



# The PRFT Basic Needs Basket:

*A chance for communities to influence the global agenda*

PRFT submission towards the Participate Research Group contributions in the post 2015 MDGs discourse



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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>ARVs</b>	Anti-retroviral drugs
<b>BCC</b>	Bulawayo City Council
<b>BEAM</b>	Basic Education Assistance Module
<b>BNB</b>	Basic Needs Basket
<b>COPAC</b>	Constitution Select Committee
<b>ETF</b>	Education Transition Fund
<b>FPL</b>	Food Poverty Line
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GNU</b>	Government of National Unity
<b>GPA</b>	Global Political Agreement
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>MDC</b>	Movement for Democratic Change
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organisation
<b>PRFT</b>	Poverty Reduction Forum Trust
<b>PLWH</b>	People Living with HIV and AIDS
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>Zimstats</b>	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
<b>ZANU PF</b>	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
<b>ZINWA</b>	Zimbabwe National Water Authority

## **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this research was to gather high quality evidence on the realities of poverty in Zimbabwe, and to get the perspective of the Zimbabwean poor population into the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) discourse. The research employed participatory data collection methods including focus group discussions and key informant interviews which provided an opportunity for a critical analysis of the gaps in the current MDGs architecture with the aim of providing a sound basis to influence crafting of the future global development framework. Evidence gathered from a sample of 115 poor people living in low income suburbs of Mutare and Bulawayo indicates that the current socio-economic environment of Zimbabwe has presented a major livelihood challenge to people living in poverty. Because of limited livelihood options poor households are forced into illegal and risky means such as illegal dealings in diamonds, stealing and prostitution in order to meet their basic needs including food, decent accommodation, education and health care. From the study, we found that the current socio-political environment does not favour active participation of people living in poverty in decision making processes on issues that affect them. A new framework that promotes transparency in distribution of national resources, ensures peace and security, prioritises elimination of corruption would ensure that people living in poverty benefit from agreed global development targets. From the field interviews poor people in Mutare and Bulawayo believe that regular interaction with policy makers would enable them to contribute to decision making processes, and to hence be able to assist in monitoring and evaluating progress of the new post-2015 framework at local level.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the last decade (2000-2010), Zimbabwe has experienced steep socio, political and economic downturn that has moved the country's rankings in poverty and human development to the bottom ranks. The country had a Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of 173 out of 189 countries in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Report of 2011 (UNDP 2011). The deteriorating socioeconomic situation has caused a fragmentation of the country's administrative system, leading to widespread poverty, and affecting people living in poverty's access to socio-economic and cultural rights, including the right to food, health, water, necessary social services and the right to descent accommodation.

With its goal of influencing policy formulation and implementation to ensure that government consistently improves on the attainment of the right to an adequate standard of living by all Zimbabweans, The Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT) initiated a Basic Needs Basket (BNB) Survey project in 2010. The aim of the intervention is to generate regular and reliable statistical information of the basic cost of living of ordinary residents, and to provide evidence that PRFT uses to push for policies and programs that cushion vulnerable urban households. Besides just providing evidence based information on urban poverty, PRFT has been using findings from the BNB to demonstrate that the right to basic needs is linked to micro, meso and macro socio-economic issues.

This linkage is however largely viewed as pervasive, that is, factors that affect the livelihoods of poor people have distinctly macro characteristics (Farrington, Carney et al. 1999). Sustainable poverty reduction is therefore an enormous challenge that will only be overcome through a holistic approach: - ensuring that micro-level interventions inform the development of global policies and an effective enabling environment, and that macro-level structures and processes support people living in poverty to build upon their own strengths.

World over, around 1.4 billion were living on less than US\$1.25 a day in 2005, down from 1.9 billion (one in two) in 1981<sup>1</sup>. The World Bank estimates show that poverty has been more widespread across the developing world over the past 25 years than previously estimated, but also that there has been strong progress toward reducing overall poverty. The MDGs, which were agreed by the international community during the September 2000 'United Nations Millennium Summit' has provided a framework where governments agreed on a set of development targets aimed at halving poverty and improving the welfare of the world's poorest by 2015.

However, much has been written about inadequacies and gaps in the architecture of the current MDGs framework, including lack of wider consultations and ignoring the voices of the poor (Vandemoortele 2012). The purpose of this research therefore is to contribute towards the Participate Research Group contributions in the Post 2015 MDGs discourse by gathering high quality evidence on the realities of poverty in Zimbabwe, and get the perspective of the Zimbabwean poor population into the post-2015 MDGs discourse.

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## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The purpose of the research project was to contribute towards the Participate Research Group contributions in the Post 2015 MDGs discourse by bringing in the voices of the Zimbabwean poor population. The study gathered high quality evidence on the realities of poverty in Zimbabwe, and expanded the BNB initiative by engaging, in a more participative approach, the “usually left out” groups (namely the very poor, people living with disability and child-headed households) to bring their input into influencing the policy development discourse. Specific objectives of the research were to;

- identify emerging socio-economic issues from the Basic Need basket Initiative
- scale up discussions on the emerging issues by layering them in terms of where the problem and possible solution is located.
- directly engage those living in poverty and bring their voice into shaping national, regional and global development planning.
- strengthen existing dialogue mechanisms among residents, state and non state actors at local level and to promote the creation of sustainable dialogue mechanisms where lacking.

Data collection for this study was limited to low income suburbs of Bulawayo and Mutare. A total of 177 respondents were interviewed (81 in Bulawayo and 96 in Mutare) – **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of Respondents interviewed**

Age Group	Site				Total(s)
	Bulawayo		Mutare		
	Females	Males	Females	Males	
0 -9	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
10 -19	2	0	0	1	<b>3</b>
20 – 29	3	9	13	8	<b>33</b>
30 - 39	8	4	18	12	<b>42</b>
40 – 49	14	6	17	4	<b>41</b>
50 – 59	17	7	11	4	<b>39</b>
60+	6	5	4	4	<b>19</b>
<b>Total(s)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>177</b>

### Sampling

A purposive sampling technique used for this study enabled the research team to identify and reach out to the various socio economic groups who were interviewed, including People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWH), the elderly, the youth, single parents and married men and women). Bulawayo and Mutare were selected because that is where PRFT is already implementing field projects, and given their geographic and cultural differences, the

researchers were able to analyse congruent and diverging views gathered through the interviews.

## **Data collection**

Data for this study was collected through focus group discussions (FGD), key informant interviews and direct observations from the field, and validated through a feedback workshops with the research participants. Three languages namely English, Ndebele and Shona were used during the interview process. These were reflective of the dialectical composition of the participants.

### ***Focus Group Discussions***

A guide with key questions focusing around access to basic needs, sources of livelihoods, socio economic developments and analysis of the MDGs was used during FGDs. A total of 10 FGDs were conducted (8 in Bulawayo and 2 in Mutare). A total of 115 participants (38% males and 62% females) participated during the FGDs. The participants were grouped into various sub-groups namely the youth, married men, married women, single ladies, widows and PLWH. The sub-grouping enabled PRFT to get a clearer picture of the poverty story and how it is affecting the various subgroups. All FGDs were conducted in vernacular and captured on voice recorders which were later translated and transcribed.

### ***Key informant interviews***

A questionnaire with 28 questions was generated to guide discussions during one-on-one interviews. The face-to-face interviews were used more with those participants who hardly come to meetings due to poverty-related hindrances, and to opinion leaders within the community including former councillors and representatives of residents associations. In total 62 respondents (71% females and 29% males) completed the questionnaire.

### ***Direct observations***

Direct observations provided evidence on information which was gathered through FGDs and face-to-face interviews. Evidence gathered through direct observations include, key positive developments that have been achieved in the two sites, as well as dilapidating service delivery (garbage accumulating on the streets, sewers flowing in drainage systems, and poor state of public roads). Some photos from direct observations are incorporated into this report.

### ***Feedback workshop***

After the initial analysis of the data, the research team organized feedback workshops which enabled a representative number of respondents who participated during one-on-one interview and FGDs to rank and discuss further emerging issues. A total of 21 residents (11 females and 10 males) participated during the sense-making workshop representing all the sub-groups which were interviewed.

## **Limitations**

Due to time and budget limitations, the research was only limited to Bulawayo and Mutare and did not cover other urban areas or the rural setting. As a result, findings from this study cannot be generalised to be representative of all the marginalized and poor people in Zimbabwe.



