

# 2020

## CIVIL SOCIETY

## SDGs

## CAMPAIGN/GCAP

## ZAMBIA

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## DENNIS NYATI

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*Supported by A4SD*

### **ZAMBIA CSO VNR RECOMMENDATIONS-2020**

The 2015 adopted Global Goals for Sustainable Development make provision for an open, inclusive and transparent follow up and review process in the implementation of the SDG's, where all stakeholders including civil society can actively participate. Efficient and effective delivery of the Global Goals depends on a strong results-based monitoring framework, informed by feedback from the intended beneficiaries of development. Civil Society plays a lead role in the review and implementation of the SDGs at country level. Zambia is one of the governments that has volunteered to present its progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the July 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. This Report is a combination of input from a number of CSO stakeholders at community level in Zambia.

# Zambia CSO VNR Recommendations Report- 2020.

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### 1. Introduction

The 2015 adopted Global Goals for Sustainable Development make provision for an open, inclusive and transparent follow up and review process in the implementation of the SDG’s, where all stakeholders including civil society can actively participate. Efficient and effective delivery of the Global Goals depends on a strong results-based monitoring framework, informed by feedback from the intended beneficiaries of development. Civil Society plays a lead role in the review and implementation of the SDGs at country level. Zambia is one of the governments that has volunteered to present its progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the July 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. The 2030 Agenda encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, meeting under the auspices of the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences - including successes, challenges, and lessons learned- with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These reviews are supposed to draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, “in line with national circumstances, policies, and priorities”. The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General’s updated common guidelines for conducting the

Voluntary National Review highlights that, in paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States identified a number of principles to guide the follow-up and review process. This report is made up of contributions and input from grassroots organisations based in Chongwe, Lusaka and Chibombo district of Zambia on selected SDGs these various organisations work on. The input was gathered via a variety of methodologies ranging from group discussion, virtual platforms and via written submission submitted through emails.

## 2. Emerging issues

- **Debt Crisis:** Increased debt in Zambia has seen higher interest payments, which has consumed a large component of our national budget. As a result, fewer funds are available to spend on initiatives that help reduce poverty or support job creation in the country. The amount spent on debt servicing, which includes interest payments as well as payments towards reducing the actual amount borrowed has increased significantly. According to the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR), the Government spent K9.1 billion on debt servicing for the first half of 2018, which was more than the planned budget of K6.2 billion. This K9.1 billion on debt servicing for the first half of 2018 was almost equivalent to the entire amount spent on debt servicing payments for the year 2017, which amounted to K9.8 billion. During the first six months of 2018 personal emoluments, that is, wages and salaries, accounted for 42 per cent of domestic revenues, while 29 per cent accounted for interest payments. As such, only 30 per cent of government revenues were spent on all the remaining government programmes, which drive the country's development, such as health, education, social protection, agriculture etc. The amount spent on debt servicing is only expected to increase in the coming years. As we have noted from successive budget speeches, the amount Zambia is paying for debt servicing is still increasing even as the available budget for social services is decreasing. A look at the current situation on the ground on the status of public services and poverty reduction initiatives in Zambia shows that there is urgent need to ring-fence money, that is, to guarantee that funds allocated for a poverty reduction initiative will not be

spent on anything else in order to protect the poorest and most vulnerable in society. An analysis carried out by the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) in five provinces namely Eastern Province, Luapula, North-Western, Southern Province and Western Province on the quality of social sector services highlights a number of challenges that show that the quality of service delivery in these provinces has been deteriorating. Education provision is suffering from a lack of funding. The teacher to pupil ratio has remained high with an average ratio of 1 teacher to 60 pupils and there is limited access to teaching aids and support infrastructure such as desks. The health sector is under-resourced, with most rural health centres and clinics not having medical doctors and support staff such as pharmacy technologists, lab technicians and midwives. Also, support for farmers has fallen due to a lack of extension officers: the ratio of these officers to farmers is as high as 1 to 1,200 in some areas; three times the ideal of 1 to 400. This lack of investment is hindering Zambia's development as the country needs a well-educated, healthy and productive population to prosper. In an effort to gain a perspective on the ground, CUTS conducted an interview with Mr. Alick Muleya, Council Chairman of Sinazongwe District, Southern Province. He expressed how the lack of quality public services has left his district under-developed. The district has 13 health posts of which only six are functioning: the remaining seven are not operational due to lack of funds to pay health workers and staff houses to accommodate them. He also noted that 32 schools in the district did not have electricity and other essential infrastructure resulting in students having to sit on bricks because there are no desks or chairs. With high levels of government spending going towards debt servicing, less money is left to improve the quality of public services. Further to this, the government is already struggling to fund key budgeted activities due to the need to redirect resources to debt repayment. For instance, it was reported by ZIPAR that only 27 per cent of the funding for the Social Cash Transfer Scheme Pension Fund was released in the first half of 2018. Additionally, no funding has been released for the Food Security Pack initiative and other empowerment programmes this year. Not only are

