

# **The Zimbabwe CSO Reference Group On SDGs**



**We Support the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Tracking Progress Together: CSOs Submissions into the SDGs National Progress  
Report**

**December 2019**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ART</b>	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
<b>AMTOs</b>	Assisted Medical Treatment Orders
<b>BEAM</b>	Basic Education Assistance Module
<b>CGD</b>	Citizen-generated data
<b>CM</b>	Child Marriages
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DPOs</b>	Delegated Proof of Stake
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HR</b>	Human Rights
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights Based Approach
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One behind
<b>NASCOH</b>	National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped
<b>NPRC</b>	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
<b>NSS</b>	National Statistical System
<b>OPAs</b>	Old Persons' Associations
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>PPPs</b>	Private Public Partnerships
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with disabilities
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UEP</b>	Unplanned and Unintended Pregnancies
<b>UNCRPD</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>ZAAC</b>	Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>ZHRC</b>	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
<b>ZIMSTAT</b>	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

## INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become an important reference point for policy-making in many countries around the globe. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its call to 'leave no one behind' are creating an unprecedented demand for timely data in a broad range of policy fields. Effective follow-up and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda require quality data and statistics that best capture countries' priorities at the national and sub-national levels and across different sectors. Through its adoption, the international community has agreed on a catalogue of ambitious universal and time-bound goals that cover the Social, Economic and Environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda provides us with a global follow-up mechanism with countries reporting on voluntary basis on their implementation efforts. Measuring and reviewing progress in implementing the sustainable development is more important than ever.

In order to be effective, sustainable and inclusive, reporting should be based on transparent and institutionalized national review mechanisms. While national governments are primarily responsible for its review and implementation, the 2030 Agenda also follows a multi-stakeholder and participatory approach. In addition to engaging key stakeholder groups, the core principles of the 2030 Agenda place individual citizens at the center of the Agenda, not only as beneficiaries of sustainable development outcomes, but also as contributors to achieving the SDGs. Combined efforts of all segments of society at national and local levels have to be mobilized in order to achieve the envisioned transformational change. It is against this background that Civil Society Organizations under the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on SDGs<sup>1</sup> contend that the realization of the SDGs came together on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 to generate views from their multi-sectoral representation on the status of the SDGs implementation in the country in order to generate data that would feed into the country's SDGs Progress Report.

The government of Zimbabwe presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High Level Political Forum in 2017 and has registered to present the second VNR in 2020. However, four years into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation, the government is in the process of developing the country's first SDGs Progress Report. The transformative nature of the SDGs is one that cannot be achieved by the government alone, as CSOs fulfill the following roles among others:

- The Civil society has the important role of agenda-setting advocacy to drive awareness, interest and political will
- Civil society can catalyze action at every level through filling the information gaps
- Civil society has a broader vision on partnership that recognizes the centrality of the role of multi-stakeholders.

However, among the challenges that continue to hamper CSOs effective contribution is that government does not recognize citizens generated data since it is not categorized as 'official data' and is viewed as not meeting the ZimStat data quality control requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> The Zim CSOs Reference Group on SDGs under the coordination of the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust was officially launched on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It is currently made up of the following CSOs Thematic Representative organizations: National Council for Disabled People in Zimbabwe, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe, National Council for the Welfare of Children, National Association of Youth Organizations, SAYWHAT, HelpAge Zimbabwe, Media Institute for Southern Africa, CARITAS Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

## **SDGS DATA ECOSYSTEM AND QUALITY CONTROL FRAMEWORK**

The emergence of a data ecosystem entails a transformation of the data landscape. The appearance of new data sources due to the expansion of information technologies, and a growing number of people connected to information systems are transforming the way data has been traditionally produced, disseminated and used. While ZimStat as a semi-autonomous agency under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is mandated to:

- Collect, produce and disseminate official statistics,
- Coordinate and supervise the National Statistical System (NSS) and its activities are regulated by the Census and Statistics Act of 2007 and regionally by the African Charter on Statistics; the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on SDGs believes that the data ecosystem brings new opportunities for traditional data actors, as they can leverage available data and knowledge from other actors to improve their own processes for obtaining, processing, analyzing and disseminating data.

