralization not fully implemented.
- Weak synergies on development initiatives to foster meaningful integration and attainment of higher impacts.

Recommendations

- There is urgent need to pursue innovative ways of development financing, through enhanced cooperation with the private sector (PPPs), Cooperating Partners (CPs) and development financing mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), GEF Small Grants Programme and other Funds. Scale up implementation of e-government programmes for improved service delivery and increased revenue collection.
- There is urgent need to implement Decentralization Policy fully with transfer of human resource, coupled with adequate financing for the new roles. There is need to provide for consistent monitoring, adequate capacity building and Civil Society participation to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the devolved functions.
- Need to create synergies on empowerment programmes/funds and programmes such as REA, Infrastructure development, ICT, Rural Finance, to promote attainment of higher impacts.
Healthcare in Zambia

Government Approach in CSO’s Views

The Government of Zambia prioritizes the well-being of its people and the improvement of health service delivery for all and all ages. The health sector in Zambia comprises the public, private-for-profit and private not-for-profit providers. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the overall co-ordination and management of the health sector. The Ministry of Health undertakes a capacity-enhancement role in guaranteeing that all services accessible to the populace are meeting the established policies and standards. While Zambia has made progress across a range of SDG 3 indicators, persistent gaps persist within groups in society. Some of these gaps are highlighted below.\(^5\)

\(^5\) The data presented has been extracted from Save the Children’s Child Inequality Tracker, GRID which brings together disaggregated data for key SDG indicators related to children’s wellbeing, including for child survival and nutrition, child protection, and education. The database contains data processed from over 400 household surveys and other sources. Data on education comes from UNESCO’s World Inequality Database on Education and nutrition data from the Joint Malnutrition Estimates.
Analysis: since the early 2000s, progress on stunting has progressively slowed down and pre-COVID projections expected it to plateau by 2020, with no significant gains leading up to 2030. While all groups of children are off track to meet the SDG target, the richest 20% and the urban children have consistently fared better than their poorer, rural peers. In 2018, the stunting rate for the 20% poorest children was 40% compared to 24% for the 20% richest, meaning that poor children were almost twice as likely to suffer from stunting than their rich counterparts.
Positing that all children should receive access to the services they need, the most deprived children should be reached first. However, the opposite is true, and most marginalized children often experience the poorest access to services. The graph above shows that both wealth and location (urban/rural) are strong determinants of both under-five mortality and access to services, and that some children are exposed to a double jeopardy: not only do poor and rural children experience higher under-five mortality rates, but their mothers are also less likely to receive at least 4 antenatal visits.
CSO Initiatives

In Zambia, a number of Civil Society Organizations are providing supplementary support and coordination to the health sector. Like many African countries, Zambia faces significant health challenges, most of which are related to inadequate budgetary allocation to health – very few sub-Saharan African countries have reached the Abuja Declaration of 15% GDP allocation to health. The health care system is underfunded. This has resulted in a critical shortage of personnel while those available are overworked. The CSOs and Private sector initiate safeguard mechanisms for example, Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ), an inter-denominational (Catholic and Protestants) umbrella organization for Church health institutions in Zambia, has 157 Church Health Institutions – 36 Hospitals (11 of which have training schools), 89 Rural Health Centers (RHCs) and 32 CBOs. It is estimated that these health facilities altogether serve about 5 million people or all these health facilities account for 40% of the total national health care and more than 50% of rural health care services. The majority of these health institutions are located in rural and hard-to-reach areas, and are in all the 10 administrative provinces of Zambia serving the poor and the underserved.6

CSOs play a role to:

1. Advocate for improved Government expenditure in order to scale-up interventions while guaranteeing effective coverage with an equity focus, for this will ensure noone is left behind.
2. Facilitate and strengthen partnerships with Ministry of Health, CSO’s and other stakeholders as effective partnerships are critical for success. Fragmented financing and governance bring about high transaction costs that can hinder effective synchronization at national level. Incorporation can enhance the efficient use of resources and reduce duplication and wastage.
3. Integration of services helps to reduce missed opportunities to optimize linkages with other health care interventions including HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
4. Decentralization has the potential to address inequalities and to enhance accountability. Devolution advances accountability and citizen involvement, and encourages good governance by strengthening the capacity of CSOs in social accountability.

6 https://www.chaz.org.zm/about-chaz/
Challenges and gaps

Shortage of ambulances and Doctors.

- Difficulties in accessing health facilities especially in rural areas, e.g. Number of health posts constructed per year, only 25 were constructed by 2018 out of a target of 600 (The CSO’s 7NDP MID-TERM BAROMETER 2019).
- Inadequate budget allocation for health e.g., which is 28.9 per cent of projected GDP (29.00 USD Billion by end of 2020). The budget allocation is still below the target of 12 per cent stated in the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2017-2021).
- 9.3 per cent of the National Budget has been allocated to the health sector against a sector plan target of 12 per cent. With this level of allocation, the outlined sector goals and targets are not likely to be achieved in full (ZAMBIA HEALTH BUDGET BRIEF UNICEF 2019).
- A significant share of the health budget goes to personal emoluments with 55 per cent in 2019, marginally higher than the 2018 allocation of 54 per cent.
- Inadequate supplementary feeding in health facilities e.g., the proportion of health facilities providing supplementary feeding services for moderate to acute malnutrition is low with only 15 facilities providing out of a yearly target of 50 in 2018.
- Challenges in data collection and management as there is no centralised Information Management System. This results in incomplete and poor quality of data from routine health information systems that hamper evidence-based decision making and accountability for results.
- Challenges in coordination of stakeholders and partners in health as most are working in silos.
- Challenges in monitoring and evaluation of the health programmes.
- Inadequate key expertise as related to specific challenges affecting women’s reproductive health issues and access to treatment of the same.
Recommendations