the budgets for development programmes small, they are not being spent, as debt levels squeeze spending.

- **Climate Change:** Adverse effects of climate change and the recent Covid-19 pandemic pose major threats to achieving the SDG targets in Zambia. The impacts of climate change and increasing inequality across and within countries are undermining progress on the sustainable development agenda, threatening to reverse many of the gains made over the last decades that have improved people's lives, Zambia is not excluded from this. In the recent past the country has experienced droughts, high temperatures, flooding, human induced deforestation etc. These have in turn impacted negatively on food production and security, compromised people's health and has a ripple effect on the country's development resulting in slow progress on the attainment of the SDGs. Unless a more robust agenda is put in place to combat the negative effects of climate change on sustainable development, the country may not reach its targeted 2030 agenda of meeting the SDGs targets. Reducing the negative impact of climate change on the successful implementation of the SDGs requires urgent and ambitious collective action now.
- **COVID 19 Pandemic:** The country has further suffered another major setback in its development trajectory due to the onset of the COVID19 pandemic which has affected all countries globally. The covid 19 pandemic has added more challenges to the already struggling economy. It is estimated that in 2020 Zambia's economy will experience negative growth shrinking by at least 2.6% (IMF). It is also expected that the country will have a revenue shortfall of 19.7% in 2020. This is evidenced by the closure of some key sectors of the economy since the advent of COVID19 such as the tourism and entertainment industry resulting in thousands of people and households being jobless and with no source of income. Schools too have gotten the fair share of the burden of the COVID19 pandemic with all schools, colleges and universities being on lock down since March 2020. This in turn is impacting negatively on the learners because as a country we haven't explored the idea of e-

learning to its fullest. The pandemic has also made it difficult for civil society to contribute on the VNR process due to the fact that many people were working from home, and challenges of full utilization of ICTs and internet costs popped in.

The other challenge that the pandemic has presented to the Zambian people is the gross violation of human rights by the state police and other security wings. People are being arrested for not putting on masks and if found in some places such as beer drinking places or recreation facilities. Government has further introduced a penalty fee of ZMW 750 if found in public places or gatherings without putting on a mask. The contrast is that government and the ruling part are free to hold political rally campaigns without adhering to the same measures which they have put in place. This is making the fight against Covid19 very difficult in Zambia.

### **3. Civil Society Perspectives on SDGs implementation in Zambia**

#### **SDG 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE**

##### **Challenges and Gaps**

- Inadequate resources for Program financing.

There has been limited financing and poor budget expenditure performance for the social protection program that are ear-marked to uplift the living standards of the poor in Zambia. This is evidenced from the national budget allocation for the past three years where funding to these programs have been dwindling respectively.

- Decentralization not fully implemented.
- Weak synergies on development initiatives to foster meaningful integration and attainment of higher impacts.

##### **Recommendations**

- There is urgent need to pursue innovative ways of development financing, through enhanced cooperation with the private sector (PPPs), Cooperating Partners (CPs) and development financing mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), GEF Small Grants Programme and other Funds. Scale up implementation of e-government programmes for improved service delivery and increased revenue collection.