## **Context – Research Environment**

Over the past two decades (1990 – 2010), Zimbabwe has experienced socio-economic turbulences characterised by poor service delivery and spiralling inflation which subsequently crippled the government's ability to arrest the ever increasing levels of poverty. Following a decade of contraction from 1998 to 2008, the living standards and quality of life worsened leading to a mass exodus of Zimbabwean professionals to search for greener pastures outside the country. During this period the country suffered a theatrical socio-economic collapse, characterized by high inflation levels that peaked 231 million percent by July 2008. The economy experienced a cumulative 48% decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the same period as a result of poor performance in all productive sectors, especially the key economic drivers – manufacturing, agriculture and mining, and a protracted de-industrialization phase where capacity utilization collapsed by 5% in the manufacturing sector.

Adoption of the multi-currency system which allowed currencies such as the Botswana pula, the South Africa rand, and the US dollar to be used locally - ended hyperinflation and stabilized the economy. However, this has not translated to poverty reduction. With an estimated population size of nearly 13 million people (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency 2012), Zimbabwe is lowly ranked in terms of HDI (with a current ranking of 172– up from 173 out of 189 countries in 2011)<sup>2</sup>, a signal that the country is failing to provide conditions necessary for a decent living to its citizens. A sample survey of 16 districts of the country by Manjengwa, Kasiye & Matema (2012) found that 81.6% of the population in were below the total poverty line in 2011 compared to previous national figures of a poverty incidence of 72% in 2003, suggesting a decline in the welfare status of households in Zimbabwe. The proportion of people living below the Food Poverty Line (FPL) increased from 29% in 1995 to 58% in 2003, and the percentage of underweight under-fives rose from 13% in 1999 to 15% in 2010. This indicates that food security and malnutrition remain serious challenges in Zimbabwe (UN Zimbabwe 2012).

Since signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) following controversial presidential elections in June 2008 and the subsequent formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in February 2009, the social, economic and political landscape of Zimbabwe has stabilised but still remains very fragile. The GNU, which is represented by three major political parties, the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the two Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formations has been rocked by some hitches as the parties represented have completely different ideologies. Through the Constitutional Select Committee (COPAC), the country has developed a new constitution which was recently adopted by over 93% of Zimbabweans during a constitutional referendum vote held on 16 March 2013. The new constitution will pave away for elections to choose a new government to replace the current GNU.

## **Description of study sites**

Bulawayo is the second largest city in Zimbabwe and is located about 439 km southwest of Harare, the largest and capital city of the country. Bulawayo houses approximately 5% of the country's total population (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency 2012). The city sits on a plain that marks the Highveld of Zimbabwe and is close to the watershed between the

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<sup>2</sup> <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/103106.html>

Zambezi and Limpopo drainage basins. Bulawayo is a multicultural city with most residents able to speak at least three languages including English, Ndebele, Shona, Xhosa, Kalanga, Sotho, Nambya, Tonga and Venda. Majority of the Bulawayo's population belongs to the Ndebele ethnic and language group.

Mutare, located approximately 265 kilometers (165 miles), southeast of Harare is the fourth largest city of Zimbabwe (**See Figure 1**). The town of Mutare lies north of the Vumba Mountains and south of the Imbeza Valley, about 8 km from the border with Mozambique, and is just 290 km from the Mozambican port of Beira. The population is predominantly Shona, the majority of them speaking the Manyika dialect. Manyika people are locally known as Samanyikas. According to the 2012 preliminary census data, Mutare has a population of 188 243, 88 957 being female and 99 286 males. (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency 2012).

Like the rest of the country, Mutare and Bulawayo have been affected by the economic upheavals that hit Zimbabwe in the past decades. The closure of industry, political instability and economic policies by the government have fuelled high levels of unemployment and deepened levels of poverty in the two cities. Studies commissioned by PRFT to determine the characteristics of urban poverty in Mutare and Bulawayo revealed that inadequate accommodation, lack of employment opportunities and limited ability to meet basic needs present major challenges to the majority of poor residents in the two cities (Poverty Reduction Forum Trust 2011; Poverty Reduction Forum Trust 2012). For example, out of 80 economically active residents interviewed in Mutare over 41% had no jobs and survived on piecemeal jobs, 30% on petty vending, 5% on rentals from tenant and only 24% had full-time employment. From the regular BNB surveys in both cities, PRFT has established that average formally employed workers earn monthly salaries ranging from \$250 to \$300, which are far below the poverty datum line that currently hovers around US\$600.



 Study locations

Figure 1: Geographic locations of the study areas

### 3.0 PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

Urban poverty in its various forms has increasingly occupied the attention of policy makers both at national and international levels. Formulation of international development frameworks, including the MDGs, has traditionally ignored the socio-economic priorities and voices of the poor who are expected to benefit from their implementation. In this section, we present findings from the study, with particular focus on livelihood challenges that the urban poor face, how they participate in decision making processes, and how they relate their day to day lives to the post-2015 MDG discourse.

#### Experiences of change

##### *Observed livelihood changes in the last 15 to 20 years*

Findings from the study show that dramatic socio-economic and political changes that affected Zimbabwe over the last two decades have directly influenced the livelihoods of the urban poor. During the last 15 years Zimbabwe went through a series of socio-economic upheavals which led to a near-collapse of the economy and subsequently shifting the livelihoods of most urban residents.

*“I worked for PG Industries for 30 years. The company closed in December 2010 and it is 3 years now, I have not even received my terminal benefits. We took the company to court but nothing has materialised because management says the company has no money”* (Mr. Mukono Chiwara (54), a resident of Chikanga, Mutare who lost his job because of closure of the company that he used to work for – see interview transcript with Mr. Chiwara – pg. 3).

While formal employment used to be the major source of livelihood, paralysis of the economy that occurred between 1999 and 2008 forced manufacturing companies which employed the bulk of the economically active population to close, driving the majority into risky and unreliable livelihood options.

The erosion of working capital fueled by the spiraling inflation rate, which peaked 231 million percent by July 2008, has meant that companies have failed to invest in new technologies let alone refurbish existing equipment. This has left the sector highly uncompetitive to the extent of most factories downsizing their workforce or having to close. The textile sector for example employed over 18000 direct workers at its peak during the 1990s. However, employment numbers have now dropped from 7500 in 2010 and further to 3000 workers in 2011 (Ministry of Finance 2012). From the study, we found that Mutare and Bulawayo based manufacturing companies such as Cairns, Karina Textiles and Carpets, National Breweries, Border Timbers and Lion Match Company have either downsized or closed doors. Findings from this research are also confirmed by a labour force survey conducted by the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (Zimstat) which shows that a total of 248 thousand employees had been retrenched between June 2004 and May 2011 with Harare province having the largest retrenched population while Manicaland province was on second position (Zimstat 2011).

Field interviews in Mutare established that some manufacturing building have been converted into classrooms for private schools while others are now used as illegal restaurants. In Bulawayo, churches now use buildings which have been vacated by manufacturing companies.

*“We used to get full salaries but now they give us our salaries in instalments of \$50 or \$100. If you report them to the labour courts there is no justice prevailing rather the courts are “silenced” by the ministers”* (Tapiwa Mavhondo (46) works for a local company in Mutare – Hellenic FGD transcript pg. 9).

In some cases, even employees who retained their jobs are not receiving agreed salaries.

Lack of formal times very risky employment opportunities has forced poor urban residents to engage in informal, illegal and at economic enterprises.

The Zimstats 2011 labour force survey estimated that nationally, 567 thousand of the working population aged 15 years and above is in the informal sector with 69 percent of the informal sector employees within the broad age group 20 to 39 years (Zimstat 2011).

*“I live with my chronically ill mother and my sibling. I sometimes work as a ‘rank tout’ and the little money I get is not enough to buy food, pay rentals and school fees for my sibling”* (Shepherd Ncube (22), is an unemployed youth taking care of his chronically ill mother in Lobengula West, Bulawayo – Bulawayo Transcript pg. 5).

Alternative sources of livelihoods that most unemployed residents engage in do not offer reliable sources of income.

*“I have not achieved anything. The only thing that I am proud of is the new pair of shoes that I managed to buy when I got a piece job. I am not working and my parents have been taking care of me since I was born”* (Jubilant Tiengane (25) lives with her parents in Chikanga suburb of Mutare, she finished her Ordinary levels in 2006 and has not found a job since then).