- Comprehensive sexuality education programmes are narrow and should have broader gender approaches to address the underlying factors that have compromised SRHR.
- Government-led initiatives to address teenage pregnancies and early marriages.
- Apply more efforts in reducing stigma and discrimination against mental health conditions.
- Instead of depending on the ZDHS which runs after several years, computed data from health facilities can help get latest statistics on health.
- Civil society working in health issues should be mobilized to influence into a coalition to ensure accountability, transparency and good governance.
- Promotion of local health meals among children to compete against unhealthy foods that are advertised by corporates using community and national media on a daily basis (address stunting/wasting).
- In cases of pandemics such as Covid-19, there is need to share child messages focusing on rural and urban, socio-economic dynamics to help mitigate the spread of the virus among various children.
- Continue the expansion and successful use of media in child health programs of Zambia.
- Prioritizing exercise and nutrition as preventive measures among children.
- Scale up feeding programmes and immunization in schools

SDG 4: ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Government approach in CSOs views
The Government still remains the main provider of education in Zambia with about 63% of public Schools, while grant-aided Schools constitute only 3%, community schools account for 25% and 8% constituting
private schools. In terms of geographical distribution of schools by rural and urban, typically there are more schools in rural areas than in urban areas, with proportions of 81.2% of the primary schools and 58.1 percent of secondary schools found in the rural areas. This is generally so because the country is predominantly rural.\(^7\)

**Distribution of Schools by Type**

![Bar chart showing distribution of schools by type.](image)

Education is governed by two Ministries with distinct responsibilities. Ministry of General Education (MoGE) manages Early Childhood Education, Primary, Secondary, and youth and adult learning education. Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) is responsible for University Education, TEVET, Science, Technology, and Innovation. The policy and legal framework include: The Constitution (2016), Education Act (2011), and National Policy on Education (1996) and other sub-sector policies. Further, five-year National Development Plans (NDPs) inform and outline Zambia’s socio-economic priorities from which the education sector National Implementation Frameworks (NIFs) are drawn to provide sector-specific implementation plans for achieving NDP goals. Currently

\(^7\) ESB 2016
there are the 2011-2015 Education Sector National Implementation Framework III (NIF III) and the 2017-2021 Education and Skills Sector Plan (ESSP)\(^8\).

Education financing has consistently underperformed as a share of the national budget. The trend has been declining, currently standing at 12.4% (2020) from 17.2% in 2016. Basic education (pre-primary, primary, and lower secondary) has consistently occupied a significant share of Zambia’s education budget, demonstrating the prioritization of the subsector by Government. Official data indicates that the allocation to basic education increased from 43% in 2011 to 58.2% in 2016. However, there has been little spending year-on-year of the budgeted amounts due to delayed or non-disbursement by Ministry of Finance. This is compounded by the high public debt coupled with a decline in the performance of the economy over the past nine years\(^9\). Additionally, public budgeting for children’s rights principles of ‘effectiveness, efficiency, equity, transparency and sustainability\(^10\),’

**CSOs Initiatives**

Education is important because it breaks the cycle of poverty. It is through education, that people can get better jobs, get involved in innovative business and have better lives. Education, helps to reduce inequalities between the rich and the poor, the rural and urban areas and indeed to reach gender equity and equality, education also empowers people everywhere to live more healthy and sustainable lives. Education is also crucial to fostering tolerance between people and contributes to more peaceful and harmonious societies. People should endeavor to be educated because education in itself is empowering.

Civil Society initiatives are meant to supplement Government efforts to ensure access, equity and quality provision of services. ZANEC is a Coalition of non-state actors working in the education and skills sector comprising 75-member Organizations from Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBO’s), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and

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\(^8\) MoGE, 2020; GPE, April 2020
\(^9\) Ministry of Finance Output Based Budgets 2016 – 2020;
\(^10\) UN CRC/C/GC/19 (2016: Part IV pg. 13 – 15)
Teachers Trade Unions (TTUs) working to enhance the provision of education in Zambia. The Coalition has consistently called on Government to oblige to the minimum threshold of allocating of 20 percent as per Cairo Protocol and Global Partnership for Education where a commitment to this effect, was made. Through ZANEC and other education platforms, CSOs have advocated strongly for dialogue with the State and these engagements have been going on. At central level, the quality and effectiveness of sector dialogue and monitoring mechanisms has fluctuated over the 2011-2019 period. In 2012 it was characterized by a lack of technical discussions and decision-making. From 2013 to 2016, the processes and quality of sector dialogue improved with regularly scheduled meetings and common technical discussions. The quality of discussions in Joint Annual Reviews (JAR) increased with better structured and more analytical dialogue. However, the quality of sector dialogue and monitoring has since declined due to several factors including some cooperating partners suspending funding. Thus, education sector dialogue is currently plagued by reduced stakeholder participation in dialogue mechanisms, irregular meetings, and some degree of fractionalization among donor partners.11

Challenges and gaps
- Inadequate budget allocation

The graph below shows the relative share of the education sector budget:

The allocation to the education and skills sector is at its lowest level in five years at 12.4 per cent in 2020 from 20.2 per cent at peak in 2015\(^\text{12}\).

- 2019 allocation to Early Childhood Education declined by 88 per cent because of no allocation for ECE infrastructure due to austerity measures. Without an increased allocation for ECE infrastructure, a considerable number of children will continue to be ill-prepared for grade one as currently only 32 per cent of grade one entrants have ECE experience.\(^\text{13}\)

\(^{13}\)UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019.
• Despite the education budget being output based, there is no visible link between allocations and the direction of output indicators. Prudent use of financial resources is critical to the improvement of educational outcomes which are currently poor. For instance, a recent study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Examination Council of Zambia revealed that 15-year-old Zambian students achieved only 5 per cent and 2 per cent of the minimum international level of proficiency in reading and mathematics respectively\(^{14}\).

• **Completion rates**—completion rates for people aged 15-24 years vary at the various stages of education by Province. Lusaka and Copperbelt Provinces have the highest (87 percent), followed by Southern, Central and North-Western Provinces, Muchinga, Luapula, Northern and Western Provinces and Eastern Province with the least of less than 54 per cent. At Grade 9 and Grade 12, completion rates remain at 72 per cent and 32 per cent respectively. This means not all children who start School get to finish Primary, let alone Secondary education. Infrastructure gaps remain a huge challenge and the ratio of Secondary Schools to Primary Schools is 1 to 9.

• The overall learning outcomes for Zambian children indicate a learning crisis. Learners are leaving the education system without acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills.

