



CSO in Zimbabwe's Perspectives on the SDGs Progress 2024 Voluntary National Review Spotlight Report



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Introduction

The Government of Zimbabwe presented its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2024. Government involved the CSOs and other stakeholders during its 2024 VNR consultations through provincial consultative workshops. This was in line with the Agenda 2030 call for multi-stakeholder approach. The government adopted a commendable approach, moving away from engaging a consultant to produce the VNR to setting up a multi-stakeholder VNR Drafters Team, which included CSO representatives. However, this government-led multi-stakeholder approach is in essence was still largely government-centric. As a result, the CSO Reference Group on SDGs gathered CSO perspective on the SDGs progress. To review the country's progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted the People's Score Card for CSOs consultations. The People's Score Card is a tool developed by the Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD). A4SD works in partnership with national SDGs focused civil society coalitions around the world. The report benefited from the Government of Zimbabwe questionnaire on the 2024 VNR.

The Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on the Sustainable Development Goals consulted with its members across the country to reflect on the progress made since the last VNR in 2021. The members of the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on the Sustainable Development Goals were trained on the data collection tool and given a month to consult with their members. There were deliberate efforts to ensure participation of vulnerable population groups especially women, youths and persons with disabilities in line with the desire to make sure that no one is being left behind. However, the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on the Sustainable Development Goals had limited resources to conduct physical validation meetings.

Sectoral Analysis

Disability Sector

The disability sector has been marred by serious exclusion from the mainstream social, economic and political spaces. One of the key barriers that remains constant is the lack of sign language facilities for learners in schools. Sign language is recognized as one of the 16 official languages in Zimbabwe. The Education Amendment Act of 2020 mandates that registered schools provide suitable infrastructure for learners with disabilities which includes provisions for teaching sign language. The Inclusive education policy was introduced without adequate preparation for its implementation hence the deficiencies. Despite the legislative framework, many schools lack the necessary resources that include trained teachers and appropriate facilities to effectively teach sign language. This has led to concerns about the quality of education for deaf students who remain segregated or inadequately supported in mainstream schools.

Learners with disabilities continue to face exclusion due to inaccessible physical and technological infrastructure. Many schools in Zimbabwe continue to lack the necessary infrastructure to accommodate students with disabilities. This includes inaccessible classrooms, restrooms, and other essential facilities which limits the ability of these learners to participate fully in educational activities. Communities are concerned that schools are often not designed with the needs of physically challenged individuals in mind, leading to a situation

where access is nearly impossible for some students. In regions like Matabeleland North, poor road conditions significantly impede access to schools. Many teachers and students must travel long distances on foot due to inadequate transportation options, further complicating the educational experience for learners with disabilities. This lack of accessibility contributes to lower enrolment and higher dropout rates among students in these poor regions.

The government has also been proactive in developing policies that support the inclusion of PWDs in the workforce. The Public Service Disability Policy of 2023 aims to mainstream disability within public sector employment by ensuring equal opportunities and creating accessible work environments. This policy aligns with constitutional mandates that protect the rights of PWDs and promote their dignity and potential. The COVID-19 working experiences opened new remote working opportunities for PWDs to be integrated into the labour market. Additionally, initiatives like the National Business and Disability Network have been launched to advocate for inclusive employment practices across various sectors, further encouraging businesses to consider hiring PWDs. However, there is seem to be resistance and reluctance among private sector to employee PWDs.

Youth Sector

Zimbabwe is grappling with a rising drug abuse crisis among its youth. New experimental drugs are finding their way on to the market e.g. Mixture of Mazoe and Cerevita. The government has recognized this issue and launched a comprehensive Multi-Sectoral Drug and Substance Abuse Plan (2024-2030). This plan aims to address drug abuse through collaborative efforts across various sectors, focusing on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation strategies. The plan highlights the need for targeted interventions to mitigate drug abuse's impact on public health and social stability. It acknowledges that illicit drug use is a growing concern among young people, necessitating immediate action from both governmental and non-governmental organizations. However, the criminalization of people who use or inject drugs has not been effective as some staff in the law enforcement agencies are some of the drug traffickers. There is need for Policy reform e.g. the Dangerous Drugs Act was last amended in 1956. The lack of recreational activities for youths have also been pointed as some of the reasons driving youths into drug and substance use which calls for the need to establish recreational facilities.

Youth unemployment in Zimbabwe has seen fluctuations in recent years, particularly between the period 2021 to 2023. The National Employment to Population Ratio (EPR) stood at 35 percent. (ZIMSTAT 2023a – Labour Force Survey). Over 2.9 million of the employed population were informally employed constituting about 88 percent of the total employment. The broad age group 15 to 34 years had the highest national expanded unemployment rate at 58 percent (ZIMSTAT 2023a – Labour Force Survey). The high rates of youth unemployment contribute to social unrest and economic instability. The government has recognized these challenges and aims to address them through policies focused on skills development and entrepreneurship as part of the National Youth Policy (2020-2025).