From the research findings, it is evident that Zimbabwe still fall short of the MDG 1 new Target 1B (agreed upon in 2008) which calls for the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 2** presents the various sources of livelihoods identified by residents in the two sites including challenges and risks that they face.

**Table 2: Major sources of livelihood identified by respondents**

Sources of livelihood	Livelihood characteristics	Challenges and Risks
<b>Formal employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more members of the family have formal employment – working as civil servants or for the private sector</li> <li>Average formal employees do not exceed US\$300 monthly salaries (Zimstat 2011).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employees go for months without salaries and at times they don't receive full amount of their dues.</li> <li>Salaries that most workers receive is not adequate to meet households basic needs including food, descent accommodation and health care</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS\\_114244/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS_114244/lang--en/index.htm)

<b>Income from rentals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some families rent out some of their rooms for \$30 - \$60/room depending on the locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overcrowding leading to fast spreading of contagious diseases</li> <li>Large number of tenants per housing unit strain sewer reticulation systems resulting in 'widespread sewer bursts' and spreading of typhoid and cholera.</li> </ul>
<b>Buying and selling (illegal vending, informal cross-border trading)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents sell vegetables, second hand clothes, electrical and other wares on the streets (mostly undesignated areas) without permits from the city council. Second hand clothes are mainly smuggled from neighbouring countries like Mozambique</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents can not afford \$30 - \$50 required in order to obtain a vendor's permit</li> <li>Police raid and confiscate goods. At times residents are forced to pay bribes to have their goods returned.</li> <li>The market has become flooded and residents no longer get meaningful profits</li> </ul>
<b>Sex work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployed female youths and single mothers are forced into commercial sex work (see Case Study 2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are high risks of getting HIV and AIDS as they are at times forced into sexual intercourse without protection</li> <li>At times sex workers are arrested by the police for public loitering</li> </ul>
<b>Remittances from children and other relatives in the Diaspora</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families get monthly remittances from relatives or family members working outside the country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remittances that most families receive are not adequate to meet households basic needs including food, descent accommodation and health care</li> </ul>
<b>Illegal dealings in diamonds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few residents are involved in illegal diamond dealings in Mutare. They get diamonds for the Marange Fields (through malicious means) which they sell to foreign buyers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High risk of getting arrested.</li> </ul>
<b>'own account' employment and small home-based projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some residents have set up small businesses and income generating projects – Carpentry, Sewing, Poultry production, hair plaiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flooded market for products and as a result income has become very unreliable</li> <li>Residents are forced to pay for operating licenses – the process of getting the license is very cumbersome and many cannot afford the quarterly \$40 - \$60 required.</li> </ul>

<b>Urban farming/crop production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some households have small plots on which they mainly grow maize during the farming season. The produce can take them through the whole year depending on family size.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban agriculture is illegal according to council by-laws of Mutare and Bulawayo. In some cases crops are slashed down by municipal police.</li> </ul>
<b>Pension allowances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pensioners get on average \$38 per month pension allowances through the National Social Security Authority (NSSA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amount offered is very low and cannot cover basic needs including food, descent accommodation and health care</li> </ul>
<b>Menial jobs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some households are engaged in menial jobs like doing laundry or gardening for well-off families, or engaged as general contract workers by the city council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income is very unreliable</li> </ul>

The study revealed that critical positive and negative changes occurred in Bulawayo and Mutare over the last 15 – 20 years especially in the areas of social protection, education, health service delivery and public infrastructure. In both sites respondents cited efforts that have been made by the respective rural district councils, private developers and donor organizations in providing descent accommodation to poor residents.

### **Housing**

*“Donors gave us shelter; right now I have three rooms, things have changed”* (Mrs. Evar Makwese (89) benefited from a housing scheme spearheaded by a donor organization in Sakubva, Mutare in 2006. Mrs. Makwese is a widow taking care of 2 orphaned grandchildren - see Sakubva FGD transcript pg. 10).

Donors, cooperatives and housing schemes has enabled a number of low income families to get housing stands.

However despite the positive developments the two cities still face housing challenges. ‘Operation Murambatsvina’, implemented by the government in 2005 with the aim of clearing illegal structure in major town of the country left millions of urban residents homeless and many were driven into over-crowded conditions. **Box 1** presents a case where the socio-economic situation has forced a family to live in over-crowded conditions. A study on urban poverty conducted by PRFT in Bulawayo in 2012 showed that the number of those on the city council waiting list nearly reach 100 000<sup>4</sup>, and the shortage of housing has resulted in people living in crowded conditions thereby exposing themselves to poor sanitary conditions. A housing development scheme introduced by the Bulawayo City Council (BCC) that offered stands for up to US\$3,500 on cash basis was largely been viewed as a discriminatory policy decision; Residents felt that the BCC decision meant that poor residents, who barely afford decent meals can no longer dream of owning a property, and instead, favours the rich who already have housing units and can afford to raise the required amounts. As a result the poor become even poorer while the rich amass riches (Poverty Reduction Forum Trust 2012).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.newsday.co.zw/2012/11/21/bulawayo-council-identifies-more-housing-stands/>

### **Box 1: Lack of Accommodation force poor families to live in overcrowded and health hazard conditions**

*Amina Wasili (37) is a married with five children. She is also taking care of her elderly and chronically sick mother. Both Amina and her husband are not employed and the family survives on petty vending, a venture that barely provide enough income to sustain the 8-members family.*

*“Hupenyu hwacho hwakatiomera zvekuti hatikwanise kunotsvaga imba yekuroja, tinoshandisa 2 rooms tiri 8, dzimwe dzine maroja. Mari yatinowana kubva kumaroja ndiyo yatiri kubhadhara kukanzuru. Magariro acho haaite takamanikidzana asi hatina zvatinokwanisa kuita ma rent acho anodhura. Things are so difficult for us that we cannot afford to rent our own place. The eight of us uses two rooms in the family house, and the other two rooms are rented out to tenants. Money paid by the tenants is used to pay city council bills. We are so overcrowded, but there is nothing we can do because the rents are too expensive”.*

Most poor families in Mutare and Bulawayo live in overcrowded conditions.

*“Ndinoshuwira kuti dai tawaniswawo mastands ekuvaka akachipa. Vamwe vava kurwira mafamily houses sezvo vasina pekugara. Mastands ariko asi anodhura zvekuti hatikwanisi kumatenga anongowanikwa nevane maridzavo kare. I wish the government could implement a housing scheme that avail housing stands to the poor; some are fighting over family houses because they don't have any where to go. The residential stands which are available are very expensive and can only be acquired by those who are already rich”.*

Poor families cannot acquire residential stands because the costs are prohibitive. The government does not have affordable housing schemes for the poor hence housing stands are only affordable to a few who have money.

*Amina Wasili (37) is married and has 5 children. She is also taking care of her elderly and chronically ill mother. They live in a family house in Sakubva, Mutare.*

## **Health**

Respondents cited great strides made by the government and other support organizations in health services delivery. The study revealed that expecting mothers and infants can now get free health service in government hospitals while ARVs are now easily accessible to HIV/AIDS patients.

*“If you see me walking, would you think I am HIV positive? Thanks to the government for making ARVs accessible to everyone. We are happy the system has been decentralised and we are now able to collect medication from local clinics as compared to the 1990s when we used to get them from Mutare general hospital. HIV is no longer a killer”* (Mrs. Shirley Buzuzu (56) of Sakubva, Mutare has been living positive since 1992 – Refer to Case Study 1).

FGD conducted with People Living with PLWH in Bulawayo and Mutare confirmed that the improved provision of ARVs has reduced HIV/AIDS related deaths. Also, behaviour change initiatives implemented by the government and non-governmental organizations have reduced discrimination of HIV/AIDS patients.



Although there has been a recorded improvement in health care delivery, at times local clinics do not have medication, and the poor residents are prescribed drugs that they hardly afford to buy.

*“I am taking care of a grandchild who is on ARVs. I usually spend R100 to buy medication for the child because I cannot get free drugs from local clinics. At times nurses from those same clinics would come and sell us the medication through the back door”* (Mrs. Clara Ndhlovu (54) of Pelandaba, Bulawayo is a widow taking care of her three children and 7 children, one is taking ARVs. The widow rents out part of her house for living – Bulawayo FGD Transcript pg. 27).

Due to poor salary levels in most government institutions, including the health sector, employees personalise facilities and services meant for the general poor thereby compromising government initiatives to improve health service delivery. This challenge was identified in both research sites.