• **Urban bias**—The Education sector has staff countrywide. However, the distribution of staff favours urban Schools in both numbers and experienced, qualified Teachers\(^ {15}\) Schools in rural areas sometimes use ordinary members of the community who are not even qualified to teach.

• In addition, large educational inequalities continue to hamper progress toward SDG 4.

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\(^{14}\) (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).

\(^{15}\) (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).
In many countries, region of residence is often the strongest determinant of inequality between socioeconomic groups in society. This holds true for Zambia as well: vast differences exist between regions, with children in the Eastern region being at a significantly more at risk (+61%) not to finish Primary School than their peers in Copperbelt.

**Recommendations**

- Government to fulfill its promises to expand Early Childhood Education (ECE) to all the remote areas of Zambia at ward level.
- Promotion of skills and careers during basic education processes other than concentration on passing examinations.
- Value-based School system that rewards innovation, adaptability and joint efforts (current system promotes competition).
- Reduce Teacher-pupil ratio to acceptable standard.
Inclusive education to integrate people with disabilities in national development issues.

Numbers of Primary Schools against Secondary Schools and Tertiary Schools suggest that people MUST fail along the way. There are more numbers of Primary compared to Secondary; more Secondary Schools compared to Tertiary Schools.

Reduce distances to Schools in rural areas by constructing Schools closer to the communities.

Education broadcasting should not just be for emergencies but an alternative source of instruction by learners.

Invite corporate entities to support poor and vulnerable families to access quality education as corporate social responsibility.

Enforce compulsory education to rid streets of children.

SDG 5 – ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL GIRLS AND WOMEN

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goal Number Five (SDG5) is very key because development in any country cannot be achieved when gender equality and the empowering of women and girls is overlooked. The Government and stakeholders, especially Civil Society Organizations, have been implementing a lot of interventions that have contributed to achieving SDG5. This can be evidenced by the country recording a positive trend in the gender inequality index which has continued to fall from 0.627 in 2011 to 0.587 in 2015 and 0.540 for 2018 (UNDP, 2018).

This review of SDG5 focuses on the progress made in the enactment and implementation of the progressive legal framework on gender, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), child marriage, teenage pregnancies and women’s participation in decision-making.
Government Approach in CSOs' View

LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON GENDER ISSUES

In the past few years, the country has made tremendous efforts in enacting policy and legal framework that promote gender equality between men and women. Civil Society organizations in Zambia have played an active advocacy role in ensuring that the following progressive policies and legislation are formulated and implemented:

- The current National Gender Policy revised in 2014.
- The enactment of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 that guarantees equality between men and women.
- The enactment of the Gender Equity and Equality Act No 22 of 2015 mandating public and private bodies to promote gender equity and equality.
- The enactment of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011 that provides for the protection of GBV victims.
- The revision of the Penal Code to align it with the Anti-GBV Act.

Apart from being involved in the consultations of the enactment of the above laws, Civil Society has been sensitizing citizens on the legislation and lobbying Government for their full implementation.

Challenges in the legal framework

Despite the above progressive measures made in the enactment of a legal framework on gender, there are still some challenges that exist in ensuring that the legal framework in Zambia fully promotes gender equality between men and women. The following are some of the challenges:

- Lack of full implementation of some of the progressive legislation due to lack of resources by Government. E.g., Establishment of the Gender Commission stipulated in the Gender Equity and Equality Act No 22 of 2015 has still not been done as Government has no resources to do so.
• Maintenance of Article 23 (4) d, e and f in the Constitution, which allows customary law to override statutory law in matters of personal law, which often deals with issues of marriage. This has impeded full realization of women’s rights in Zambia.

• Dual legal system - Zambia has a dual legal system consisting of the civil law and customary law. Many Zambians, subscribe to the customary law observed by particular tribal groupings to resolve dispute. While gender equality is constitutionally guaranteed, for some women, customary law still reigns supreme in the sphere of personal law relating to marriage, succession and division of matrimonial property. This has negative implications and supports practices that are de facto discriminatory against girls and women. Nonetheless, this is contrary to the new Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 which provides for equal rights for both men and women.

Recommendations on legal framework
• Government should allocate more resources to relevant institutions to ensure full implementation of all the progressive legislation on gender.

• There is need to review legislation that impedes full realization of women’s rights in Zambia e.g. Article 23 (4) d, e and f in the Constitution, which allows Customary Law to override statutory law in matters of personal law, which often deals with issues of marriage.

• There is need to harmonize the law so that harmful customary practices are not promoted under the guise of practicing Customary Law.

GBV ISSUES
Cases of GBV being reported in Zambia have been increasing over the years. The number of GBV cases reported in the country increased from 15,153 in 2014 to 22,073 in 2018 (Zambia Police, 2018). This can be attributed to the increased confidence by members of the public in the GBV response mechanisms that are being implemented by civil society organisations and Government, as a result of increased awareness about GBV, availability of support services and increased capacity of law enforcement agencies and Judiciary to respond and prosecute GBV cases.
The Government and stakeholders, mainly the Civil Society Organizations, have done a lot in addressing GBV. Some of the interventions to address GBV include establishing operating One Stop Centres on GBV, Fast Track Courts on GBV, establishment of institutional structures to address GBV, provision of legal support to victims, providing support services to GBV survivors, sensitization of people on issues of GBV and provision of shelters and economic services to GBV survivors.

**Challenges on GBV issues**
- Non implementation of some laws and strategies on GBV.
- Most GBV survivors lack support in terms of economic and health to move on with their lives.
- Withdrawing of cases by some GBV survivors.

**Recommendations on GBV issues**
- There is need to bridge the gap between law and practice. While Zambia has progressive legislation on GBV, a major obstacle often lies in the implementation of such frameworks. For this reason, emphasis should be on bridging the gap between law and practice through the strengthening of accountability mechanisms to follow up and evaluate the implementation of laws addressing prevention and response to GBV.
- There is need to improve the health sector response to GBV including reproductive health, medical and psychosocial support. More needs to be done on addressing mental, social or economic abuse against a person.
- There is need to provide more resources to shelters and counselling centers in order to provide safe place to survivors of GBV who cannot stay in their homes.
- There is need to ensure adequate Police and Justice response or legal aid to survivors.
- There is need to provide economic services to survivors in order to enhance women’s bargaining power and ability to leave abusive relationships.
WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Despite enacting progressive policies and legislation and acceding to international instruments on promoting women’s participation in decision making, the reality is that participation in decision-making processes in Zambia is dominantly male dominated. The situation is that women are under-represented in all decision-making processes at all levels including Parliament (17%), Local Government (7%) and Civil Service (10%) (ZNWL: 2018). The situation is the same in the Private Sector, the Media and the Church, where women are less represented in the Managements and Corporate Boards. A Gender Audit of the Public and Private sectors conducted by the Zambia National Women’s Lobby (ZNWL) in 2018 indicated that there were less than 5% women represented in Corporate Boards and Management in the Private Sector in Zambia.