Elderly Sector

The proliferation of counterfeit drugs being smuggled into the country compromises the quality of the eye health service delivery system. Eye health services are very expensive and without donor support, the majority of the marginalized people will not access them.

The eye health sector in Zimbabwe has historically been underfunded, with limited resources allocated from the national budget. This issue stems from a shrinking tax base and insufficient fiscal space which hampers the government's ability to adequately finance healthcare initiatives, including eye care.

Accessibility issues in public institutions in Zimbabwe are critical particularly for older persons and those with disabilities. Ensuring that these issues are addressed through mandatory policies and the active involvement of people with disabilities in design processes is essential for creating appropriate and inclusive structures. Accessibility issues at public institutions should be mandatory and the involvement of those with disabilities in designs helps to have appropriate structures.

Older persons face significant barriers to accessing healthcare, including shortages of medicines and high costs associated with health services. Many cannot afford transportation to healthcare facilities due to financial constraints.

While there have been reforms to the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) pension scheme, many older adults still receive insufficient support. The maximum pension payout remains low compared to living costs, with significant disparities in pension coverage, particularly affecting those in the informal sector, which constitutes about 80% of employment in Zimbabwe. There is a noted lack of visibility and consideration for older persons in Zimbabwean policy-making. This has resulted in inadequate social safety nets and welfare programs tailored specifically for their needs.

As of 2021, approximately 80% of older adults in Zimbabwe live in poverty, significantly impacting their quality of life and access to basic needs. This situation has worsened due to economic instability and inflation that is making it difficult for many elderly individuals to afford necessities such as food and healthcare.

CSO Perspectives: Performance Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

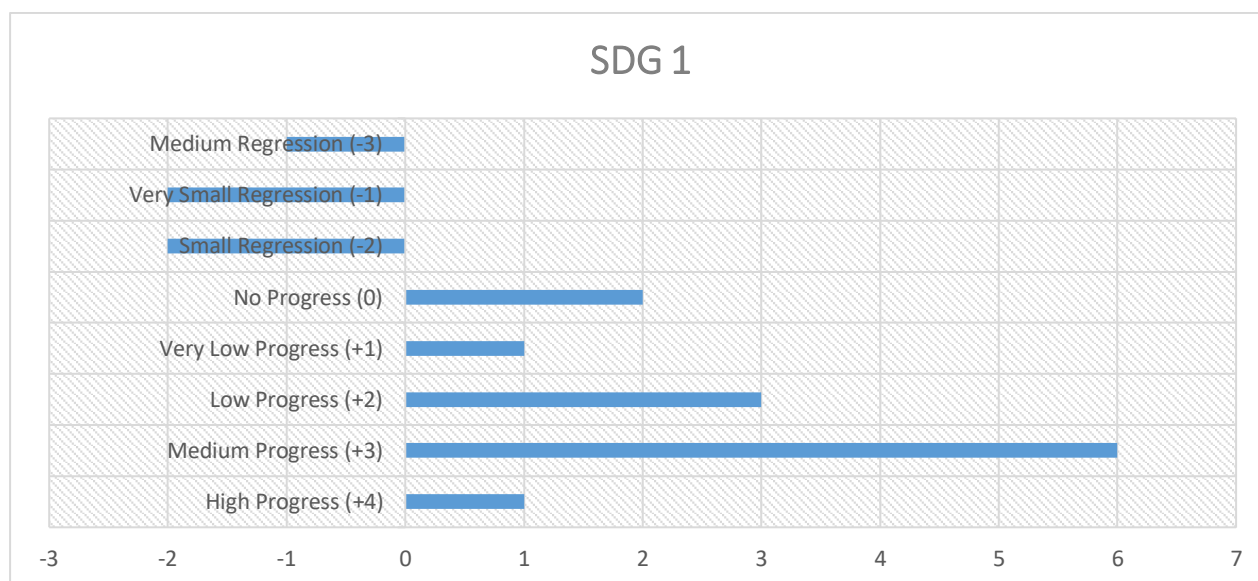
This section presents the Zimbabwe CSOs' perspectives on progress made per each goal covering the period 2021 to date. The review therefore provides an overview of the improvements made since the 2021 VNR process where Zimbabwe took part during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). As previously highlighted, the development of this report used the A4SDG People's Score Card framework, looking at the Likert scale ranging from -5 to +5: -5= very large regression; -4 = large regression; -3 = moderate regression, -2 = small regression; -1 very small regression; 0= no progress; 1= very low progress; 2= low progress; 3= moderate progress; 4= high progress and; 5 = very high progress. In reviewing the progress for individual SDGs, this report looks at the perceptions of the different sectors and thematic areas where CSOs operate. The section presents the scorecard ratings on SDGs performance review as provided by CSOs in different sectors. This methodology assists in ensuring comparability across sectors.