PLWH indicated that although they now have access to ARVs, their medical conditions requires them to eat regularly and take balanced diets every day. Without employment opportunities and income generating opportunities, they fail to meet their food requirements, As a result their immune systems are always compromised.

*“We have problems with the health system. In emergency cases like car accidents ambulances rush patients to hospitals only to find there are no specialists to attend to them and nothing is done to save lives”* (Joy Magaga (52), Mutare resident – see Hellenic Mutare FGD transcript pg.7).

Due to the socio-economic downturn that crippled the country during the last 15 years, professionals including medical doctors left for greener pastures outside the country. As a result, most government hospitals are understaffed.

## **Education**

16% of the 62 participants interviewed during one-on-one discussions identified key improvements in the education sector. Positive changes identified include; building of new schools in low income suburbs, improved availability of learning materials in public schools and government support to orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC). The positive changes were confirmed by the youth, married women, single mothers and elderly men who participated in focus group discussions in Bulawayo.

*“Teachers are now available, fees affordable and there are text books in schools”* (Sandra Gumede (45), Single mother of 3, takes care of 2 orphans and lives in Pelandaba, Bulawayo. Bulawayo FGD transcript – pg. 28).

Since 2001, the government has been implementing the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) Programme to provide social protection to OVC by assisting with tuition fees, levies and examination fees. BEAM has managed to reduce the number of children who drop out of school due to failure to pay fees and to date over 4, 000,000 students have benefited<sup>5</sup>. Respondents also referenced the Education Transition Fund (ETF) which was launched in

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=87](http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=87)

2010 to provide schools with learning materials and technical assistance. Building of new schools has reduced the distances that children used to walk to get to the nearest learning centre.

Although there have been improvements in the education sector, other noticeable negative changes were identified.

*“The education system is deteriorating, children are asked to pay incentives and teachers are not teaching during normal hours; they ask the children to come for extra lessons which they charge”* (Jack Matshazi (50) is married with 6 children, takes care of 6 orphans and 2 grandchildren. He is disabled and survives on petty jobs: captured during one-on-one interviews in Bulawayo).

Just like other civil servants in Zimbabwe, teachers are not well enumerated and as a result, they are reluctant to work during normal hours, and instead arrange for extra lessons through which they are paid directly. Realising the low salaries that teachers get, the government has also put a provision where parents pay ‘incentives’ directly to the schools which are meant for the teachers’ upkeep. These additional costs make education more expensive and are not affordable to the poor parents. As a result many children from poor families are forced to drop out of school.

*“My children are not going to school, because I don’t have money to pay for their fees. Beam is supposed to support children from poor backgrounds but because of corruption in the system most students enrolled in the program are from well-off families. My oldest child hasn’t been able to collect his O’ Level results because of I don’t have money to clear off a school fees arrear at the school. The money I get from vending is not enough to buy food, worse to think of school fees”* (Amina Wasili (37) is married and has 5 children. She is also taking care of her elderly and chronically ill mother. They live in a family house in Sakubva, Mutare. The family survives on petty vending).

Due to corruption, government programs meant to benefit students from less privileged and marginalized families are being diverted to rich families who have connections in the system.

### ***Public infrastructure and service delivery***

At least 95% of all respondents interviewed claimed that public infrastructure and service delivery has drastically deteriorated. Water shortages and failure by city councils to collect refuse from the streets have resulted in the spreading of cholera and typhoid (**Photo 1(a)**). Through FGDs with single mothers and the youth in Emuganwini, Bulawayo we found that residents in the suburb have benefited from community boreholes that were sunk within the last 5 years and are now providing clean water to the residents. In Mutare, a donor-funded cleanup campaign by ‘Zimbabwe AHEAD’ mobilized communities to clear garbage that had not been collected for years. When the campaign ended residents failed to re-mobilize and refuse is beginning to accumulate on the streets.

Erratic power cuts are forcing residents to get firewood from nearby forests where they risk being arrested; this has also led to excessive deforestation as residents can not afford to buy alternative fuel sources like paraffin and charcoal. Most roads have dilapidated and are now characterized by deep potholes which pose a major risk to motorists (**Photo 1 (b)**).



**Figure 2(a): Garbage that has accumulated on the street in Sakubva, Mutare**



**Figure 1(b): Scenes like this (Mbare, Harare) are also seen in Mutare and Bulawayo**

### ***Social protection for the elderly and most vulnerable***

In both sites, we found that local churches and NGOs are undertaking social protection initiatives targeting the elderly and most vulnerable households. A group of elderly women in Mutare confirmed that they receive food and other non-food basics from a local church on monthly basis. Single mothers in Lobengula West, Bulawayo acknowledge the support that the elderly and vulnerable households receive, but they felt that the targeting of beneficiaries for social protection interventions has not been transparent.



*“We are always asked to submit our personal information for consideration, but we are never selected for donations. They only select a few who have relatives working for the donors”* (Mrs. Mhike Chikomo (47) lives in Chikanga Mutare. She is a widow with 5 children, unemployed and survives of vending – she was interviewed during production of Documentary).

Respondents interviewed during this study alleged the lack of transparency in the selection and screening of beneficiaries for social welfare support. This lack of transparency leads to suspicions that donations only go to households who have relatives working for the donors.

### ***Global political Agreement and Formation of GNU***

Following the contested results of violence-marred presidential elections held in June 2008, the three major political parties, The Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) and the two Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formations agreed on a Global Political Agreement which was signed in September 2008. This subsequently led to the appointment of a transitional Government of National Unit (GNU), in February 2009, that ushered in a stable political and economic governance framework in Zimbabwe. In both Mutare and Bulawayo, formation of the GNU is hailed as a positive change that has stabilised the political environment.

*“We can now express our views freely and we now know our rights. Our party is representing us in government”* (Judith Ngulube (54) is a widowed taking care of her 4 children, her elderly grandfather and 4 orphans. She did not finish secondary school and she lives in Pelandaba, Bulawayo. She survives on petty vending – see Bulawayo FGD transcript pg. 30).

The GNU has reduced political tension among residents who support different political parties, and there is now improved respect of human rights.

### ***Multicurrency system***

As a policy response to the spiralling inflation which had lead to the countrywide shortage of basics, the government adopted the multicurrency regime in January 2009 which liberalized the use of foreign currency, largely the South African Rand, the USA dollar and the Botswana Pula as legal currency.

*“In 2008 OK was empty and was stocking firewood and tissues only on the shelves. Look the shop is full now because we are now using the US dollar”* (Mr. Henry Hungwe (42), a resident of Dangamvura, Mutare – captured during one-on-one interviews).

Dollarization of the economy has improved availability of basic goods in the shops.

Notwithstanding the positives that came with dollarization, the youth, single parents and elderly mothers in Bulawayo strongly felt that dollarization has brought untold sufferings to them. Although food and other basics are now available on the shelves, accessibility has become a major challenge; food has become so expensive, money is not circulating (workers are going for months without salaries) and there are no opportunities to make money. Remittances that most households get from relatives working outside the country no longer have the same value that they used to have during the Zimbabwe Dollar era. The cross-rating

of different currencies have resulted in the distortion of the pricing system, for example, exchange rates that are used in Bulawayo are different from those used in Mutare. It emerged from the interviews that a policy option that enables for the use of a single ‘currency’ would reduce distortions in the pricing of commodities and hence curb speculative activities in the economy.

### ***Technology advancement***

Technological advancement was cited as a major change observed over the last two decades and it has brought with it both positive and negative implications.

*“There is now improved access to information. Almost everyone now has a satellite dish at their homes. People can hear what is happening worldwide through channels like Aljazeera”* (Mr. Manex Mauya (34), Former Ward Councillor for Sakubva, Mutare. Sakubva FGD transcript pg. 10).

However, according to Edmond Maturika (48), *“technological advancement has resulted in children especially teens to indulge in pre-marital sex exposing them to the risk of HIV and AIDS”* (Edmond Maturika lives in Sakubva, Mutare and survives on vending – Sakubva FGD transcript pg.11).

### **Involvement of poor and marginalised residents in local decision making processes**

During the field work, we gathered information about marginalized and poor residence’s participation in deciding on things that need to be done in their communities. In Bulawayo, the youth said that they are completely excluded from making decisions on what needs to be done while elderly men reported that at times they are consulted when there are council programs to be implemented. Respondent highlighted that they normally participate through residents meetings and council meetings although most of their contributions are not taken on board.