The CSOs acknowledge the role of the ZimStat as the agency mandated to track the SDGs progress and monitors its implementation in the national development plans/frameworks. CSOs also acknowledge the emphasis ZimStat puts CSOs generated data to meet such requirements as Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness, Accessibility, Interpretability, Comparability, Coherence, and Integrity for it to be acceptable in official reports. By their very nature, most CSOs do not have capacity to generate data that has national coverage due to a number of challenges, mostly financial and human resources. In addition, most of the data generated by CSOs is qualitative in nature and not quantitative like that generated by ZimStat. The missing link with the quantitative data generated by the ZimStat is that it does not explain the figures. The qualitative data generated by the CSOs thus has the value addition of telling the story behind the figures. On the basis of this synergy, the following recommendations were made to ZimStat:

- (i) CSOs recommend for increased and strong collaboration between the ZimStat and CSOs as Citizen-generated data ( CGD) can complement granularity by providing data that are difficult to capture by official data procedures(e.g. the qualitative aspects of the data) .
- (ii) ZimStat is requested to provide technical and capacity building to CSOs in the quality control frameworks.
- (iii) The ZimStat website has to be accessible as it was noted that accessing it was a huge challenge.
- (iv) While acknowledging the Institutional Framework that the government has put in place comprised of the Steering Committee which provide for overall guidance and strategic leadership and the Technical committee which spearheads the technical process as well as providing technical backstopping, CSOs recommend that these structures be opened up to other stakeholders outside government including CSOs and the Private Sector.
- (v) ZimStat acknowledges that, they do not have disability data and the 2012 population census did not capture it and they are working on it through the 2020 Labour Survey and the 2022 Population Census. Zimstat will include questionnaires on the Washington Group of Questions on Disability. Financial constraints have been limiting ZimStat to produce provincial based data instead of ward level based to provincial. This brought scrutiny over some of Zimstat's statistics such as the claim that the disability prevalence rate is 9.3% in Zimbabwe. It is therefore recommended that ZimStat also seeks collaboration with CSOs in the Disability sector in the production and dissemination of accurate data on disability.

- (vi) There is need to critically identify the technical and soft skills that need to be developed or strengthened in order to facilitate collaboration between official data providers and new actors in the extended data ecosystem.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO SDGS**

The SDGs are a rights based agenda because:

- They are steeped into Human Rights Principles
- They are people-centered
- They are universal
- They are indivisible
- They call for equality (Goal 5 and 10) and non-discrimination- Focus on LNOB, eliminating discrimination and reducing inequalities, disaggregation of data
- They are participatory, call for accountability and consultative processes that have the potential to open space for usually marginalized groups.
- Accountability of States to their people, thus conducting national ownership.

The Agenda 2030 thus commits governments to establish a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework. Reviews take place at the national, regional and global levels and these processes should build on each other. The core principles of the SDGs are: national ownership, Leave No One Behind, integrated agenda and indivisibility and HRBA. Therefore in producing the Zimbabwe SDGs progress report, effort should be made to ensure that it conforms to the Human Rights Based Approach principles to Data which include:

- Participation- through public meetings, online consultation, ensure the views of the vulnerable are represented
- Data segregation- it should be in line with Human Rights standards which call for disaggregation through sex, age, ethnicity or displacement etc.
- Transparency
- Privacy- confidentiality is key
- Accountability

### **CSOs Observations and Recommendations:**

- i. CSOs observe that the continued deterioration of the quality and access to social services WASH is an affront to citizens' Human Rights especially women, children and PWDs. The government should take all measures necessary to improve access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities and ensure their sustainability, availability, sufficiency and affordability to all, in particular children;
- ii. The government still lags behind in terms of bringing together relevant data stakeholders and develop communities of practice to improve the quality, relevance and use of data and statistics; as well as integrating recommendations from HR mechanisms
- iii. The LNOB core principle that involves broad participation, is gender sensitive, open & transparent; fosters generation & use of quality data that accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated e.g. by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location is still lacking. The analysis policies, laws and strategies for inclusiveness and impacts on different groups is not from a Human Rights lens.
- iv. In order to facilitate the LNOB government should consider use of a variety of mechanisms e.g. Online consultations; Public meetings/Community visits, Public

submissions processes; including relevant CSOs in structures convened by the data collector i.e. ZimStat and entering into formal MoUs with CSOs to facilitate info sharing & collaborative work.