Review of the CSOs Perception on progress made since 2021 VNR

SDG 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

Figure 1 illustrates the rating of the progress made in ending poverty since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 1: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

The majority of CSOs considered that Zimbabwe has made moderate progress since 2021 toward the realisation of SDG1. A total of 5 Apex Organisations conceded that Zimbabwe has regressed on SDG1. The CSOs noted that Social Development Programs have been developed yet the drawback remains on the non-availability of a database that takes an intersectionality lens at the levels of vulnerability by geographical location, gender, and other factors. Moreso, in the employment sector the National Disability Policy speaks of 15% job allocation for PWDs in every sector yet on the ground, implementation is still lacking.

Other reasons for the positive progress included the cash transfers program that was noted to have had a positive impact among poor persons with disabilities and improved access to loans to engage in meaningful businesses. The skills training programs especially done at the Jairos Jiri Association Bulawayo Centre, Ruwa Training Centre and Danhiko just to mention a few, has had great impact on youths with disabilities who can either into formal employment or start their own businesses.

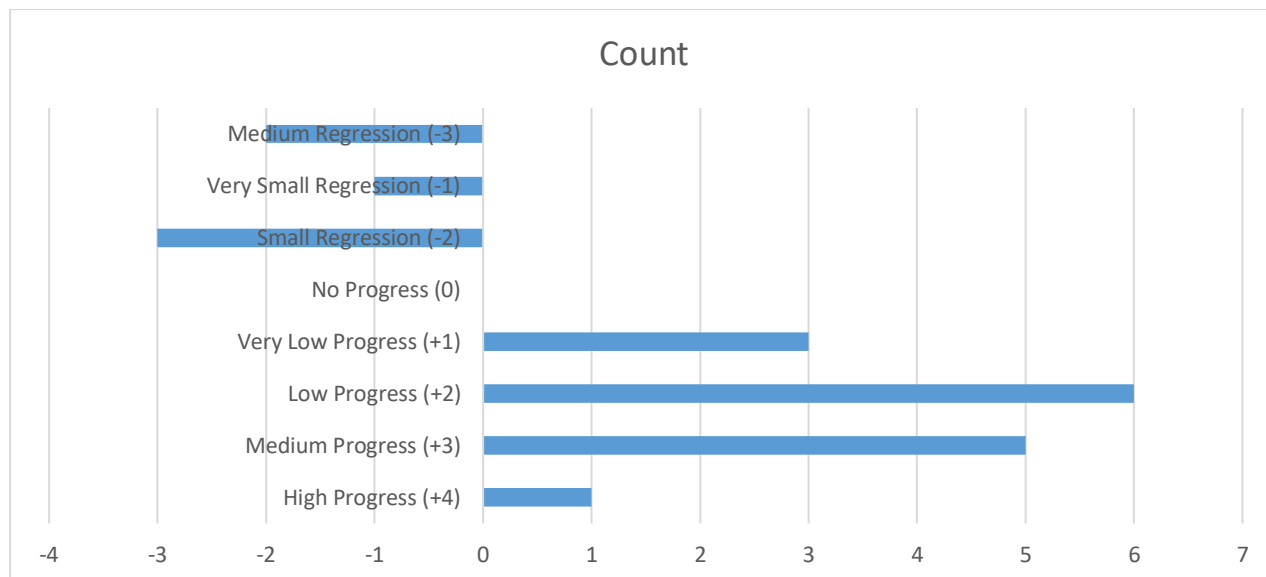
There is still a divide between rural and urban populations when it comes to poverty, with the rural population being more vulnerable. A lot of people in urban areas are also living below the \$1.25 a day threshold. Access to education and healthcare remains precarious particularly in the rural areas where service provision is heavily compromised and largely poor. The result has been increase of the people who are falling into the poverty bracket. Zimbabwe has implemented some social protection programs, but coverage and effectiveness need improvement.

Overall, while Zimbabwe has made some progress towards achieving Goal 1, the pace of progress is slow, and significant challenges persist. To accelerate progress, the country needs to intensify efforts to address poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, and improve access to quality education, healthcare, and social protection programs

SDG2: End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Figure 2 illustrates the rating of the progress made in ending hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 2: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

The majority of CSOs perceived that Zimbabwe has made low to moderate progress toward the realization of SDG2 since the 2021 VNR. A sizeable number of CSOs noted that Zimbabwe has made small to moderate regression on SDG2. They argued that Zimbabwe is experiencing drought and most persons with disabilities are hard hit by the crisis. The government through the Social Development Department has facilitated food distribution to the rural parts of the country, reaching out to PWDs in those rural communities. However, there is still a need to support PWDs in urban areas with food supplies because of the high levels of unemployment.