*“We participated when the city council was formulating its budget and when the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) wanted to take over administration of water from the city council we refused. Our voices are being heard”* (Evans Ndaba (31), Bulawayo resident. Married with 3 children, taking care of 1 orphan, a self employed carpenter – contribution during feedback meeting in Bulawayo).

If well coordinated, the views of marginalised and poor residents can be a strong voice to advocate for social change.

*“When community meetings are organized by ZANU-PF people I don’t go because I know their agenda. So our attendance to public meetings depends on which political party one belongs to. At time we miss important development information by not attending”* (Tashaya Mashayahanya (51), a resident of Mutare – Hellenic FGD transcript pg. 6).

Due to political polarization, residents seem to participate in community activities along political lines. Residents who do not support a political party calling for a certain meeting either shun the meeting or are elbowed out of important decisions.

*“One day we were invited to Chikanga Primary School to register for project start-up funds. I was told they would give us money regardless of the political party that I support. At first I was a bit sceptical about it until 3 neighbours convinced me; that’s when I decided to go to the meeting with them. Upon arrival I was surprised because after registering our details we were asked to chant ZANU-PF slogans. I left the meeting because I felt very uncomfortable chanting the slogan of a party that I don’t support”* (Rosemary Mutumwa (50), a resident of Chikanga, Mutare – Hellenic FGD transcript pg. 6).

In both Bulawayo and Mutare, it came out that at times residents are misinformed about decision making processes that they are participating in, especially by those who want to gain political mileage, and as a result many choose to exclude themselves from public gatherings.

A group of elderly men in Pelandaba, Bulawayo highlighted that although communities participate during formulation of city council budget, the consultations are just a formality – *“I feel like when we are consulted the authority normally would be having their decision”* (Danisa Nkumalo (45) – Bulawayo FDGs Transcripts pg. 37).

There is a general feeling that residents are not consulted when government formulates national policies which are supposed to benefit the poor. The elderly men interviewed in Pelandaba, Bulawayo claimed that politicians bring decisions to them without much consideration of the views of the poor. As a result, residents do not have knowledge on how they should or would benefit from some government policies.

### **Critical development issues that needs to be tackled**

Respondents were asked to identify positive changes that they expect in the next 15 to 20 years and critical development issues that must be tackled. From the field interviews residents expect improvements in the education and health sectors and well as the reconditioning of public infrastructure. They also believe that dealing with corruption, ensuring peace and security and creating employment opportunities would ensure sustainable human development.

#### ***Education and health***

Although there have been recorded improvements in the provision of education and health services residents in Mutare and Bulawayo believe there is still more to be done. Education is still very expensive and is increasingly becoming a privilege rather than being every child’s right. Exorbitant fees charged by some schools are not affordable to many poor parents, especially for the children with parents that do not have reliable sources of income. The youth in Bulawayo, recommended that government expand vocational training initiatives which can equip them with self sustenance skills.

The respondents identified unavailability of medication and limited trained professionals as major challenges that they face in government health institutions. Improvements in these two sectors would enable government to achieve its ‘education for all’ drive and promote a healthy nation respectively.

#### ***Maintenance of Public infrastructure***

The respondents believe that there is an urgent need to rehabilitate public infrastructure especially roads that have become a major killer in the country. From the interviews, we found that some service providers are shunning locations which have bad road networks.

*“sometimes ambulances fail to reach to emergency situations in time because of the poor state of the roads”* (Beauty Sagwidza (39) is a resident of Chikanga, Mutare – Hellenic FGD transcript pg. 8).

Because of the poor road system marginalized households fail to get timely services.

Respondents also suggested that Authorities build public libraries and recreational centres to keep children out of the streets.

### ***Employment opportunities***

Unemployment and the lack of employment opportunities came out heavily as a major livelihood challenge in Bulawayo and Mutare.

*“If I had a job, or access to funds to start up some projects, you would not find me on the streets. But because I don’t have any other options, I am forced into prostitution”* (Veronica Simende (38), a Commercial sex worker in Sakubva, Mutare – See Case Study 2).

Lack of employment opportunities have driven residents into risky and dangerous livelihood options such as prostitution, stealing and dealing in drugs.

The respondents felt that government should put in place economic recovery policies aimed at resuscitating the manufacturing industry which has collapsed. Also, poor and marginalized populations, especially the youth would gain from accessible start up funds for income generating projects.

### ***Corruption and transparency***

Although the socio-economic situation seems to have stabilized, corruption and lack of transparency in the distribution of national resources remains a deadly virus affecting the livelihoods of poor residents.

*“We only hear of the mining of Ngoda (Diamonds) in Marange but we have not seen the benefits. How is the mineral befitting us? Our roads are dilapidating, industry has collapsed and our children do not have jobs yet Mutare is just behind the diamond fields. Our children who recently finished school are just roaming around, and others are selling airtime on the streets. Is that what we want? Where is the diamond money going? To their personal accounts!”* (Mr. Mukono Chiwara (54), a resident of Chikanga, Mutare – see Transcript interview with Mr Chiwara p. 9).

A development framework premised on reducing corruption among national office bearers and ensuring that all residents benefit from national resources would ensure sustainable poverty reduction among marginalised communities. The country is rich in natural resources such as arable land and minerals, and according to Mr. Chiwara, if these are distributed transparently, everyone would benefit.

*“The government should put in a place a monitoring and audit system to assess how development funds given to the city council and to our Members of Parliament are used. At the moment public funds are used for private and projects which we are not aware of”* (Anna Munyama (42), a widow, educated up to grade seven, lives in Sakubva Mutare – captured during one-on-one interviews).

Government needs to put in place accountability systems to ensure that funds allocated for public use are not personalized.

### ***Peace and security***

Respondents in Bulawayo identified peace and security as import and development issues that need to be tackled. A group of single mothers in Lobengula West, and the youth in Emuganwini called for the setting up of police posts within the locations in order to reduce robberies and theft cases and to ensure that residents move around freely. Respondents in Mutare felt that unity, irrespective of which political party one subscribes to, is a precondition for sustainable poverty reduction.

*“The problem is in our communities we support different political parties and there is a lot of suspicion among us. So even if development projects are to come it is difficult to work together”* (Lewis Chizaka (70), Mutare residents – Hellenic FGD transcript pg. 7).

Re-mending the social fabric and de-politicising development interventions would enable residents to work together towards a common ‘poverty reduction’ cause.

### **MDGs Architecture and the post-2015 framework**

We gathered data about respondents’ knowledge of MDGs, their perceptions on the adequacy of livelihood issues covered within the MDGs framework, linkages between global development goals and the day-to-day livelihoods of the poor, and how the marginalized and poor think should inform world leaders on the choice of issues to focus on in the post-2015 development framework.

#### **Knowledge of MDGs and their adequacy**

Of the 62 respondents who completed individual questionnaires, 19.4% indicated that they have heard of the MDGs mostly through public media, like newspapers, radios and the television. There was a general agreement in both sites that the purpose of the MDGs is to improve the wellbeing of poor people.

Respondents applauded the extensive coverage of livelihood issues by the 8 MDGs but they felt that nothing much has been achieved within the Zimbabwean context.

*“Poverty has actually increased rather than being halved as the first MDG suggests. The MDGs has not provided any significant changes to our lives. These leaders are good at planning with no proper implementation”* (Mr. Manex Mauya (34), Former Ward Councillor for Sakubva, Mutare. Sakubva FGD transcript pg. 14).

Although issues covered by the MDGs seem to be adequate on paper, the government has not shown commitment to implementing activities to achieve the agreed targets.



*“I don’t see any link between the goals and our livelihoods. They don’t implement anything on the ground; they understate our problems and when they are given money from donors it never gets to us. They just want to amass wealth. Some of them are no longer able to turn their necks – they have gained weight because of funds that are supposed to come to us”* (Anna Munyama (42), a widow, educated up to grade seven, lives in Sakubva Mutare – captured during one-on-one interviews).

There is suspicion that a culture of corruption that has development within the government system has affected implementation of activities to achieve the MDGs.