CSOs’ Initiatives

There are many efforts by civil society to promote and advance women’s participation in decision-making. Some of them include:

- Advocacy and Lobbying on domestication of international instruments - SADC/AU/UN protocols (Gender Equality Act, 2014 NGP).
- Lobbying political will and introduction of legislated quota systems to guide in the adoption and appointments of women for elective positions.
- Engaging Political parties to engender manifestos, constitutions and policies.
- Capacity building of potential women leaders in various areas for them to participate effectively in decision making processes.
- Engaging the Electoral Commission of Zambia, Police and the Anti-Corruption Commission on electoral malpractices that disadvantage women during elections.
- Sensitising communities on gender, democracy, governance and the importance of women’s participation in decision-making.
- Advocating for an electoral system that will be conducive to the participation of women in elections.
• Capacity development for female leaders currently in local and national political positions.

Challenges on women’s participation in decision-making
• Lack of political will by political parties to adopt women for elective positions at parliamentary and local government levels. Political parties prefer adopting men.
• Women lacking resources to participate effectively in elective decision-making positions.
• Entrenched cultural and Patriarchal issues disadvantaging women’s participation in decision-making.
• High literacy levels amongst women (Grade 12 Constitutional Clause).
• Violence and mudslinging of women.

Recommendations on increasing women’s participation in decision-making
• Implement progressive legislation on enhancing women’s participation in decision making and Push for enactment of progressive like the political party bill
• Enact legislation on quotas on the adoption and nomination of women in elective positions.

Sensitization of people on gender, democracy and importance of women’s participation.

CHILD MARRIAGES
Child marriage is one of the challenges which Zambia is currently grappling with. The country has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the Sub Saharan region. Currently, 42 per cent of girls under the age of 18 are married, meaning that two in five girls in Zambia are child brides. Of the 42 per cent, 9 per cent are married under 15 years of age (NGOCC, 2018). Zambia is amongst the 20 hotspots in the world as regards the incidence of child marriage (Plan International).
While ideally no girl should ever face harmful practices, the reality is that some girls are much more in danger than others. In Zambia, about 30% of women aged 20-24 were first married by age 18. The prevalence of child marriage is double as high in the rural areas (40%) than in urban areas (20%). This means that rural girls are twice as likely to be married before age 18 than their urban peers. However, wealth widens the gap further: less than 1 in 10 girls among the richest urban will enter child marriage, whereas almost 1 in 2 will among the poorest rural girls.

**CSOs’ Initiatives**
The civil society in Zambia has contributed a lot to addressing child marriage issues in the country and is currently actively participating in the national campaign to end Child marriage led by Government and other stakeholders. Some of the CSOs’ interventions include; withdrawing of children from marriages and taking them back to School, sensitization of communities on the
disadvantages of child marriage, working with traditional and community leaders in curbing child marriage and providing legal services to protect victims of child marriage. Civil society has also been working with Government Institutions like the Victim support units of the Zambia Police to pursue child marriage cases.

Advocacy for Child Justice (ACJ), through its Mutule Child Protection Project on combating child marriages and prostitution, has been conducting awareness raising campaigns on the ills of these in Lusaka, Chongwe and Chibombo districts since 2015. Teenagers are empowered with Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information as well as assertive skills to help them make informed decisions and take charge of their sexuality. Parents/guardians are also given parenting skills and trained in entrepreneurship to engage in income generating activities for improved household income and economic status. This has helped many of them provide for their families and reduced the number of child marriages and prostitution in these target areas. More than 300 girls have been withdrawn from child marriages and up to 30% of them supported to go back to School under the Sponsor a Child Project. Over 600 have been withdrawn from prostitution in the 3 Districts.

One major success is that of the formulation of by-laws by Chief Mungule to govern marriages in his Chiefdom.

**Challenges in addressing child marriage**

- Lack of appropriate laws on marriage.
- Lack of child related legislation.
- The minimum age for marriage under civil law (the existing Marriage Act of 1918) is set at 21 years, but with parental consent, children can validly conclude a marriage at 16 years, and under customary law (which is unwritten), there is no minimum age because children can marry from the age of puberty, which for girls can be as low as 12 years of age. Without legislative reform, the inconsistent use of age in various statutes and the tolerance of child marriage cannot be addressed.
Currently, official birth registration is still not systematic and this is a recipe to child marriage as low numbers of people possess birth registrations.

**Recommendations on ending child marriage**

- Enact and implement marriage laws like the Marriage Bill (2015) which will see that all marriages (customary, civil and religious) are placed on an equal footing. All marriages will have to be registered; child marriage will be prescribed and minimum age of 18 set; marriages concluded without the free and informed consent of the spouses will be void; and registrars will be liable for committing an offence if they register marriages where a party is aged below 18 years. These provisions, amongst others, will ensure that Zambia’s marriage laws are, to this extent, consistent with international treaty obligations.
- Criminalize child marriages
- Enact and implement child related legislation like the Children’s Code Bill (2014) which will domesticate international treaties.
- Implement international instruments that Zambia has acceded to on addressing child marriage.
- Continued awareness-raising and campaigns to end child marriage, particularly regarding customary laws on child marriage.
- Invest in education for girls and strengthen social protection programmes.
- Need to create a fund for taking back girls removed from marriages to School.
- Increase birth registration rates as one of the most effective means to prevent and detect early marriage.
- Make proof of age a requirement for all types of marriage, either by sworn statement or affidavit or production of a birth certificate.
- Enforce by-laws on ending child marriage in all Chiefdoms.
TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

Teenage pregnancy is high in Zambia. According to the 2018 ZDHS report, 29% of girls aged 15–19 have ever been pregnant or had a live birth. Teenage pregnancy is more common in Southern Province (43%) than in other areas, especially Lusaka (15%). Teenagers with no education or only Primary Schooling (42% and 36%, respectively) are more likely to have started childbearing compared with the 29% national average or 23% among teenagers with a Secondary education. Childbearing is also most common among women in the lowest wealth quintile (46%).