## INCLUSION IN THE SDGS: UNPACKING THE LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND ETHOS

In order for the SDGs progress report to 'leave no one' behind, it should demonstrate that:

- Gender equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination and violence should be at the core of every effort when implementing Agenda 2030.
- Government facilitates transparent access to information, space for active participation and connection to government staff in charge of SDG implementation and review processes through accessible and public information, data, timelines, and responsive communication with government focal points, including through technology.
- Inclusion should pay special attention, but not be limited to, diversity in age, sex, gender, ethnicity, race, local communities, indigenous peoples, religion, disability, immigration status, geographic location, and other relevant characteristics, and to the participation of grassroots organizations and those not based in capitals, in order to leave no one behind.
- The government must invest in building and adapting the institutional capacities required for Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) systematically, not just during the years they will be reporting.
- In spite of the frequent use and reference to the Leave No One Behind principle, focused efforts to leave no one behind remain insufficient, in terms of policy design, implementation and review. The inequality gap for access to the broadband has left people especially in rural communities out of employment opportunities in cases where applications are to be done online e.g. application to nursing schools.
- The government's inability to provide universal health coverage has a domino effect on educational targets and the situation is worsening.

## SECTOR SITUATIONAL PROGRESS ANALYSIS ON SDGs

### i.) Women Sector

Questions	Answers
1. Which SDGs are you working on	Goal 1, on ending hunger
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The appointment of women into key decision-making positions, (Zimbabwe Election Commission, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, Auditor General)</li> <li>➤ Appointment of female Ministers (Ministry of Defense &amp; War Veterans, Ministry of Public Services, Labour &amp; Social Welfare now moved to Ministry of Industry &amp; Commerce, Ministry of Information, Publicity &amp; Broadcasting Services) Deputy Ministers 3/13 and 5/10 Ministers of State for Provincial Affairs.</li> <li>➤ Establishment of a Women's bank</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	➤ Women with disabilities especially

	<p>those with hearing and speech impairments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rural women</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Communication barriers and accessibility of since some of them are located in remote areas.</li> <li>➤ People have no knowledge on the use of sign language</li> <li>➤ Geographic marginalization.</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Churches – providing care and support</li> <li>➤ Philanthropists and Individual entities like Strive Masiwa have been providing loans to fund small start ups</li> <li>➤ NGOs</li> </ul>
6. What are your recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increase the number of women in decision-making positions.</li> <li>➤ Increase access to land and property by women.</li> <li>➤ Increase capacity building and empowerment for women especially in rural areas.</li> <li>➤ Invest in assistive devices for PWD</li> <li>➤ Increased access to skills training platform by women with disabilities</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of access to supportive resources (credit, land, property ownership).</li> <li>➤ Disproportionate female representation in decision-making positions.</li> <li>➤ Dissonance between Patriarch and progressive laws, ( e.g. marriage laws, child marriage)</li> <li>➤ Deterioration in the quality and access to social services WASH perpetuates women's marginalization and disempowerment and an affront to their Human Rights.</li> <li>➤ The deteriorating economic situation perpetuating gender-based violence on women.</li> </ul>
8. Opportunities exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The re-alignment of laws to the constitution.</li> <li>➤ The Devolution exercise presents opportunities to allocate local resources in a manner that can benefit women.</li> </ul>
9. How SDGs agenda can be institutionalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Forming SDGs chapters in communities that help in educating women</li> </ul>
10. Other recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ More focus should be put on rural women</li> </ul>

	➤ There is need of a grass root approach in policy implementation
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## ii.) The Church Sector