- There is urgent need to implement Decentralization Policy fully with transfer of human resource coupled with adequate financing for the new roles. There is need to provide for consistent monitoring, adequate capacity building and civil society participation to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the devolved functions.
- Need to create synergies on empowerment programmes/funds and programmes such as REA, Infrastructure development, ICT, Rural Finance, to promote attainment of higher impacts.

### **SDG 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

Healthcare in Zambia

#### **Challenges and gaps**

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



- Challenges in monitoring and evaluation of the health programmes.
- Inadequate key expertise as related to specific challenges affecting women’s reproductive health issues and access to treatment of the same.

### **Recommendations**

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

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

#### **Challenges and gaps**

- Inadequate budget allocation e.g., the relative share of the education sector budget is at its lowest level in five years at 15.3 per cent in 2019 from 20.2 per cent at peak in 2015<sup>1</sup>. This reduced even further and is currently at 12.4% in 2020.

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1. <sup>1</sup>UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019.  
 2. (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).  
 3. (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).  
 4. (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).

- 2019 allocation to Early Childhood Education has declined by 88 per cent because of no allocation for ECE infrastructure due to austerity measures. Without an increased allocation for ECE infrastructure a considerable number of children will continue to be ill-prepared for grade one as currently only 32 per cent of grade one entrants have ECE experience<sup>2</sup>
- Despite the education budget being output based, there is no visible link between allocations and the direction of output indicators. Prudent use of financial resources is critical to the improvement of educational outcomes which are currently poor. For instance, a recent study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the- Examination Council of Zambia revealed that 15-year-old Zambian students achieved only 5 per cent and 2 per cent of the minimum international level of proficiency in reading and mathematics respectively<sup>3</sup>
- **Completion rates**-completion rates at Grade 9 and Grade 12 remain at 72 per cent and 32 per cent respectively. This means not all children who start school get to finish primary, let alone secondary, education. Infrastructure gaps remain a huge challenge and the ratio of secondary schools to primary schools is 1 to 9. The overall learning outcomes for Zambian children indicate a learning crisis. Learners are leaving the education system without acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- **Urban bias**-The education sector has staff countrywide, however, the distribution of staff favours urban schools in both numbers and experienced, qualified teachers<sup>4</sup>

### **Recommendations**

- Government to fulfill its promises to expand early childhood education or ECE to all the remote areas of Zambia at ward level
- Promotion of skills and careers during basic education processes other than concentration on passing examinations
- Value-based school system that rewards innovation, adaptability and joint efforts (current system promotes competition)
- Reduce Teacher-pupil ratio to acceptable standard.

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<sup>2</sup> (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).

<sup>3</sup> (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).

<sup>4</sup> (UNICEF Zambia 2019 Education Budget Brief 2019).

- Inclusive education to integrate people with disabilities in national development issues.
- Numbers of Primary Schools against Secondary Schools and Tertiary Schools suggest that people MUST fail along the way. There are more numbers of Primary schools compared to Secondary; more Secondary Schools compared to Tertiary Schools.
- Reduce distances to Schools in rural areas by constructing Schools closer to the communities.
- Education broadcasting should not just be for emergencies but an alternative source of instruction by learners.
- Invite corporate entities to support poor and vulnerable families to access quality education as corporate social responsibility.
- Enforce compulsory education to rid streets of children.

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

### **Challenges in the legal framework**

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

- Lack of full implementation of some of the progressive legislation due to lack of resources by Government.  
E.g., Establishment of the Gender Commission stipulated in the Gender Equity and Equality Act No 22 of 2015 has still not been done as Government has no resources to do so.
- Maintenance of Article 23 (4) d, e & f in the Constitution, which allows customary law to override statutory law in matters of personal law, which often deals with issues of marriage. This has impeded full realization of women’s rights in Zambia.
- Dual legal system - Zambia has a dual legal system consisting of the civil law and customary law. Many Zambians, subscribe to the customary law observed by particular tribal groupings to resolve dispute. While gender equality is constitutionally guaranteed, for some women, customary law still reigns supreme in the sphere of personal law relating to marriage, succession and division of matrimonial property. This has negative implications and supports practices that are de facto discriminatory against girls and women. Nonetheless, this is contrary to the new

Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 which provides for equal rights for both men and women.