The Hivos Urban Features project in Zimbabwe aims to reduce hunger through various strategies. It promotes urban agriculture, encouraging residents to cultivate crops and raise livestock in urban areas. The project establishes community gardens, fostering community engagement and knowledge sharing while providing fresh produce. Training programs are offered to urban farmers, equipping them with sustainable farming practices and resource management skills. The project facilitates market linkages, connecting farmers with consumers, restaurants, and retailers, supporting economic viability and ensuring a steady supply of locally grown food. Policy advocacy efforts aim to create an enabling environment for sustainable urban agriculture and food production. Overall, the project increases food production, improves access to nutritious food, and enhances food security in urban areas.

Due the late disbursement of payments by Grain Marketing Board (GMB) to farmers of small grains, maize and other crops, there has been a slow significant change in ending hunger. The farmers are failing to fill up the GMB silos and Zimbabwe has had to rely on food imports

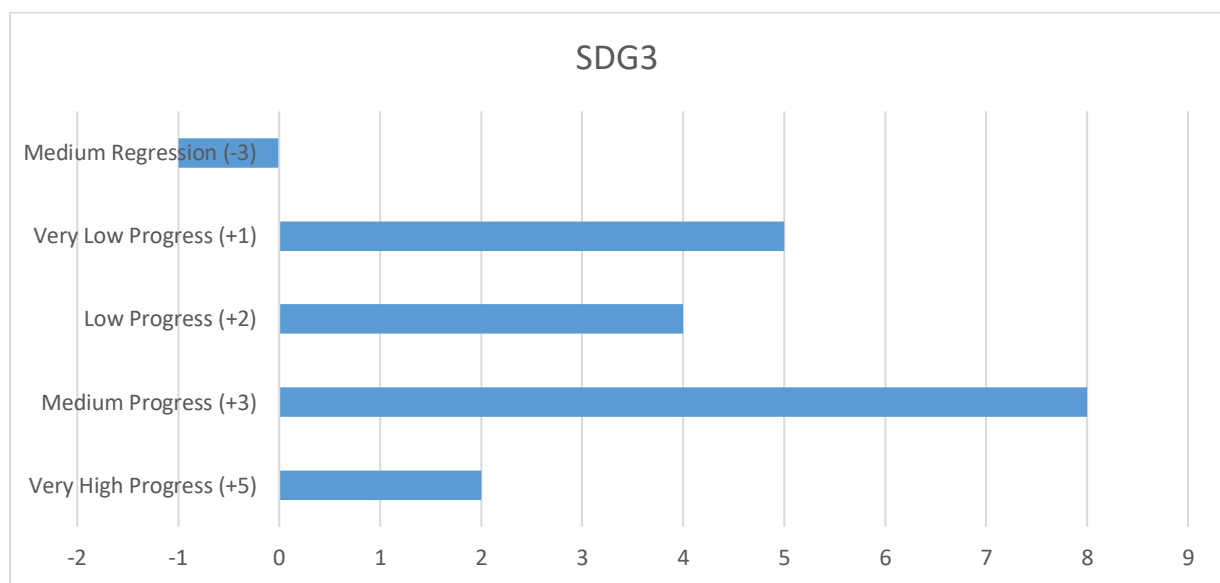
from neighbouring countries such as Zambia. The effect of the El Nino was not well prepared for by the Government to tackle the changes in rainfall patterns. We still have the threat of hunger both in rural and urban areas at extreme levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been assisting farmers in the past 3 years to ensure we have food security in the country by giving inputs. The Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme has been supporting subsistence farmers with inputs such as seed and fertilizers to improve harvests.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Figure 3 illustrates the rating of the progress made in promoting health lives and wellbeing since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 3: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

A few CSOs have noted that Zimbabwe has made moderate regression on SDG 3 while the majority acknowledged improvements with differing levels of progress being noted. The majority of CSOs who noted progress conceded that the health sector in Zimbabwe has made significant strides through its various policies to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in accessing services. However, PWDs are still faced with environmental, communication, attitudinal and information barriers that hinder them from accessing health services at ground level. Nurses are not well trained in Sign language which hinder communication with people with hearing impairment. Some clinics mostly at rural level have inaccessible infrastructure, information in braille on issues of health is still lacking.

The government has put in place polices that speaks to the promotion of good health and mental well-being but the challenge is on implementation and enforcement. The government has however failed to abide to the Abuja declaration which state that for every national budget allocation, 15% of the national budget allocation should go towards the Ministry of Health and Child Care to improve health service delivery.

On drug and substance abuse, the country is still lagging behind in terms of rehabilitation, treatment and care to clients suffering from drug and substance addiction. There are only 4 public facilities as to date that are offering rehabilitation services whereas the challenge is affecting a huge population especially the youth. There is lack of government led initiatives in terms of services delivery, especially public health services to marginalised communities. A number of public health services are being subsidised by the donor organisations.