Question	Answer
1. Which SDGs are you working on	Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 ,9, 11, 16
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The churches have established tool in fighting for social and economic justice</li> <li>➤ They have built educational facilities for the vulnerable communities e.g. in Kapota</li> <li>➤ They have established schools and hospitals</li> <li>➤ Empowering communities</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Although the work of the church cuts across different thematic areas and contexts, it strongly believes that persons facing socio-economic injustices such as the deaf, blind and disabled are largely left behind</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of political willingness to invest in the marginalized groups</li> <li>➤ General view that it is expensive to cater for the needs of marginalized groups especially PWDs.</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The churches are spread all over the countries</li> <li>➤ The churches were the first to respond to the cyclone Idai disaster</li> <li>➤ They bring the communities together</li> <li>➤ CARITAS, Christian Care assist the vulnerable communities</li> </ul>
6. What are your recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CSO and the government should work with the church as a partner, which complements the work being done on SDGs</li> <li>➤ The church will remain a united force in Zimbabwe</li> <li>➤ They should be allowed by the government to be the voice of the voiceless, instead of labelling them as politicians</li> <li>➤ The government should engage with the church, because since time immemorial, the church has been working in empowering people</li> <li>➤ The church will continue to mainstream various issues in societies</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The need for decentralization of workshops in rural communities, because they are the beneficiaries</li> <li>➤ The need for political will to separate national politics and party politics</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Policy inconsistency</li> <li>➤ Fragmentation and polarization along political, tribal and gender lines</li> <li>➤ High levels of corruption in the public and private sector</li> <li>➤ Lack of political will to prioritize national issues</li> </ul>
8. Opportunities exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Human resource</li> <li>➤ Highly skilled people</li> <li>➤ Communities should be given the opportunities</li> <li>➤ National convergence or collaboration in times of disaster</li> <li>➤ Opportunity for engagement at all levels to deal with issues of segregation</li> <li>➤ Take advantage of lessons learnt</li> <li>➤ Take advantage of local existing structures</li> </ul>
9. Institutionalization of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Policy consistency in implementation of development policies</li> <li>➤ Community ownership or buy-in of SDGs</li> <li>➤ De-politicize development</li> </ul>

### iii.) Children sector

Questions	Answers
1. Which SDGs are you working on	Organizations working on children's rights are focusing on the implementation and monitoring of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5 and 16
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The review of the School Health Policy</li> <li>➤ The review of the National Health Strategic Plan- which calls for the elimination of mother to child HIV transmission</li> <li>➤ The National Adolescent Strategy Policy adopted</li> <li>➤ The adoption of the National Action Plan for OVC- which looks at health and protection</li> <li>➤ The review of the Education Bill which eliminates corporal punishment and gives second chance education to girls</li> <li>➤ Revival of the BEAM Program</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The enactment of the Non-formal education policy</li> <li>➤ Introduction of the guidance and counselling curriculum</li> <li>➤ Revival of the Child Protection Committees</li> <li>➤ The Junior Councilors have been extended to other districts</li> <li>➤ Provision of sanitary wear for girls has highlighted in the 2020 budget</li> <li>➤ Private sector partnership</li> <li>➤ The marriage bill outlaws child marriages</li> <li>➤ Establishment of the Gender Commission</li> <li>➤ Review of the Gender National Policy</li> <li>➤ The constitution has the provision of the bill of rights for children</li> <li>➤ Case management system</li> <li>➤ Revision of the Children Act and Labour Act</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children with disability</li> <li>➤ Children in remote areas and resettlement</li> <li>➤ Children on the streets</li> <li>➤ Children on ART</li> <li>➤ Children caught in sexual exploitation</li> <li>➤ Child-headed households</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children on ART, the user fee has not been scrapped off</li> <li>➤ Lack of policy that targets children in the streets</li> <li>➤ The sector believes children with disability are left behind because they are not able to get information due to communication barriers. The information that is shared is not in accessible formats – not available. This limits their participation in health, education issues.</li> <li>➤ Children in hard to reach places/ remotes areas such as resettlement areas, mining communities. They lack access to services such as health and education and in-cases where they do, the quality is compromised due to distances travelled to access the service, vulnerable to CM, poorly resourced.</li> <li>➤ Children on the Streets are exposed to all sorts of discrimination, stigmatization, begging, child AIDS and lack education and health provision.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children on ART – most in need of AMTOs are defaulting because of the high user fees and are not getting the services</li> <li>➤ Children born out of Zimbabwe suffer in acquiring birth certificates – access to the service is poor.</li> <li>➤ Children In sexual exploitation – are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, UEP</li> <li>➤ Orphans &amp; Vulnerable Children in institutions lack access to birth registration</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CSOs are embarking on advocacy, offering support to the groups, raising community awareness, providing resources such as financial and technical, lobbying law and policy reforms, research, provision of services, evaluation of programs</li> <li>➤ Government is concerned with policy formulation, providing oversight role, however in most cases implementation is lacking.</li> <li>➤ Community is offering care and support, engaging in advocacy and lobbying through local structures</li> <li>➤ Churches are providing spiritual and moral guidance, care and support</li> </ul>
6. What are your recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support to platforms for CSO to generate and present evidence based data</li> <li>➤ To increase the support to CSO so that they are active in reporting and/ complementary reporting</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Resource allocation is poor</li> <li>➤ Mismanagement of resources and corruption</li> <li>➤ Alignment of laws to the constitution remains a big challenge</li> <li>➤ Fragmentation of policies</li> <li>➤ Lack of coordination- the children sector is coordinated by Ministry of Health &amp; Child Care, at times by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour &amp; Social Welfare</li> <li>➤ Lack of child participation in development initiatives.</li> </ul>
8. Opportunities exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Spotlight reporting by ZIM CSO Reference Group on SDGs and other CSO Networks</li> <li>➤ Engagement with the private sector through PPPs</li> <li>➤ development partner support</li> <li>➤ Implementation of recommendations</li> </ul>