CSOs’ Initiatives

Civil Society in Zambia has been active in addressing issues of teenage pregnancies. Some of the interventions include providing sexual and reproductive health information to girls, offering psychosocial support and counseling to girls that fall pregnant, sensitization of communities on the disadvantages of teenage pregnancies, working with traditional and community leaders in curbing teenage pregnancies.

Challenges on teenage issues

- Lack of access by girls to appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and services, particularly contraceptives.
- Lack of access by girls to psychosocial and health support services when defilement and rape occurs.
- Poverty, which leads some girls to offer sex in exchange for money, goods, and services.
- Social and cultural determinants, such as gender inequality (women and girls perceived as the weaker sex), child marriage, and peer pressure.
- Temporary accommodation of girls in a community near their school without regular boarding facilities, or ‘weekly boarding’ due to poverty and long distances to schools.
- Social-cultural practices such as early marriage polygamy, sexual cleansing and premarital sex.
Recommendations on addressing teenage issues

- Keep girls in school: Research has indicated that the longer girls stay in school the less likely it is for them to get pregnant. Enabling girls to have an education has a positive effect on their personal lives and has potential for positive impact on future generations (World Bank 2015).

- Provide sexual and reproductive health information to girls in Schools and communities.

- Ensure that the code of conduct for both Health Practitioners and Teachers is enforced for those who discriminate against adolescents needing reproductive health information or services.

- Ensure children who live far off have access to safe single-sex boarding environments.

- Establish an SMS/Toll free line for reporting and monitoring cases of child abuse, early marriage, sexual violence in Schools as recommended by the Education Sector Gender Audit.

- Strengthen the guidance and counselling within the School system and increase its annual budgetary allocation.

- Establish and integrate School-Clinic Referrals (based on MoH Adolescent Health Services Standards) including looking at option of establishing rural health clinics in School infrastructure to tackle long distances to accessing health services by rural communities.

- Retrain and reorient health workers on adolescent reproductive health services utilizing forthcoming Adolescent Friendly Health Services Standards of Ministry of Health.
SDG 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

Introduction

Access to adequate, clean and safe water is regarded as a critical and strategic resource for social, economic and overall sustainable development. Households in Zambia use tap water, borehole-piped, pump-piped, well or other natural sources. Ablution facilities for sanitation are flushable toilets and mostly pit-latrines in the greater rural and peri-urban areas, the latter which mostly have no hand-washing facilities. Proper sanitation is also key to prevention of water-borne disease outbreaks which often ravage the Zambian overcrowded peri-urban communities. It is therefore important that the country works towards improved provision of water and sanitation services to achieve SDG 6.

Government’s Approach in CSOs’ View

Government’s vision is for all Zambians to have affordable access to adequate water supply and sanitation services by 2030 to live healthy and dignified lives. The National Water Policy provides the legal framework for Government to fulfil this responsibility.
Although the proportion of households accessing improved sources of drinking water increased from 63 percent in 2010 to 67.7 percent in 2015, households in urban areas had more access at 89.2 percent compared to 51.6 percent of households in rural areas, making a total of only 40% of households in the whole country. 27 percent of people in urban areas and 85 percent in rural areas had no access to improved sources of sanitation, calling for urgent need to increase access thereto in both urban and rural areas to prevent exposure to water-borne diseases as a result of poor water supply and sanitation conditions.

According to the World Health Organization, inappropriate disposal of waste poses the most significant environmental health problems that threaten human health because it is one of the major breeding grounds for flies and rodents, while burning of waste produces toxic fumes. The undesirable results are health conditions, such as diarrhea, respiratory and gastrointestinal tract infections (GTIs) and skin diseases.

Today, many rural communities continue to grapple with challenges of safe, easily accessible drinking water, covering long distances to water sources. This burden often lies on women and children who are subjected to carrying heavy buckets. In terms of sanitation, the greater part of peri-urban and rural areas use pit-latrines with no proper ventilation and hand-washing facilities. In general Zambia only has 14% of its population that actually practice hand-washing using a facility with soap (JMP 2019). The congested peri-urban areas are often the epicenter of cholera outbreaks in the country.
Below is a picture of a pit-latrine from the outside taken by a Zambian child during a field visit in a peri-urban community in Lusaka Province while capturing children’s views on SDGs for the child-led Shadow report.

*Pit-latrine, Kailikiliki, Lusaka*
CSOs’ Initiatives

- Awareness raising on hygiene in Communities and Schools; development of MHM guidelines and implementation in selected Schools are some efforts by duty bearers and CSOs that have contributed to improved hygiene status in Schools.
- Some Schools have held interface meetings and further developed budgets for WASH with the support of CSOs.
• There has been some level of coordination amongst CSOs and duty bearers to plan, monitor and implement WASH activities in some Schools and surrounding communities.

• Drilling of boreholes in rural communities.

• WaterAid increased access to adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion in 47 Schools through the construction of 72 improved pit-latrines and 8 inclusive ablution blocks.

• WaterAid constructed 95 new boreholes; rehabilitated 55 existing boreholes and constructed 5 piped water supply schemes in Schools.

A case study of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools in 4 Districts in Zambia

*Figure 1 Ablution block supported by WaterAid, Nabukuyu School in Monze*
Access to water and sanitation in Schools in Zambia remains problematic with 30% of basic Schools in the country having no water and sanitation facilities. Available WASH facilities, are often dilapidated and inadequate. A rapid assessment on WASH in Schools undertaken by WaterAid in Zambia in 2018 to inform its cholera response programme noted that over 80% of the Schools assessed did not have adequate WASH facilities and that the majority of these Schools were in the high-density peri-urban areas that are often the epicenters of Cholera epidemics.