Data from the World Health Organization and Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe has made some progress on SDG3 targets, but still faces significant challenges. Zimbabwe's maternal mortality ratio decreased from 651 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 462 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022. This represents a 29% reduction, but the country is still far from the SDG3 target of less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Some of the challenges include limited access to quality prenatal and obstetric care, especially in rural areas. Under-5 mortality rate decreased from 69 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 53 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022. Infant mortality rate decreased from 53 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022. While progress has been made, Zimbabwe is still off track to meet the SDG3 targets for under-5 and infant mortality. Factors contributing to child mortality include malnutrition, preventable diseases, and limited access to pediatric healthcare. HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 declined from 14.9% in 2015 to 13.8% in 2022. Zimbabwe has made progress in expanding antiretroviral treatment, with 86% of people living with HIV receiving treatment in 2022. However, new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths remain high, challenging the SDG3 target of ending the AIDS epidemic.

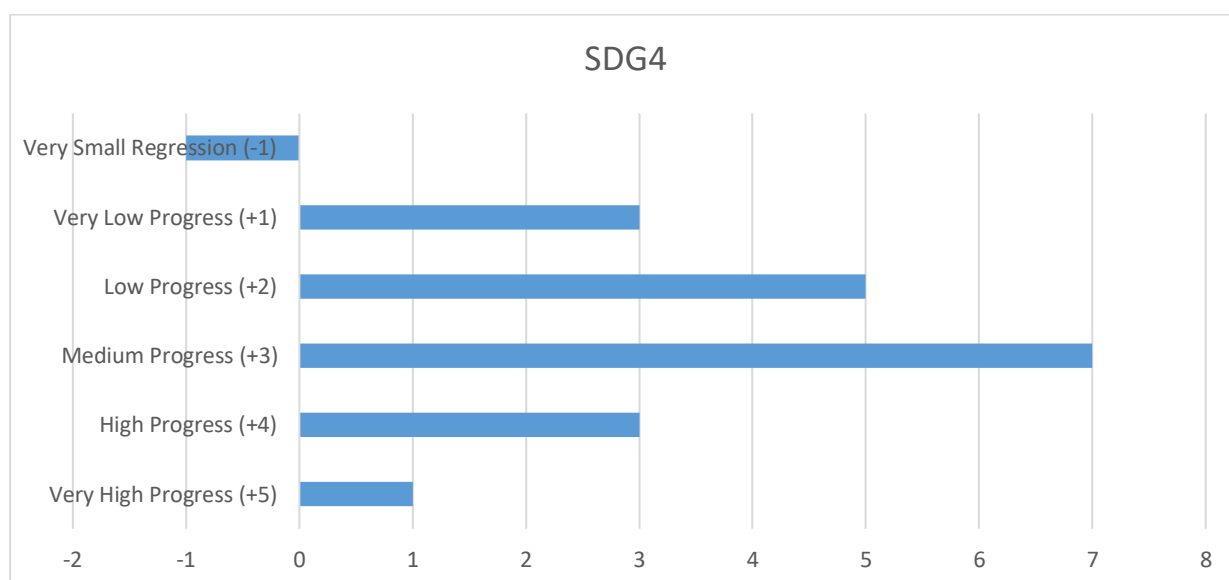
Zimbabwe is experiencing a rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases. NCD-related mortality increased from 30.5% of total deaths in 2015 to 33.2% in 2022. Lack of early detection, limited access to NCD treatments, and unhealthy lifestyle factors contribute to the growing NCD burden. Access to health care on public institutions has been affected by lack of drugs in public hospitals, generally, no specialized care has been found on public health care.

Overall, Zimbabwe has made some progress on SDG3 targets, but significant challenges remain. Continued efforts are needed to improve maternal and child health, tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases, and strengthen the healthcare system to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Figure 4 illustrates the rating of the progress made in promoting inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People's Score Card.

Figure 4: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

There is general acknowledgement among CSOs that Zimbabwe has made some progress towards promoting inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all. Most CSOs believe Zimbabwe has made low to medium progress. The reasons for the perception include the adoption of the inclusive education curriculum by the government of Zimbabwe. The government has made great effort in providing disability inclusive education. There is disability resource centres in tertiary institutions where all PWDs are equally educated on the same basis with others. However, some institutions still require upgrading of infrastructure to be more accessible to PWDs who use wheelchairs. Sign language also remains a communication barrier hindering equal participation of Persons with hearing impairment.

Organisations such as NASCOH, through its membership has also been pushing for the education of children with all types of disabilities through inclusive education. Jairos Jiri schools throughout the country, ZIMCARE schools, King George and some Government and Council owned schools have continued to cover this gap. However, there are still challenges especially on learning materials (availability), shortage of qualified teachers to cover children with various types of impairments and also the delay in the adoption of the Inclusive Education policy have been some notable issues.

Some of the key achievements in the education sector include the following

- Zimbabwe has achieved a primary school net enrollment rate of over 90% while it has reached over 50% in secondary schools. Zimbabwe has made some progress in improving gender parity in education, with girls' enrollment rates approaching those of boys.