	<p>from evaluations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Institutional coordination mechanisms set up by the government (Steering Committee, SDGs Cluster coordination) present a starting point to move towards adopting a whole-of society approach.</li> <li>➤ Existence of Independent commissions (ZHRC, Gender, Peace &amp; Reconciliation, ZAAC etc.)</li> </ul>
9. How SDGs can be institutionalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CSO strategies aligned to SDGs</li> <li>➤ National Strategies aligned to SDGs</li> </ul>

iv.) **Disability Sector**

Questions	Answers
1. Which SDGs are you working on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The sector targets all the SDGs- NASCOH mainly focuses on the goal on Health, education and gender equality</li> </ul>
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Amendment of the Disabled Act</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PwDs in rural areas</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Negative attitudes</li> <li>➤ Communication barrier</li> <li>➤ Lack of disability data</li> <li>➤ Lack of access to information</li> <li>➤ Lack of political will</li> <li>➤ SDGs indicators are not disability sensitive</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DPOs are engaging on disability advocacy and mainstreaming disability issues in development processes</li> </ul>
6. What are your recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Inclusion of the disabled from grassroots to the top</li> <li>➤ The need to come up with a quota system for PwDs in the employment sector</li> <li>➤ Training on disability advocacy and mainstreaming PwDs issues in social service delivery models</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No disability policy</li> <li>➤ The UNCRPD is not yet domesticated</li> <li>➤ Communication and co-ordination gaps</li> <li>➤ The need for the harmonization of all statutes to the national constitution</li> <li>➤ Coordination and communication gaps should be addressed so that</li> </ul>

	Organization will stop working in silos
8. Opportunities exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CSO Reference Group on SDGs to mainstream disability issues on SDGs in Zimbabwe</li> <li>➤ Harmonise all the statutes with the national constitution</li> </ul>
9. How SDGs can be institutionalized	The disabled sector calls for SDGs Resources Packages to be in accessible formats so that their participation is strengthened
10. Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Expedite the implementation of the National Disability Policy</li> <li>➤ Domesticate the UNCRPD</li> <li>➤ Government, CSOs, private sector to formally include PwDs in their project cycles</li> </ul>

#### v.) Older Persons Sector

Questions	Answers
1. Which SDGs are you working on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The sector is concentrating on SDG 1 through their work on universal pension which address issues of eradicating poverty.</li> <li>➤ They are also working on SDG 3 through their work on the Disability Bill and Policy that is aimed at ensuring good health care.</li> <li>➤ The sectors also focus on other goals such as SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5, and SDG 7</li> </ul>
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<p>Bills and Policies have been passed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Older Persons Act</li> <li>➤ The Disability Bill</li> <li>➤ Universal Pension Policy</li> <li>➤ Formation of Older Persons Association Groups in Chimanimani, Harare, Nkayi</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Elderly people and disabled people are marginalized</li> <li>➤ Extended families under the care of the elderly</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of prioritization</li> <li>➤ General lack of funding for epidemic diseases</li> <li>➤ The sector believes that lack of inclusivity which include proportional representatives when it comes to aid and development funds is the underlying cause why this group is left behind.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Government bureaucracy has been halting the gazetting of important legislation such as the Older Persons Bill which is slowing down the empowerment of the elderly group.</li> <li>➤ Lack of institutional funding as one of the barriers to the inclusion of the elderly persons contributing to limited engagement on policy development policies such as the disability and universal pension</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Old Persons' Associations (OPAs) are empowering these marginalized groups through engaging them on various pieces of legislation such as the Disability Bill, Universal pension</li> <li>➤ Ministry of Social Welfare-spearheading many policies such as the Universal pension</li> </ul>
6. What are your recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Older persons should be prioritized in all development initiatives.</li> <li>➤ More funding from the national budget to the ministry of social welfare</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Too much government red tape</li> <li>➤ Less resources targeting the older persons</li> </ul>
8. Opportunities exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is an opportunity to include the elderly studies / aging studies into the school curriculum considering that all people will age at some point in life.</li> <li>➤ There is also an opportunity to raise awareness of elderly issues and deal with issues of stigmatization and discrimination of elderly persons in medical facilities and other social set ups</li> <li>➤ Inclusion of elderly persons issues in the budget and a designated budget allocation for the vulnerable groups and special needs groups.</li> </ul>
9. How SDGs can be institutionalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every government agency and ministries should include elderly issues in their programming</li> <li>➤ The Ministry of Education should include ageing issues into the education curriculum</li> </ul>
10. Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adequate budgeting</li> <li>➤ Ageing issues to be incorporated in the education curriculum</li> <li>➤ Less stigmatization of elderly persons in the medical facilities</li> </ul>