The toilet pupil ratio in Zambia remains high with an average of 1:120 against the Government standard of 1:25 for girls and 1:40 for boys. There are insufficient toilets for the number of learners. In many cases, learners line up for extended periods to relieve themselves, or miss class time to avoid having to line up. In addition, the toilets are not designed for use by such high numbers of learners and this contributes to their unhygienic state.

For girls, lack of access to Menstrual Hygiene Management facilities poses significant challenges especially when they start menstruating as they are forced to stay away from School during their periods. A presentation at a stakeholder meeting by the then Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education on Scaling Up Strategy for WASH in Schools in Zambia in 2014, shows that School dropout rates for girls in Zambia increased between grades 5-8, which is the approximate age of starting menstruation and lack of WASH services in part contributes to this, with 65% at Primary School level. This is especially due to the fact that the country has not paid particular attention to Menstrual Hygiene Management in Schools and has only recently developed guidelines on menstrual hygiene.

More than 25% of basic Schools do not have access to safe water supply (borehole-piped, borehole-pump, piped water and protected well) and of the 9,564 sanitation facilities in these Schools, 87.5% consist of pit latrines which range from makeshift latrines and lack standards for depth and ventilation. Hand washing facilities are few. In general Zambia only has 14% of its population that actually practice hand washing using a facility with soap (JMP 2019). There are also challenges with national planning for WASH in Schools as some plans do not include sanitation facilities. It is worth noting that the general water and sanitation standards in Zambian Schools
do not meet the public health regulations as evidenced by the fact that most Schools are completely closed down during disease outbreaks such as Cholera.

**General Status of WASH in Schools for Four (4) Districts**

WaterAid implemented a WASH in Schools project in five districts of Zambia, namely, Mwense and Samfya in Luapula Province and Monze and Kazungula in Southern Province. A baseline study was undertaken to establish the status of School WASH in the project areas. A total of 71 schools (17 in Samfya, 22 in Mwense, 16 in Monze and 16 in Kazungula) were sampled in the 4 districts. The following were the summary results;

Table 1 below shows the functionality of the water points in the 5 Districts. The study found that 50% of the water points in Monze District were not functional, 59% in Mwense, 75% and 88% in Kazungula and Samfya, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Access</th>
<th>Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mwense</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samfya</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monze</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazungula</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: School WASH Baseline Study, 2016*
The study further established that only 12% of the Schools provide sanitary pads as MHM material. In addition, only 21% of the Schools provide water for washing cloths and other materials. Many (64%) Schools lag behind in terms of meeting the special needs of girls and achieving gender equity in accessing and benefiting from water and sanitation facilities (see table 2 below).

Table 2: Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clothes</th>
<th>Sanitary pads</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Water for washing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availability of MHM materials</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Further, it was established that despite many Schools having toilet facilities, these are not adequate to cater for the number of enrolled pupils. Several studies demonstrate the effect of high School enrolments in Zambian Primary Schools in the recent past due to the free Primary education policy and the consequent shortage of toilet facilities (Shantuka 2009; Global Campaign on Education 2005). The table below shows the effect of inadequacy of toilet facilities in Schools which results in Open Defecation (See Table 3).
Table 3: State of Open Defecation in Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Their Homes</th>
<th>Nearby bush</th>
<th>Other (Toilets which meet and do not meet JMP standard)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pupils go to defecate/urinate</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The baseline study demonstrates a serious inadequacy of toilet facilities for both boys and girls. The situation for girls seems to be much worse compared to boys based on the drop hole ratio requirement for safe and adequate access to sanitation. The overall drop-hole ratio for girls is one drop hole to 88 girls, which is above the recommended limit of one drop hole per 25 girls. Similarly, the overall drop-hole ratio for boys is one drop hole to 98 boys, which is more than the recommended ratio of one drop hole per 50 boys.

As per discussion above, it is clear that there is inadequate access to WASH services among learners in Schools.

Scale of the problem

The baseline study found that many Schools (21%) had shared toilet facilities for girls and boys (Table 4 below). Further analysis indicates that most of the Schools (79%) have toilet facilities that are exclusively used by girls and boys. However, only 14% of the Schools had urinals in the boys’ toilets. Despite making headway in providing separate toilet facilities for boys and girls, more needs to be done to improve privacy by ensuring that toilet facilities everywhere have secure doors.
Table 4: Sanitation Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys and Girls sharing some toilet facilities in Schools</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latrines shared with households/villages around Schools</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female pupils have access to water inside toilets</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are urinals for male pupils in toilets</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets located within 100m to water source &amp; classrooms</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets are disability friendly</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: School WASH Baseline Study, 2016*

The baseline also attempted to establish accessibility of WASH facilities by people with disabilities. The results of the survey show that most of the Schools (78%) do not have disability-friendly sanitation facilities as compared to only 22% that have. See table 4 above!

**Recommendations**

- More investment in WASH infrastructure in Schools with clear standards for WASH in Schools developed and met by Schools.
- Ensure equity and inclusion in delivery of WASH services in Schools, ensuring that children with disabilities are catered as well as providing for menstrual health needs of girls in Schools.
- Roll out and scale up implementation of Menstrual Hygiene Management guidelines and toolkits in Schools.
- Strengthen operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure in Schools. Clear and comprehensive guidelines in place and implemented in Schools.
• Scale up hygiene interventions in Schools and ensure relevant infrastructure in place to support and sustain good hygiene practices. Strengthen child-led platforms for engagement in Schools to enhance accountability in delivery of WASH services.
• Model scalable, equitable and inclusive options that address the WASH needs in Schools and surrounding communities.
• Invest in WASH innovative technology and approaches that can be adopted and adapted to context specific locations.
• **Finance**-Improve financing towards WASH (By Government and supporters), strengthen existing structures, establish structures in Schools to manage funds and establishing the link between Schools and the WASH unit of the Local Authorities.
• **Accountability**-There is need to scale-up interface meetings between duty bearers (DEBS office) and the learners. Established structures (WASH committees) should be held accountable for the collecting, managing and utilising of funds.
• **Coordination**-Establish and or strengthen and support WASH committees and WASH Rights clubs to hold regular meetings with PTA. Advocate for improved coverage and reporting of School WASH in the DWASHE agenda.
• Service Delivery-Develop capacity for dedicated artisans at School level to reduce the down time of WASH facilities. Ensure the availability of hygiene supplies in Schools. Capacitate more teachers on basic WASH approaches.
• **Strategic Planning**-Each School should have an Action Plan addressing WASH needs and work towards funding the plan.
• **Environment and Water Resources**-Develop WASH infrastructure that reduces ground water contamination. Improve Solid Waste management. Also ensure climate resilience.
• **Institutional Arrangements**-Train committees, artisans and Teachers to carry out their roles and responsibilities in School WASH programmes.
• **Monitoring**-Conduct robust monitoring of infrastructure using a checklist that addresses quality aspects. Advocate for strengthened monitoring systems at District level.
SDG 11: CREATING SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Target: 11.6: Reduce the environmental impacts of cities.