- The government has continued to invest in building new primary schools and classrooms to improve access. There are efforts to increase the number of secondary schools and expand vocational and technical education options.
- Initiatives are underway to improve the quality of primary education, including teacher training and curriculum reform.
- The government has increased investment in early childhood development (ECD) programs, with a focus on expanding access, especially in rural areas.
- The percentage of children enrolled in ECD programs has increased from 34% in 2015 to over 45% in 2021.

However, challenges remain in providing education opportunities for children with disabilities and those from marginalized communities. Key challenges include;

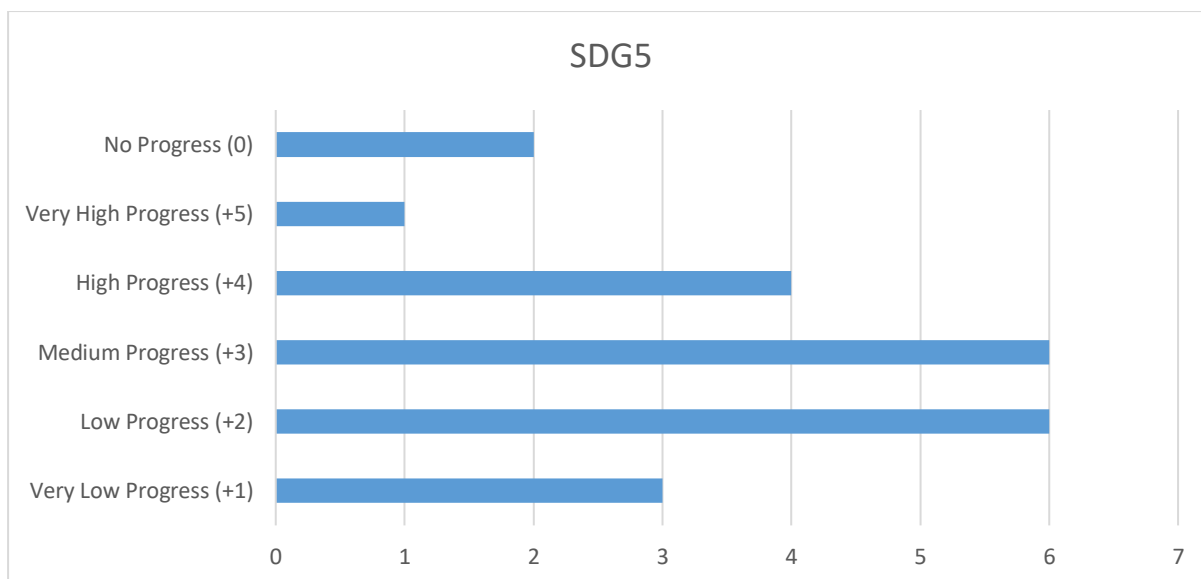
- There are still disparities in access to quality education, particularly between urban and rural areas.
- High dropout rates, especially at the secondary level, remain a concern.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated challenges in the education sector, leading to school closures and learning disruptions.
- Access to education systems is very good. The Beam program has challenges in disbursement of funds
- Marginalized school going children continue to suffer as they isnt much progress on educational development in rural areas

The Government need to work on some the educational curriculum as it does not prepare one for work after school.

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Figure 5 illustrates the rating of the progress made in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People's Score Card.

Figure 5: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

CSOs perceived that Zimbabwe has made some progress towards realisation of SDG 5 with varied degree of progress being noted among different actors. The majority of CSOs believed Zimbabwe has made moderate to high progress with a few CSOs noting that no progress has been made since the 2021 VNR. CSOs perceive that Gender transformative approach to programming has been on an increase especially among many development projects. The ministry of women's affairs, community development and SMEs has made great strides in empowering women with disabilities through skills training, and providing access to loans for their businesses. However, information barriers still exist in cascading the messages to women with hearing and visual impairment.

CSOs who believe no progress has been made cited that gender issues within the disability sector have not been adequately addressed. Women with disabilities continue to be side-lined in decision making platforms and are even side-lined in the main disability movement despite the fact that they face an intersection of disadvantages. Their exclusion means that they continue to lag behind their male counterparts with disabilities and their female colleagues without disabilities. They are the majority in the poor people categories.

The CSOs also noted that there has been very little progress with regards to reaching gender parity. Although most women have been empowered to take up leadership positions in all developmental aspects. The policies and frameworks are in support for gender equality and most government ministries and bodies are mandated to have gender focal persons and gender desks to ensure there is equality and no discrimination of all.