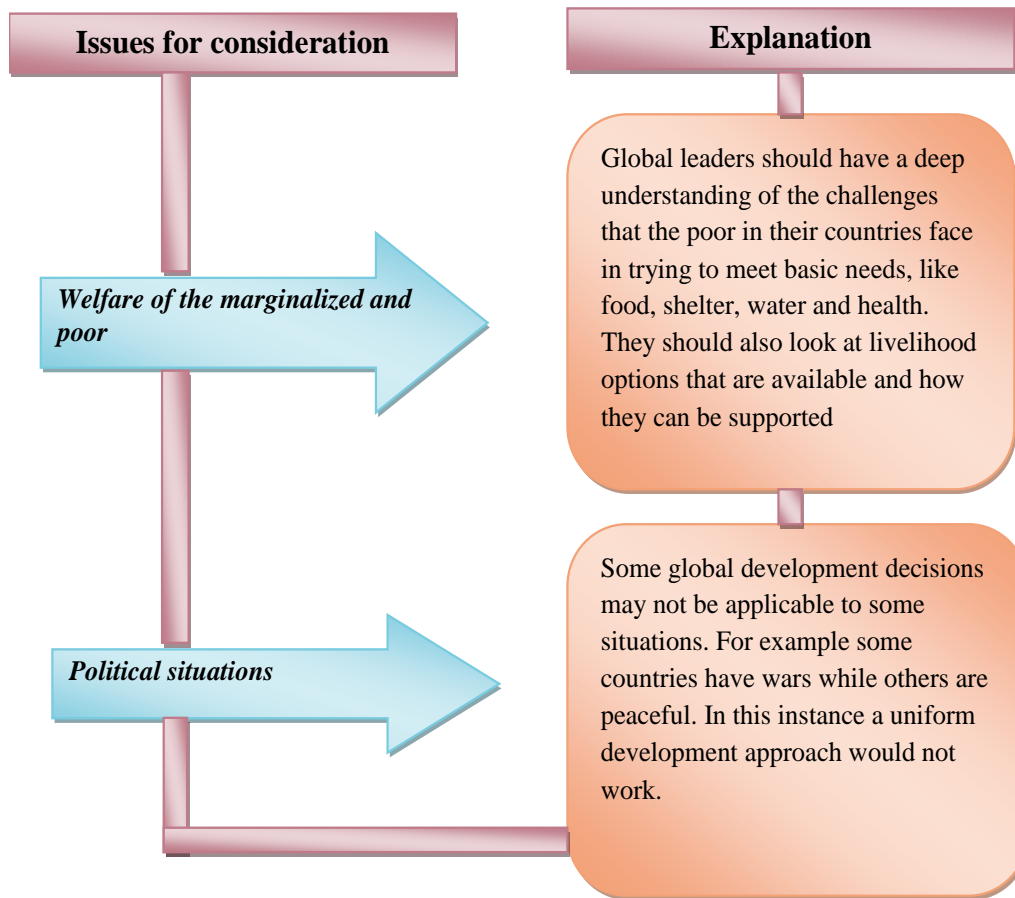
In both sites for example, PLWH acknowledged that the improved availability of ARVs is an important drive by the government to combat the HIV and AIDS disease. Also it came out clearly during FGDs with the youth and single mothers in Bulawayo that although child mortality has been reduced, and maternal health improved, the unavailability of medication is still a major challenge. Furthermore, the user fees being charged in public health institutions are still not affordable to the poor thereby forcing expecting mothers to seek traditional midwifery services, some of which are very risky. From the discussions, it emerged that there is need for government and other support partners to strengthen mechanisms geared towards achieving the MDGs.

*“Eradication of corruption was supposed to be put among the MDGs, with corruption we cannot develop. Poverty is increasing because of corruption”* (Bloodmore Chibuwe (35), Dangamvura, Mutare, married with 2 children, survives on piecemeal jobs – captured during one-on-one interviews).

Respondents felt that achieving the globally agreed development goals would only be possible with a clear mechanism that curbs corruption and enhance transparency in resource allocation.

**What world leaders should consider in the post-2015 development framework.**

**Figure 1** below shows two key issues that respondents suggested should inform world leaders on the choice of issues to focus on in the post-2015 development framework.



**Figure 3: Key considerations when making choices for new development framework**

From the interviews, residents want to be consulted and submit their contributions on global decisions that are meant to be for the majority.

*“We want a system similar to the one that was used during the COPAC outreach. We were able to input into the constitution making process”* (Joy Magada (52), a resident of Mutare, Hellenic FGD transcript pg. 13).

The Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC) was set up through Article IV of the Global Political Agreement to spearhead the Constitution making process through a people driven, inclusive and democratic process. The COPAC organized countrywide consultative meetings which enabled citizens to contribute towards the development of the country’s constitution.

### **Involvement of those living in poverty in monitoring the new development framework**

Interviews with residents in Bulawayo and Mutare confirmed that any meaningful intervention aimed at improving the livelihoods of the poor should involve the later as key partners in the planning process rather that as mere recipients of decisions conceived from above.

*“As residents we are not given the platform to air our views and no consultations are done on issues concerning development”* (Sekai Makaza (33) Single mother of 2. She is taking

care of her elderly grandmother who is 98 years old and lives in Sakubva, Mutare. Survives on piecemeal jobs – Sakubva FGD transcript pg. 14).

Without their involvement during formulation of development policies and programs, the residents interviewed highlighted that they don't feel obligated to monitor government policies which are 'alien' to them.

From the discussions we gathered evidence that people living in poverty have potential to inform global decisions and to ensure development agendas are successful. Regular residents meetings that are organized by residents associations in the two cities provide a platform for residents living in poverty to give feedback and constructive feedback on poverty reduction decisions that affect them.

## 4.0 KEY CONCLUSIONS

The key conclusions drawn from this research project are;

- The socio-economic environment for Zimbabwe has presented a major challenge for people living in poverty to meet their basic needs including food, decent accommodation, education and health care. Because of limited livelihood options poor households are forced to scavenge for a living through illegal and risky means such as illegal dealings in diamonds, stealing and prostitution. Others are involved in piecemeal and own account jobs which provide unreliable sources of income. A development framework that increases employment opportunities among vulnerable and poor residents would expand their income base and enable them to meet basic livelihood needs.
- Transparency, peace and security are pre-conditions for sustainable human development. A post-2015 development framework anchored on solid mechanisms to reduce corruption, improve equity in the distribution of national resources and ensure peace and security would emancipate marginalized communities from the bondage of poverty.
- People living in poverty are marginalized from decision making processes on development issues that affect them. A new development framework should not just regard poor people as dormant repositories of decisions from above, but involve them as active partners who should be engaged from the beginning.
- People living in poverty demand for regular interaction with policy makers so that they can contribute to decision making processes, and to ensure they benefit from decisions made at the global level.
- The need for further research derives directly from our limited focus to two urban centers. There is great need to explore the relevance of our findings to other urban settings and within the rural context as well.

## 5.0 APPENDICES

### CASE STUDY 1:

#### Living Positive-Hoping Positive: The Tale of an HIV+ mother

*Kana ukandiona ndichifamba, ungandifungira kuti ndine HIV here? Hurumende yakaita zvakanaka yakati ma ARV awanikwe nemunhu wese. HIV haichaurayi.* If you see me walking, would you think I am HIV positive? Thanks to the government for making ARVs accessible to everyone. HIV is no longer a killer.

**NAME:** Shirley Buzuzu

**AGE:** 56 years

**Place of Residents:** Sakubva Mutare

**Highest level of education:** Ordinary Level

Losing a husband who fathered her 5 children and a bread winner of the family came as a metal blow to Ms. Shirley Buzuzu (56). In 1992, she was diagnosed HIV positive, a condition that was very difficult to accept, and which added spicing to her already afflicted social life. In addition, Ms. Buzuzu is taking care of her 79 years old mother who suffers from hypertension and has eye problems as well as her late brother's son (23) who is HIV+ as well.



Ms. Shirley Buzuzu discussing her plight with PRFT Research Assistant, Mr. David Mutambirwa

*Zvakaoma asi ndirikuzama. Ndakakwanisa kudzidzisa vana vangu nemari yekusona uye kutenga nekutengesa. Izvozvi ndasara nevaviri vari kuenda ku Secondary School. It's difficult but I am managing. I managed to raise money for my children's schooling through sewing garments and informal trading. Now I am left with two who are in Secondary School.* Although she lost a breadwinner, Ms. Buzuzu did not despair; she remained positive and focused towards providing for her family. Since the death of her husband in 1992 informal income generating activities have played a key role as an anchor to her family's wellbeing. Although her other three children have finished their 'Ordinary Level' studies, the macro-economic environment has not been sensitive to their plight, and as a result they cannot find formal employment.