vi.) Human Rights Sector

Questions	Answers
1. Which SDGs are you working on	Goal 16
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Courts are now opening on Saturdays</li> <li>➤ The Judiciary Service Commission has partnered with various CSO to assist clients, they have a legal aid office</li> <li>➤ The mothers are allowed to register and get birth certificates for their children in the absentee of the father of the child</li> <li>➤ ZHRC is running the national inquiry and documentation</li> <li>➤ The lawyers have hold marchers against police brutality</li> <li>➤ Alignment of laws- alignment of the media bill</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ People in rural areas</li> <li>➤ Certain government departments</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assumption that such government institutions are knowledgeable on Human Rights issues</li> <li>➤ Lack of legal awareness</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ZHRC works with thematic clusters on children, disability, youths and women issues</li> <li>➤ NPRC hold meetings with people</li> <li>➤ Wider awareness and campaigns</li> </ul>
6. Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct wider campaign and awareness on SDGs</li> <li>➤ Train duty bearers and office bearers on SDGs</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Many policies inhibits the enjoyment and realization of HR</li> <li>➤ Justice system is not fair to young people, it favors the elite</li> <li>➤ Change of ministers</li> <li>➤ Lack of alignment of other laws to the constitution</li> <li>➤ Delays in aligning laws to the constitution</li> </ul>
8. Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The alignment of laws to the constitution process provide an opportunity to mainstream HR issues</li> </ul>
9. How SDGs can be institutionalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Understanding of the indicators and target and include these in monitoring and evaluation plan which will contribute to spotlight reports</li> <li>➤ CSOs being watchdogs</li> </ul>