UN Definition

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

SDG Indicator 11.6.1: **Solid waste management**

Definition: Indicator 11.6.1 is the proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities.

Introduction

The United Nations predicts that by 2050 about 86% of the developed countries will be living in urban areas while more than 64% of the population in developing countries will be living in urban areas (UN-HABITAT). The bulk of the urbanization process will take place in Africa and in Asia. Zambia is also urbanizing fast at a projected rate of 4.24% per year with an estimated 42% of the national population living in urban areas. UN Habitat estimates that about 72% of the people living in cities in Zambia are found in informal settlements. UN HABITAT reports that “the national housing deficit stands at 2.8 million units and is projected to double by 2025. Zambia’s existing housing stock is estimated at 2.5 million units thus making it difficult for many urban dwellers to live in safe and secure housing units.
The rate of urbanization in Zambia is projected to increase to about 60% by 2050. Unplanned urbanization results in the influx of many people in settlements that are already struggling with basic service delivery such as water provision, public transport, waste management, sewage management and housing. One of the major challenges facing cities in Zambia today is the proper management of solid waste.

Current Situation on waste management in Zambia
Zambian cities are facing challenges in properly managing waste within their areas of jurisdiction and this is affecting the country's progress towards achieving sustainable development goal number 11 and specifically target number 11.6 and indicator 11.6.1 which seeks to “measure the share of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated”. The city of Lusaka generates approximately a million tonnes of waste annually. (University of Zambia, 2017).

Of this total, only 40% of the waste finally finds itself in the municipal waste disposal site. 60% of the waste in Lusaka is not collected by the authorities and is dumped illegally on road sides, open spaces, drainages and in people’s backyards. The only once operational landfill site in Lusaka, Chunga, has been dysfunctional for many years and has been turned into a waste dumpsite. Most characteristics of a conventional and well run land fill site are non-existent at the Chunga dumpsite.

Household waste collection in Lusaka is very low at only 26.3% of households in Lusaka with regular waste collection services. The tourist capital, Livingstone is facing the same challenges when it comes to managing waste properly. UNIDO (2019) reports that the city produces around 90tpd of waste which is disposable. Of this total, about 50% is from the central business district while 5% is from hotels and other privately run facilities. More than 60% of waste from residential areas is not collected. This waste is buried in pits at the backyards or dumped in open public spaces such as in the picture below. The situation is the same in other big cities like Kitwe and Ndola and very dire in small town councils like Kazungula. The smaller towns do not even have any waste management strategies in place.
Chunga Dumpsite, Lusaka

**Challenges and Gaps**

- Low waste door to door collection in residential areas in cities and towns in the whole country.
- Non-existence of properly engineered landfill sites in municipal dumpsites throughout the country.
- Lack of prioritization of waste management as one of the key service delivery issues in towns and cities.
- Local Integrated planning processes not incorporating waste management.
- Lack of awareness of waste management in many town councils and municipalities.
Recommendations

While we acknowledge the efforts of the Government in improving the waste management situation in the country by developing progressive new waste management regulations and the Extended Producer Responsibility guidelines, the following needs to be done to achieve waste management indicators under SDG 11.

- Speed up the process of finalizing the National Urbanisation Policy (NUP) and include waste management in cities as one of main priority areas.
- Develop recycling projects in all major cities in Zambia through private public partnership. The Government must build the capacity of local authorities in Zambia for recovery and recycling of various types of waste streams such as plastics.
- Improve the household door to door collection of waste in cities to avoid dumping of waste in open spaces and along road sides. This will greatly contribute towards achieving SDG indicator 11.6.1.
- Build the capacity of municipalities in Zambia to deal with waste management from point of generation, collection, transportation and disposal of waste.
- Increase public awareness amongst citizens on good waste management and the negative impact of poor waste management on human health and the environment.

CSOs’ Initiatives

Interventions in waste management: Case study

Manja Pamodzi Project

This is a post-consumer incentivizing project initiated by Zambia Breweries (ZB) in 2015. The project is a response to the producer responsibility law and is co-funded between Millennium Challenge Account Zambia and Zambian Breweries. It is operating in 12 communities in Lusaka i.e. Ngombe Matero, Chawama, George, Lilanda, Kamwala, Mtendere, Kalikiliki, Kalale Chunga, Garden and Chipata. It has 615 active garbage collectors with 459 of them being women representing 75% of the total collectors. The project also has 8 aggregators (7 males and 1 female). Plastic waste is recycled into products such as egg trays, conduit and PVC pipes etc.
The project conducts capacity building training on what is recyclable to all the collectors. They are also taught to work within the confines of the law with regard to protective clothing and other laws. So far, the project has reached 8 schools, 11,164 children and 225 teachers. The projects estimate that there is a total of 3,618.91 tons of recyclable materials that was collected in April, 2018. Manja Pamodzi is being registered as a company. Individuals and companies interested in joining the value chain are being incorporated. They aim to expand to other communities in the city. They aim to increase aggregator sites and create a competitive process and buyer market. At the start of the project Zambia Breweries gave trucks, built aggregator sites and provided staff at zero profit. Recycling should be an industry and should be valuable to those collecting as well.

**GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS**

**Introduction**

Zambia has not been spared by the negative impact of climate change. The impact of the reduced water levels and subsequent power generation in the Kariba dam in 2018-2019 are still being felt today in terms of national economic performance and energy production. Because of climate change, Zambia has experienced severe climatic events such as periodic droughts in Gwembe, Shangombo and Lunga, floods in Central Province and extreme temperatures in other parts of the country (FAO, 2019). Because of the climate change induced droughts in 2018-2019, the IPC (2019) estimated that around 1.7 million people were in IPC Phase 3 or worse. The number of affected people was expected to increase to 2.3 million people before the offset of the harvest season in early 2020.
While we acknowledge that the Government has responded to the negative impact of climate change in the country by carrying out adaptation and mitigation progressive actions, progress towards achieving the SDG 13 as enshrined in the National Climate Change Policy of 2016 is still very low.

**Government Approach in CSOs’ View**

Government has established the Department of Climate Change and Natural Resources Managementat in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. The Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Department (CCNRMD) is responsible for climate change and natural resources policy formulation, review, standards setting, and coordinating the implementation of climate change programmes and projects and the conservation of natural resources. Government started the Climate Change national program development process from the early 2000s with the latest development being the approval of the Cabinet Memo on Climate Change Bill formulation. Policy and Institutional Frameworks on Climate Change indicating the specific roles of all stakeholders is as follows:

- MNDP is responsible for overall coordination and oversight to facilitate mainstreaming of climate change in the development planning process.
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources – oversees implementation of NPCC.
- Ministry of Finance is responsible for resource mobilization.
- DMMU responsible for DRR preparedness and response, early warning together with ZMD.
- Climate Change Department to facilitate implementation of cc projects/programmes

**Government Approach (Interventions)**

- Has in place the National Policy on Climate Change of 2016.
- Becoming a signatory to the Paris Climate Change agreement.
- Zambia has pledged to reduce its emissions by 38,000 Gg CO2 e.g., by 2030.
- Cumulative emissions reduced by 39% (14,846.9 Gg CO2 e.g.,) from 2015 to 2019.
Promoting sustainable initiatives such as renewable energy which has seen the country diversify its energy mix from 99% reliance on hydro power production in 2011 to 80.6% in 2019. Solar energy currently accounts for about 90MW (3% of the total energy).

Promoting climate smart agriculture.

CSOs’ Initiatives
Civil Society Organizations have been promoting sustainable agriculture practices such as regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, water harvesting and indigenous seed knowledge systems. Other programmes include solar/ biogas as renewable energy sources, sustainable forestry/ afforestation and community based sustainable natural resource management.

Gaps and Challenges
- Engagement with other stakeholders remained at a very high level in terms of discussions: (top down approach).
- Lack of implementation framework for monitoring in that SDGs are simply aligned to the 7th National Development Plan which is short term programmes.
- Inadequate tools for awareness addressing low levels.
- Low Information transfer and systematic and inadequate capacity building.
- A wrong transition narrative on SDGs.
- Poor quality of information: When the model is assessed, it will be discovered that no progress has been made.
- There is no clarity on where financing for SDGs will come from.
- Lack of domestic financing for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation.
- Unequal Distribution of wealth in key sectors.
- Unclear Targets and awareness.
- Limited Climate Change financing.
- Limited private sector participation.
- Challenges in domesticating the Nationally Determined Contributions.

**Recommendations on the SDGs implementation process**
- A home-grown financing mechanism.
- Awareness raising and capacity development.
- A clear strategy for SDG bonding.
- Research and Development.
- Private sector participation must be encouraged.
- Strengthen audit systems.
- Must give a clear roadmap on domestic financing.
- Expand the livelihood diversification programmes in order to contribute to alternative livelihoods for the communities affected by climate change.
- DMMU needs to strengthen the monitoring system related to the food security situation in parts of the country that are affected by climate change.
- Ensure nationwide implementation of the 2016 National Policy on Climate Change.
- Expedite the process of enacting the Climate Change Bill.
- Provide reliable and timely weather information to community members affected by climate change in Zambia.

The National Policy on Climate Change (NPCC) was developed to support and facilitate a coordinated response to climate change issues in Zambia. The policy is adequate with appropriate measures and strategies to realign the climate sensitive sectors of the economy. However, we are currently falling short in implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation in that, the Climate Change Department exists only at the Ministry headquarters and has no presence at Provincial and District levels.
CONCLUSION

The alignment of the SDGs with the National Plans is a great way to promote multi-sectoral participation in programmes geared towards their achievement. This is expected to bring on board all stakeholders from national to provincial, district and the community/grassroots levels.

While Government has come up with diverse programmes towards achieving the SDGs and made progress to varying degrees, Zambia still falls short in implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, especially for those SDGs with no particular relevant Ministerial Departments at Provincial and District levels. These structures must be established if we are going to achieve any success. There is therefore need for a coordinated response from Government, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Media, Academia and Cooperating partners for efficient and effective implementation of SDGs programmes. The country also needs the right and adequate policy and legal environment as well as proper financing for these programmes to thrive.

As Civil Society Organizations, we continue to supplement Government efforts through strategic programming based on inclusion and the leave none behind principle in all thematic areas at various levels. We call on Government and all stakeholders to be mindful of and consider the usually marginalized categories of the population such as the elderly, women, youth, children and people with disabilities especially in rural areas as we together work towards achieving Agenda 2030 and the set SDGs targets.
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a SDGs coordination Ministry.
- Expedite the decentralization process to have greater efficiency and effectiveness among the District Councils.
- Share Roadmap/ framework for implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs with all stakeholders.
- Develop joint, widely shared indicators for CSOs, Government and the Private Sector with annual benchmarks.
- Need for more guidance on localization of SDGs in Zambia and engagement of different stakeholders in processes around planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs,
- 7NDP to always consider gender, child rights and disability.
- Mental health issues to be decentralized by way of Mobile Hospitals. This will help deal with inequalities.
- Improve on capacity for disaggregated data capturing.
- Enhance access to information on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) especially in rural areas.
- SDGs programming to be based on human rights principles.
- Foster partnerships with various stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations, the private sector, academia, etc.
- Build the capacity and empower children and youth as agents of change.
- Improve policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs in Zambia by integrating the social, economic and environmental goals and maximizing synergies among the goals.
- Expedite the enactment of the planning and Budgeting Bill number 22 of 2019 to give effect to adequate allocation of finances to SDGs programmes.