The country continues to make progress on this goal, with more women ascending to positions of power. At the local authority level, the number of women Councilors increased and the unpaid care work agenda has gained traction within the Government. The proportion of seats held by women in national parliament in Zimbabwe was 31.5%, up from 26.7% in 2015. This is above the sub-Saharan Africa regional average of 23.9% in 2021. The proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 was 32.5% in 2019, down from 35.5% in 2015. However, this is still high compared to the sub-Saharan Africa regional average of 34.5%. The adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years)

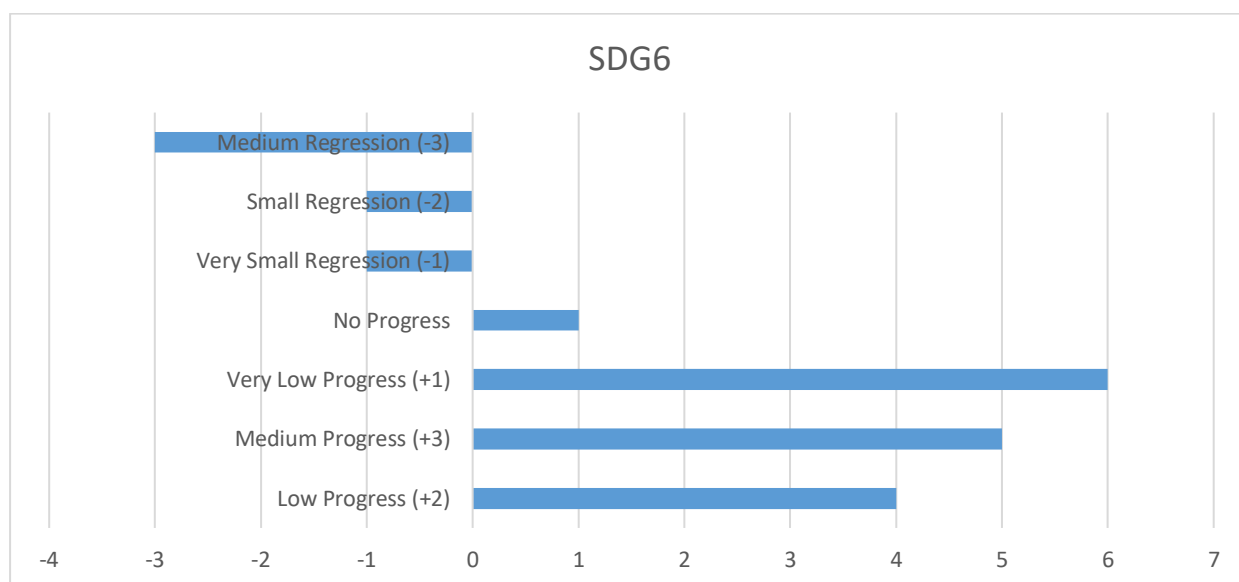
in Zimbabwe was 80.8 in 2021, down from 92.5 in 2015. This remains higher than the sub-Saharan Africa regional average of 99.1 in 2021.

Zimbabwe has made some progress in areas like women's political representation and reducing child marriage and adolescent birth rates, more work is still needed to fully achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls as envisioned by SDG5. Continued government efforts, civil society engagement, and international support will be crucial going forward.

SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Figure 6 illustrates the rating of the progress made in ensuring availability and management of water and sanitation services for all since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 6: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

The majority of CSOs that measured progress on SDG 6 perceived that Government has made very low to medium progress. However, a sizeable number of CSOs noted that Zimbabwe has regressed with most CSO believing that the country has made moderate regression.

The PWDs constituency appreciate the efforts made in ensuring availability of water sources such as boreholes in communities to alleviate water challenges. However, the boreholes are not user friendly to people with physical impairment as they would require more effort in pumping the borehole pump. In some communities, solar systems have been introduced to reduce the water challenges. The government has generated the borehole system to have access to clean water to be met. However, the boreholes, drying dams and not having enough to supply without rationalisation has been a matter of concern.