### **Recommendations on legal framework**

- Government should allocate more resources to relevant institutions to ensure full implementation of all the progressive legislation on gender.
- There is need to review legislation that impedes full realization of women's rights in Zambia e.g. Article 23 (4) d, e & f in the Constitution, which allows Customary Law to override statutory law in matters of personal law, which often deals with issues of marriage.
- There is need to harmonize the law so that harmful customary practices are not promoted under the guise of practicing Customary Law.

### **GBV ISSUES**

Cases of GBV being reported in Zambia have been increasing over the years. The number of GBV cases reported in the country increased from 15,153 in 2014 to 22,073 in 2018 (Zambia Police, 2018). This can be attributed to the increased confidence by members of the public in the GBV response mechanisms that are being implemented by civil society organisations and Government, as a result of increased awareness about GBV, availability of support services and increased capacity of law enforcement agencies and Judiciary to respond and prosecute GBV cases.

The Government and stakeholders, mainly the Civil Society Organizations, have done a lot in addressing GBV. Some of the interventions to address GBV include establishing operating One Stop Centres on GBV, Fast Track Courts on GBV, and establishment of institutional structures to address GBV, provision of legal support to victims, providing support services to GBV survivors, sensitization of people on issues of GBV and provision of shelters and economic services to GBV survivors.

### **Challenges on GBV issues**

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

### **Recommendations on GBV issues**

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

### **CSOs' Initiatives**

There are many efforts being done by civil society to promote and advance women's participation in decision-making. Some of the efforts in place include the following:

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

- Advocating for an electoral system that will be conducive to the participation of women in elections.
- Capacity development for female leaders currently in local and national political positions.

### **Challenges on women's participation in decision-making**

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

### **Recommendations on increasing women's participation in decision-making**

- Implement progressive legislation on enhancing women's participation in decision making and Push for enactment of progressive like the political party bill
- Enact legislation on quotas on the adoption and nomination of women in elective positions.
- Sensitization of people on gender, democracy and importance of women's participation.

## **CHILD MARRIAGES**

### **Challenges in addressing child marriage**

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

### **Recommendations on ending child marriage**

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

### **TEENAGE PREGNANCIES**

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

### **CSOs' Initiatives**

Civil Society in Zambia has been active in addressing issues of teenage pregnancies. Some of the interventions include providing sexual and reproductive health information to girls, offering

psychosocial support and counseling to girls that fall pregnant, sensitization of communities on the disadvantages of teenage pregnancies, working with traditional and community leaders in curbing teenage pregnancies.

### **Challenges on teenage issues**

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

### **Recommendations on addressing teenage issues**

- Keep girls in school: Research has indicated that the longer girls stay in school the less likely it is for them to get pregnant. Enabling girls to have an education has a positive effect on their personal lives and has potential for positive impact on future generations (World Bank 2015).
- Provide sexual and reproductive health information to girls in Schools and communities.
- Ensure that the code of conduct for both Health Practitioners and Teachers is enforced for those who discriminate against adolescents needing reproductive health information or services.
- Ensure children who live far off have access to safe single-sex boarding environments.
- Establish an SMS/Toll free line for reporting and monitoring cases of child abuse, early marriage, and sexual violence in Schools as recommended by the Education Sector Gender Audit.
- Strengthen the guidance and counselling within the School system and increase its annual budgetary allocation.
- Establish and integrate School-Clinic Referrals (based on MoH Adolescent Health Services Standards) including looking at option of establishing rural health clinics in School infrastructure to tackle long distances to accessing health services by rural communities.



- Retrain and reorient health workers on adolescent reproductive health services utilizing forthcoming Adolescent Friendly Health Services Standards of Ministry of Health.

## **SDG 11: CREATING SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

### **Challenges and Gaps**

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

### **Recommendations**

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

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

## **CSOs' Initiatives**

Interventions in waste management: Case study

### **Manja Pamodzi Project**

This is a post-consumer incentivizing project initiated by Zambia Breweries (ZB) in 2015. The project is a response to the producer responsibility law and is co-funded between Millennium Challenge Account Zambia and Zambian Breweries. It is operating in 12 communities in Lusaka i.e. Ngombe Matero, Chawama, George, Lilanda, Kamwala, Mtendere, Kalikiliki, Kalale Chunga, Garden and Chipata. It has 615 active garbage collectors with 459 of them being women representing 75% of the total collectors. The project also has 8 aggregators (7 males and 1 female). Plastic waste is recycled into products such as egg trays, conduit and PVC pipes etc.