*Kwaive ne stigma ne discrimination kare, asi mazuvano zvave nani. Ruzivo rwave muvanhu kuti kuve nechirwere hakusi kufa. Uye mishonga ye ma ARV yavekuwanikwa.* We used to be stigmatised and discriminated before but now we are being accepted. People are now aware that having HIV does not mean death. Also ARVs are now available and accessible to many. According to Ms. Buzuzu, behaviour change and HIV awareness programs rolled out by the government and NGOs over the last two decades have helped to

improve the situation of people living with HIV and AIDS. However, she believes that beyond accessing ARVs and benefiting from behaviour change programs efforts should be made to spearhead interventions that strengthen her livelihood as well.

***Tiri kumhanyiswa kana kurohwa nemapurisa mwatinotengesera; dzimwe nguva tinotorerwa zvinhu zvedu. Hameno kuti vanoda kuti tirarame sei iko kusina mabasa acho.*** We are always chased away and at times beaten by the police when selling our products. At times our wares are seized. I don't know how they expect us to survive when there are no employment opportunities. Besides the challenges that Ms. Buzuzu face while trying to make ends meet, she also has needs requirements as an HIV patient. ***Tinofanira kuwana kudya kwakakwana mazuva ese asi handisi kuzvikwanisa nekuda kwekushaya mari.*** I must take a balance diet every day, but I am compromising my health because I can't afford. Ms. Buzuzu says the profits that she gets are hardly enough to buy food, pay for her children's fees and monthly utility bills. The family house that they live in is crowded and is not suitable for her condition.

Ms. Buzuzu recommends increased support on livelihood interventions among HIV and AIDS affected individuals or households as a way of promoting their self-sustenance.

## CASE STUDY 2:

### SURVIVING ON COMMERCIAL SEX WORK: *DRIVERS and RISKS*

*Chipfambi hachiiti; chakaitwa kare kusati kwave nezvirwere. Vamwe vakatovaka dzimba nekuda kwechipfambi. Asi ne HIV yakauya iyi chavekuuraya. Ini ndirikungochiita nekuti handina chimwe chinondiraramisa. Sex work is risky; it used to be a rewarding venture during yesteryears when some of our grand mothers were able to build houses from prostitution. With the advent of HIV you don't live long. I have been forced into prostitution because I don't have any other livelihood options (Veronica Simende).*

**Name:** Veronica Simende

**AGE:** 38 years

**Place of Residents:** Sakubva Mutare

**Highest level of education:** Ordinary Level

Veronica Simende (38), a single mother of two, rents a single room in the Sakubva high density suburb of Mutare and survives on commercial sex work. The reminiscence of breaking her marriage in 2003 mounds piles of unforgivable regrets as she has now been driven into commercial sex work; a livelihood option that is morally unacceptable, culturally unethical and socially risky.



After divorcing her husband of eleven years, Veronica decided to move out with her two children (one girl now 20 years old and a boy now 10 years old) and rented a room which she is currently paying US\$65 per month. Veronica did not do well in her 'Ordinary Levels' and finding a formal job had been a nightmare. Her divorce coincided with the period when Zimbabwe's economy was on a free fall with companies closing off; even qualified professionals lost their jobs and masses crossed borders to seek greener pastures in neighboring countries like South Africa and Botswana. After failing to make a living through piecemeal jobs, and faced with challenges of raising her two children, Veronica decided to venture into commercial sex work.

*Ndinokwanisa kuwana mari inosvika US\$40 pazuva kana ndarara nemurume usiku whose kana \$5 pa short-time. Kana zvakadzvanya ndinotadza kana kubata ma clients ndobva kubhawa ndisina kana cent. Mari yandinowana ndiyo yandinoshandisa kutenga chikafu, kubhadhara rent nekuendesa mwana wangu kuchikoro. I can get up to US\$40 if I sleep with a man for the whole night or \$5 for one session. At times I don't get clients and I live the beerhall without even a cent. I use the money that I get to buy food, pay for my rentals and sending my youngest child to school. Veronica's son is attending Grade 2 at a local Primary School and the 20 year old daughter is now working as a housemaid in Harare.*

***Handitombodi vana vangu kuti vazive kuti ndiri pfambi. Chipfambi hachina hunhu, chine njodzi dzakawandisa uye chinouraya. I don't want my children to know that I am a prostitute. Prostitution is inhuman, very risky and you can even die.*** According to Veronica, she doesn't want her relatives to know that she is a commercial sex worker (not even her children) because she fears she would be regarded as a family outcast and a social misfit. Although she has participated in many HIV & AIDS awareness programs, and has all the way been taking precautionary measures, Veronica fears that she might eventually get the HIV/AIDS infection and this would further ensnare her family in the vicious circle of poverty.

***Nditori nechishuwo chekuti ndiwane murume wandinogara naye anondiroora. Asi kana muchizviona munofunga kuti pane angada kugara neni achindiona ndiri pa street here? I wish I have found someone who would marry me. But as you see it, do you think any man would want to live with me when I am always on the streets?*** Because of poverty and the lack of alternative livelihood options, Veronica is sacrificing a descent social life and rather pushed into 'a life-threatening' and dangerous survival mechanism.

***Dai kwaive nemukana wekuti ndiwane basa, kana mari yekutanga ma projects, handaimbopinda mu street. Asi nekuda kwekushaya ndinotomanikidzwa kuti ndiite chipfambi. If I had the opportunity to get a job, or access to funds to start up some projects, you would not find me on the streets. But because I don't have any other options, I am forced into prostitution.*** Veronica blames the closure of industries, and the lack of employment opportunities for the unfortunate situation that she has plunged herself into. She believes that government driven employment creation and income generating interventions can help fish out commercial sex workers from the risky business of prostitution.



### CASE STUDY 3:

#### The life of an HIV positive and single parent

*Abantu kumele bazwisise ukuthi ukuba lomkhuhlane asikuphela kwemplilo. Umkami engitshiya labantwana ngabalestress ngalala phansi kodwa ngibonga uhulumende ngokutholakala kwamaARVs. People should know that being HIV positive does not mean the end of everything. When my husband divorced me I was stressed and thought my life was doomed and thanks to the government for making ARVs accessible.*

**NAME:** Patricia Mpofu Ncube

**AGE:** 52 years

**Place of Residents:** Pelandaba, Bulawayo

**Highest level of education:** Ordinary Level

**Marital Status:** Divorcee

Divorcing a man, friend and husband who fathered her 4 boys and a bread winner of the family disturbed Patricia Mpofu Ncube (52). Mrs. Ncube was married at the age of 21 and her husband got arrested when she was 32 and by that time she was pregnant. He was arrested for nine years. In those 9 years Patricia was a tailor and she was selling those clothes in South Africa and she went to Botswana as a nursery teacher unfortunately in 2002 her employer passed on and she was forced to come back to Zimbabwe. Her husband got out of prison in 2003 and he was unemployed, Patricia was the breadwinner by that time. Everything was good until 2006 when she was tested HIV positive and he was employed at Blanket Mine in Gwanda. In addition Patricia is taking care of her mother who is blind, her grandchildren and her last son.



**Figure 4: Patricia Discussing her situation with PRFT field Assistant in Bulawayo**

*Kunnzima loba nje ngizamazama. Ngakwanisa ukufundisa abantwabami loba nje ilast born engathathanga amaresults eO'level ngokusweleka kwemali. ngiyathunga amaAfrican Attire ngithengisa kodwa angisa boni kuhle. kwesinye isikhathi ngiyayenza amapiece jobs. u Secondary School. It's difficult but I managed to raise money for my children's schooling through sewing garments and informal trading. Now I am left with one who is in Secondary School, he didn't manage to collect his results because I failed to pay his school fees. Although she lost a breadwinner to another wife Mrs Ncube did not lose hope she remained positive and courage in providing better future for her family. Although her other three children have finished their 'Ordinary Level' studies, the unstable economic environment has not find formal employment.*

***Umkami wayehlala engithethisa ethi ngile AIDS njalo kwakuthi nxa singahlangana anginathise amanye amaphilizi. Kwathi esesebenza eBlanket Mine wathi mina ngiye hlala koBulawayo yena ufuna ispace sakhe. Umkami wayelabanye abantwana ngaphandle komtshado njalo wayelomntwana lomnawami. Ngemva kokuthi sengimtshele isimo sami waqala ukungibandlulula. My husband used to insult me saying I'm HIV positive and every time we have sexual intercourse he used to give me some pills (cotrimoxilin). When he moved to Blanket Mine we all moved to Gwanda and after some time he said I should go back to Bulawayo he needs his space. My husband had some children outside the wedlock and got a child with my young sister. After telling him my HIV status I was stigmatised and discriminated. Mrs. Ncube has become strong and courage after being stigmatised by the person she loved and cared for and been faithful to him even when he was in prison. She believes that the support that she had been receiving from support groups have kept her going and the accessibility of ARV and HIV/AIDS medication have helped her a lot. The fact that people living with HIV/AIDS are now considered nationwide and that encourage them in planning for the future.***