**vii.) Youth Sector**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answers</b>
1. Which SDGs are you working on	Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16
2. Specific progress made so far, since adoption of SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Political involvement of young people</li> <li>➤ Revival of the National Youth Policy</li> <li>➤ Proposal to have 10 seats for Youth in Parliament- although it is not enough</li> <li>➤ 40% scrap off of fees for students on industrial attachment</li> <li>➤ Devolution process</li> <li>➤ Formation of the Youth Bank</li> <li>➤ Increased youth participation in elections</li> <li>➤ Coming up with the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Strategy 2020</li> <li>➤ ZHRC works with young people through its thematic clusters</li> <li>➤ The NPRC have youth committees</li> <li>➤ Youths are pushing parliamentarians to come up with National Drug Policy</li> <li>➤ Engagement meetings by the Ministry of Youth through the National Youth Indaba and SDG meeting</li> <li>➤ Parliamentary Portfolio Consultations of the Youth Commission</li> </ul>
3. Who is being left behind in the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youths in rural areas</li> <li>• Marginalized youths (PWDs)</li> <li>• Ex combatants</li> <li>• Youth in prisons</li> </ul>
4. Underlying reasons of being left behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Communication barrier</li> <li>➤ Lack of adequate resources for youth programming</li> <li>➤ Inadequate representation of youths in policies</li> <li>➤ Discrimination</li> </ul>
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Youth CSOs and government are doing a lot of</li> <li>➤ Capacity building</li> <li>➤ Mobilization of youths to attend public hearing</li> <li>➤ Social and economic projects</li> <li>➤ Civic engagement programs</li> <li>➤ Advocacy and lobby</li> </ul>
6. What are your recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adequate funding for youth programs through the National Budget</li> <li>➤ Resource mobilization</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Need for an integrated approach</li> <li>➤ Coming up with implementation frameworks</li> <li>➤ Data consolidation</li> </ul>
7. Policy and Institutional challenges exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A lot of red tapping in government institutions</li> <li>➤ Shrinking civic space to operate</li> <li>➤ Lack of resources</li> <li>➤ Lack of institutional arrangements because of lack of a National Youth Act</li> <li>➤ Lack of a National Drug Policy</li> <li>➤ The Termination of Pregnancy Act has not being reviewed since its enactment in 1977</li> <li>➤ The Zimbabwe Youth Council is not independent</li> </ul>
8. Opportunities that exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Existence of the National Youth Policy</li> <li>➤ Legislative Agenda</li> <li>➤ Increased interest by different stakeholders in Youth consultations</li> <li>➤ Enactment of a Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youths which plays an oversight role to the Ministry of Youth.</li> </ul>
9. How SDGs can be institutionalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Capacitating the Youth CSOs, Parliament on the SDGs</li> <li>➤ Developing and or capacitating local level to cascade the SDGs</li> </ul>
10. Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Government need to open up with democratic space</li> <li>➤ Youths are demanding more than just a quota with 10 seats in parliament</li> <li>➤ Systematic reforms which abolish all the current youth evasive systems that make the public office leadership difficult if not impossible to access</li> <li>➤ The youth quota system should not be restricted to political parties</li> <li>➤ Supportive policy and legal frame work that drives inclusion</li> <li>➤ Establishment of the youth commission , which will monitor the implementation of the youth act and Policy</li> <li>➤ Zimbabwe should have an inclusive education system, this will enable PWD to participate in mainstream society</li> <li>➤ Repealing of the Nationals Youth Act</li> </ul>

## CONCLUSION

The observation by CSOs is that the level of awareness of the SDGs by the general citizens is still very low making assessing progress towards their achievement a challenge. The government of Zimbabwe has made commendable effort to adopt a-whole-of government approach but very little to move towards a-whole- of -society approach. To a large extent CSOs have no information on what government is doing in pursuit of the SDGs realization. CSOs are not even aware of the baseline that the government is using in producing the SDGs progress report. It is also commendable that the government is developing the Master Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, however, there is need to popularize it beyond the line ministries to CSOs and the Private sector. CSOs can effectively compliment government efforts if they have access to information so that they can identify gaps and program responsively where possible. The government of Zimbabwe and ZimStat should embrace the emergence of the data ecosystem which has allowed a variety of stakeholders to offer alternative data sources, data analysis techniques and innovations that can help improve the disaggregation, collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data for SDGs review.

## **ZIM CSOs REFERENCE GROUP COMMITMENTS TO THE SDGs IMPLEMENTATION**

We acknowledge the existence of various other CSOs platforms that seek to contribute towards SDGs implementation in the country. As the Zim CSOs Reference Group on SDGs whose members include apex bodies of organizations of People With Disability, the Elderly, Youth, Children, Women, Church, Media and Human rights, we have built a coherent set of actions that will engage with the SDG process locally, regionally and internationally. The following key areas will be central to our work:

- SDGs Awareness Raising
- Advocacy for SDGs localization
- Participatory Citizen Monitoring of SDGs implementation
- Complimenting Government efforts through resource mobilization for SDGs implementation

The Zim CSOs Reference Group on SDGs will provide a collaborative and coordinated mechanism for the roll out of the SDGs process locally. The Reference Group through their membership and structures guarantee a multi-sectoral approach to working on the SDGs.

## **Annexure 1: Sector Breakaway Session Questions**

The eight sector groups namely, the Youth, Children, People with Disability, Media, Churches, Business, Human Rights and Labour were grouped and discussed the following questions:

1. Which Goals are you working on in your sector?
2. In your view, what specific progress has been made on the Goals since the adoption of SDGs?
3. Who is being left behind in your sector?
4. What are the underlying reasons for being left behind?
5. What is being done by who to empower the vulnerable groups?
6. What are your recommendations?
7. What policy and institutional challenges currently exist?
8. What opportunities exist to address the policy and institutional challenges?
9. How can the SDGs agenda be institutionalized?
10. Any other recommendation that you want to proffer?

## Annexure 2: List of Participating Organizations

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




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








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





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