The project conducts capacity building training on what is recyclable to all the collectors. They are also taught to work within the confines of the law with regard to protective clothing and other laws. So far, the project has reached 8 schools, 11, 164 children and 225 teachers. The projects estimate that there is a total of 3,618.91 tons of recyclable materials that was collected in April, 2018. Manja Pamodzi is being registered as a company. Individuals and companies interested in joining the value chain are being incorporated. They aim to expand to other communities in the city. They aim to increase aggregator sites and create a competitive process and buyer market. At the start of the project Zambia Breweries gave trucks, built aggregator sites and provided staff at zero profit. Recycling should be an industry and should be valuable to those collecting as well.

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

### **CSOs Initiatives**

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

## **Gaps and Challenges**

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

## **Recommendations on the SDGs implementation process**

- A home-grown financing mechanism.
- Awareness raising and capacity development.
- A clear strategy for SDG bonding.
- Research and Development.
- Private sector participation must be encouraged.
- Strengthen audit systems.
- Must give a clear road map on domestic financing.
- Expand the livelihood diversification programmes in order to contribute to alternative livelihoods for the communities affected by climate change.
- DMMU needs to strengthen the monitoring system related to the food security situation in parts of the country that are affected by climate change.

- Ensure nationwide implementation of the 2016 National Policy on Climate Change.
- Expedite the process of enacting the Climate Change Bill.
- Provide reliable and timely weather information to community members affected by climate change in Zambia.

## SDG 16

The main focal point of the SDGs is to leave no one behind. However there has been an absence of inclusivity in the VNR process. There has been an absence of inclusivity in addition to transparency in the process of the stakeholders that participated with the government.

Inclusivity in relation to **16.7 'ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels'** decisions of national development do not include input and ideas from the youth, people living in rural areas, Women with disabilities etc.

Debt continues to be a huge stumbling block to development. Debt repayment has now overtaken a huge part of the budget leaving little room for spending on SDG implementation. One of the functions of the Parliament is to review the amount of debt and the conditions attached to the debt the government incurs. The Government through Bill 10 seeks to take away this accountability mechanism from government.

### **6. b. promotes and enforces non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development**

#### **Recommendations on ensuring that no one is left behind**

- According to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the principle and commitment not to leave anyone behind is of paramount importance. This entails that development interventions should include special interest groups such as Women with disabilities, young people and children, rural communities and Women etc.
- Include Women with disabilities in decision making
- Ensure that Women with disabilities access education which in turn can enable them to participate fully in decision making and politics
- Generally people with disabilities especially children are unable to access education due to infrastructure that does not support people with disabilities. We recommend that

when putting up infrastructure especially in public places the needs of people with disabilities are taken care of.

- Government to ensure that it is line with the leave no one behind should seriously consider developing rural communities not just focusing on urban areas.
- Women and youths should be included in decision making positions especially when adopting candidates for political office
- The voice of children should also be taken seriously and head by decision makers and duty bearers
- Farmers especially small scale farmers who forms over 90% of the rural communities in Zambia and contribute over 60% of the local food should be given an opportunity when it comes on deciding how they plan to price and sell their produce.
- Make ICTs and internet affordable for all in Zambia to ensure that no one is left behind

#### **4. Conclusion**

The just ended VNR process provided significant insights into the ways that national institutional arrangements have been defined. At the national level, a well-coordinated institutional mechanism is being used to implement the SDGs. For instance, the Ministry of Planning and National Development is leading the SDG implementation effort by working jointly with other line ministries, private sector operators, and CSOs.

Unfortunately this approach or model has not been replicated at all levels where SDGs are being implemented such as the ward, constituency and district levels since not all stakeholders are represented or engaged at these levels. Lack of stakeholders at these levels has the potential to undermine accountability and inclusiveness as well as the intent to leave no one behind.