***Sahamba eMguza lapho esasilomuzi khona lapho angitshela ukuthi kungcono sehlukane, ngagula ngaze ngabajwa umkhuhlane weTB. Kwathatha 2years ukuthi ngiyamukele umumo ukwehlukana laye. We went tour rural homestead at Emguza where he told me that he have decided to divorce me ,was stressed and end up suffering from TB. It took me 2years to admit that we divorced. Life has not been the same since she divorced, being the one responsible for the family alone. Now her future wasn't that bright but because of support groups everything has become normal. People living with HIV have support groups where they meet once a month and produce some products like peanut butter, dried vegetables to sell for living.***

Patricia encouraged people living with HIV/AIDS that they should accept their situation and living with HIV doesn't mean the end of the road and it's better to know your status because you will be able to decide how to live. She also encouraged people living with HIV to exercise and thanks to support group (Victory), they have encouraged me to live positive and to regain focus and hope about future.

## QUESTIONNAIRE USED DURING THE STUDY

### QUESTIONNAIRE

*The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather high quality evidence on the realities of poverty in Zimbabwe, and to gather the perspective of the Zimbabwean poor population into the Post 2015 MDGs discourse.*

#### **SECTION A: RESPONDENT CONTACT AND DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS**

*(Contact details will only be used to follow-up on FGD and sense making workshop)*

1. Name of Respondent: .....

2. Contact details:

Physical Address	Phone:	Email:
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3. Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

4. Age group (yrs):

Less than 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	20-29	<input type="checkbox"/>	30-39	<input type="checkbox"/>
40-49	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-59	<input type="checkbox"/>	60+	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Highest level of Education: Never been to school ☐ Primary ☐  
Secondary ☐  
Tertiary (Specify).....

6. Other People living in the household

Age group (yrs)	Number of people	
	Female	Male
0 - 9		
10 - 19		
20 - 29		
30-39		
40-49		
50-59		
60+		

7. Marital status of respondent: Never married ☐ Married ☐  
Divorced/separated ☐ Widowed ☐

8. How long have you lived in this location?: < 1 yr ☐ 1 - 4 yrs ☐  
5 - 9 yrs ☐ 10 - 14 yrs ☐ 15 - 19 yrs ☐ 20+ yrs ☐

## SECTION B: EXPERIENCES OF CHANGE

### 9. What are the basic needs for your family?

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| (i).....   | (v).....    |
| (ii).....  | (vi).....   |
| (iii)..... | (vii).....  |
| (iv).....  | (viii)..... |

### 10. What are the major sources of livelihood for the family?

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| (i).....   | (v).....    |
| (ii).....  | (vi).....   |
| (iii)..... | (vii).....  |
| (iv).....  | (viii)..... |

### 11. What POSITIVE changes have happened in this location over the last 15-20 years to support your livelihood options and who was responsible

Recorded changes	Who was responsible
(i).....	.....
(ii).....	.....
(iii).....	.....
(iv).....	.....
(v).....	.....

### 12. What NEGATIVE changes have happened in this location over the last 15-20 years and who was responsible

Recorded changes	Who was responsible
(i).....	.....
(ii).....	.....
(iii).....	.....
(iv).....	.....
(v).....	.....

### 13. Who has played a role in bringing about the changes? How?

.....

.....

.....

.....

**14. How are you, and other residents involved in deciding on things that need to be done in the community?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**15(a). Describe one significant positive change that happened in your life/community in the past 15 years?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**15(b). What were the major factors that allowed this change to happen?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**SECTION C: DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY**

**16(a). What would you expect to be put in place, and by who to ensure you live well as a family/community?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**11(a). Would you say this community is characterized by poor or well off families?**

Poor families: ☐ Well off families: ☐ Don't know: ☐

**17(b). Give reasons to support your selection**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**18(a). Are there households in your community who managed to move out of poverty? How have they achieved it?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**18(b). What are the indicators of that movement?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**18(c). What contributed to the change in their circumstances?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**19(a). What key things have you aspired to achieve but failed to over the last 15 years?**

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| (i).....   | (v).....    |
| (ii).....  | (vi).....   |
| (iii)..... | (vii).....  |
| (iv).....  | (viii)..... |

**19(b). What have been the major obstacles to achieve what you aspired to?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**20. In your opinion, what positive changes would you like to see in your community in the next 20 years?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**21. What livelihood/development issues should be tackled in order to attain your envisioned community/world?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**SECTION D: MDGS AND ARCHITECTURE AND RATIONALE OF THE NEW FRAMEWORK**

**22(a). Have you ever heard of the MDGs? Yes:**

☐

**No:**

☐

**22(b). In your opinion what was their purpose?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**22(c). What significant contribution have the MDGs made to issues affecting your household/community/town?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**23. Are you aware of the current negotiations of a new set of goals to drive development policies of all countries after the 2015?? Yes:**

☐

**No:**

☐

**24(a). These were the 9 MDGs looked at in the last 15 years:**

*Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*

*Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education*

*Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*

*Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality*

*Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health*

*Goal 6: Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases*

*Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability*

*Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development*

**In your view, did they cover all the important issues? Yes:**

**No:**

☐

**24(b). What other issues should have been included?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**25. What should inform world leaders on the choice of areas to focus on for the next 20years?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**26.What do you see as the link between what world leaders decide and your everyday life needs?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**27. What environmental issues have affected your live and community over the last 10/15 yrs and how?**

Environmental factor	How it affected
(i).....	.....
(ii).....	.....
(iii).....	.....
(iv).....	.....
(v).....	.....

**SECTION E: INVOLVEMENT OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN MONITORING THE NEW FRAMEWORK**

**28. How can you or other people living in this community contribute to monitor and evaluate the progress of the new post-2015 framework at local, national, regional and international level?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

*Thank you.....*



Please compile the form below and send it with the report

Number of staff involved in the research project: 3

Names of all staff involved in the research project (if the three categories do not fit your team, please add some notes explaining your team composition)

**Research coordinator/s**

	Name	Surname	M/F	Age	Email Address
1	Judith	Kaulem	F		<a href="mailto:judith@prftzim.org">judith@prftzim.org</a>
2					
3					

Add rows as needed

**Researcher/s**

	Name	Surname	M/F	Age	Email Address
1	Denboy	Kudejira	M	34	<a href="mailto:Denboy@prftzim.org">Denboy@prftzim.org</a>
2					
3					

Add rows as needed

**Research assistant/s<sup>6</sup>**

	Name	Surname	M/F	Age	Email Address
1	Yvonne	Nyanzira	F	27	<a href="mailto:Yvonne@prftzim.org">Yvonne@prftzim.org</a>
2	Doreen	Kanye	F	24	<a href="mailto:dorreenkanye@gmail.com">dorreenkanye@gmail.com</a>
3	David	Mutambirwa	M	45	

Add rows as needed

Number of languages (used in the research):

3

Languages (list all of them):

Shona, Ndebele and English

Estimated total number of research participants:

177

List the 'groups' of people involved in the research (e.g. Farmers, children, People with disabilities, victims of war, fishermen, orphans, internally displaced people, etc.):

Youth

People Living with HIV and AIDS

Single mothers

Married elderly women

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<sup>6</sup> Doreen Kanye and David Mutambirwa were engaged as Research Assistants and they came from Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association and Mutare Residents and Ratepayers Association respectively.

## **Elderly men**

**Number of communities/villages involved:**

**Mutare (Sakubva, Chikanga and Dangamvura)**

**Bulawayo (Pelandaba, Lobengula, Pumula, Emganwini)**

**Number of research sessions** (focus groups, workshops, validation sessions):

**10 Focus groups and one validation session**

**Number of meetings about the research** (include an estimate of all the meetings involving 3 or more people about the research, this can be internal staff meetings, meetings with local authorities, evaluation, assessment, and logistical meetings):

**3 internal meetings – with 5 people each**

**2 Meetings with Field Assistants in Bulawayo and Mutare**

**2 assessment meetings in Mutare with Andrea**

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