There is also need to ensure that SDGs are integrated into the budget and planning process at district level to ensure smooth implementation of the goals. Civil society must address critical capacity gaps hindering their involvement in monitoring progress and collection of data. Data collection remains the major challenge for civil society engagement in ensuring the implementation process of the SDGs in Zambia. Lastly CSO's must embrace the new normal of ensuring that they embrace ICTs in their work places to make their work easier and relevant to the challenges of covid19.

## 5. Appendix: List of participating organisations and CSO statement for the VNR in Zambia.

### ○ CSO Statement on the VNR-Zambia

Various CSOs networks under the auspices of the national CSO platform on SDGs commend the government of Zambia for the progress in the implementation of programmes contributing to the progress on SDGs.

However as civil society we note that we need to strengthen our engagement and collaboration with government in the development processes (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) in the VNRs and the SDG national plans as a whole. The policy dialogue space in terms of access to information on SDGs; inclusiveness of inputs from a variety of national actors and CSO networks should further be strengthened too.

According to the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) key findings developed by UNDP, only 86 % of SDG targets are fully aligned to 7NDP indicating that there is a development outcome/strategy in the national planning document that corresponds to 86% of the SDG targets and it has defined indicators to measure its progress. However, reports from civil society organisations have shown that there is still a challenge in Implementation of programmes that support SDGs attainment.

As Civil Society we are further calling on government to enact the budgeting and planning bill of 2019 to enhance adequate resource allocation to various sectors of the economy. The recent impact of Covid-19 and Debt continues to be a huge stumbling block to development. Debt repayment has now overtaken a huge part of the budget leaving little room for spending on SDG implementation.

#### Key asks;

- Government must establish a more inclusive process for CSO participation and redefine its criteria of selecting CSOs participating on SDGs in Zambia.
- To curb vulnerability and poverty, government must increase social sector spending.

QUESTIONS (*priority questions are highlighted*)

- What is government doing to improve social dialogue on the procedures and processes of the implementation of SDGs and provide clearly laid reporting mechanisms on SDGs in the country?
- What is government doing to ensure the effective implementation of the programmes that support SDGs realization in Zambia?
- What is government doing to ensure that the upcoming budget matches the planned programmes in the implementation of the SDGs?
- Looking at the fact that children have to walk long distances to and from school, the schools themselves lacking good infrastructure as well as teaching and learning materials what are the thoughts of the government with regards to the education sector in ensuring that children continue learning to completion of School.
- Looking at the fact that most children have less than three meals every day and the meals themselves are not balanced many children become malnourished and even fail to access's good healthcare services what is government going to do ensure children's right to good health is realized in line with the sustainable development goals.
- Looking at the fact that we are living in a technologically advanced era children in most parts of Zambia fail to learn ICT due to lack of computers and also electricity shortage, how is the government going to ensuring that children have access to clean energy?

## 6. List of Organisations that participated in the Reviews.

- CSO SDGs Campaign/GCAP Zambia (Convener and the Secretariat of the CSO Platform on SDGs)
- Save the Children- Zambia
- MICAH Global- Zambia
- Advocacy for Child Justice Zambia
- Women's Lobby
- Media Network on Child Rights and Development
- Women in Environment
- Sight Savers- Zambia
- Zambia institute for labour Research and Development
- Centre for Young leaders in Africa
- Water aid Zambia
- Wash forum
- Network of Rural Women Assembly
- PANOS Institute
- Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
- Caritas Zambia
- Lifeline/ChildLine Zambia
- Zambia Climate Change Network
- Environment Africa
- Child Sentinel Trust Zambia
- Retirees' Welfare Bureau of Zambia (RWBZ)
- Support To Older People-Zambia (STOP-Zambia)
- Community Support for the Needy (COSUN)
- Development for Aged People in Zambia (DAPZ)
- Zambia Is One (ZIO)
- Youth In Action for Disability Inclusion in Zambia
- Zambia agency of People Living with Disabilities(ZAPD)



- Leonard Cheshire Homes Zambia
- Joy Cooperative Society
- Zambia Federation of people with Disabilities (ZAFOD)

## 8. Contact Details

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