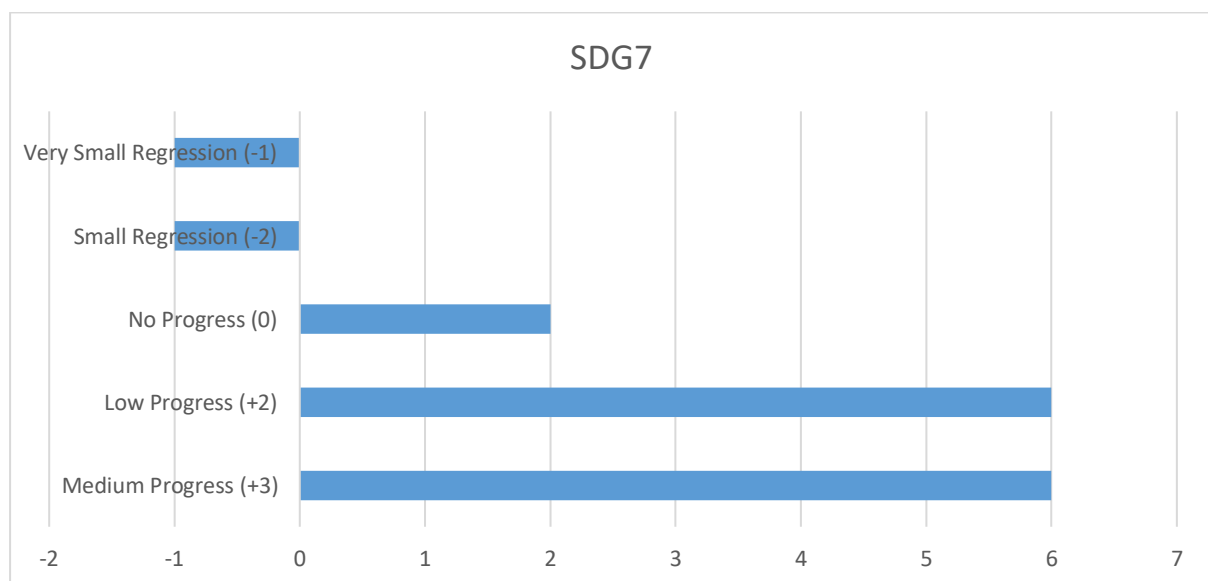
Water shortages continue to haunt many urban dwellers with some areas going for months without clean and safe water. The water challenge has resulted in outbreaks such as Cholera and typhoid. There is still need to push for more action towards provision of safe and clean water especially in towns. Many wet lands and water tables have been disturbed and there has been a lot of corruption in service delivery by those mandated to do so. Water is no longer available, accessible, safe to drink etc. good example is the city of Harare as many areas would go for months without water.

Access to water remains a challenge across the country, with all local authorities implementing a water rationing program of some sort. Recently the Government has moved in to push for the privatization of water supply. This will have an adverse effect on water affordability for most citizens from poor households. The country experienced a drought, with water levels low across the country - this reverses gains on this. A positive development is the call by the Government for all local authorities to develop Master Plans. Potentially this might improve the water situation moving forward across the country.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Figure 7 illustrates the rating of the progress made in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 7: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



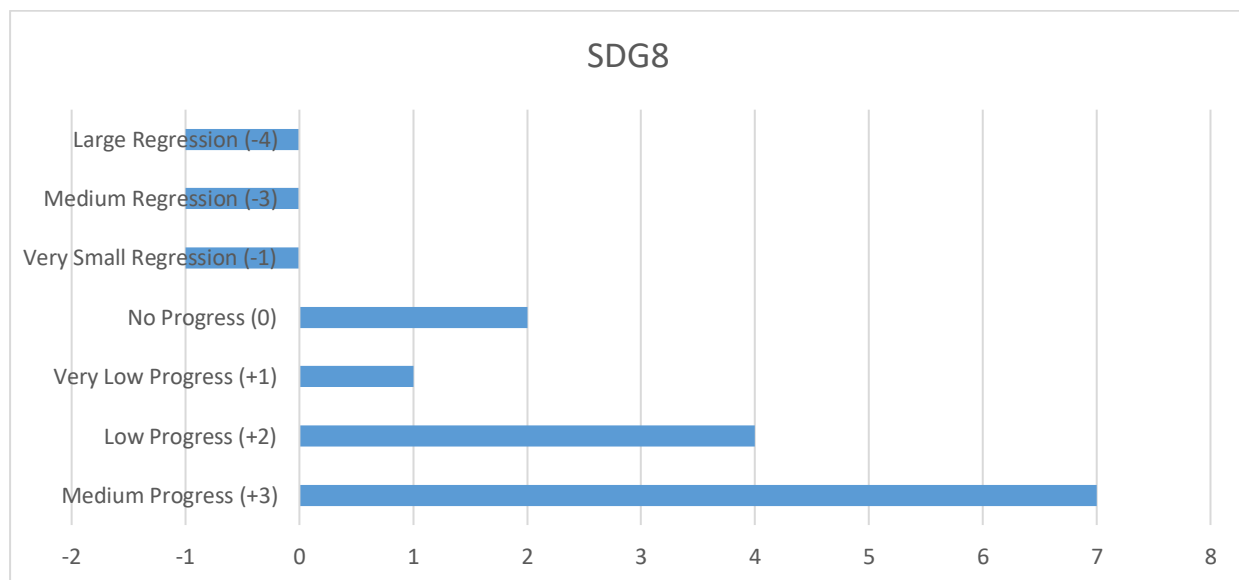
Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

The CSOs that measured access to modern and sustainable energy perceived that Zimbabwe has made low to moderate progress since the last VNR. About 2 Apex Organisations believed Zimbabwe made no progress while other 2 cited that the country has regressed. Challenges cited include limited access to energy from the national power grid which remains subdued with most communities facing load shedding. The depleting levels of water within dams used for generating hydro-electricity have an adverse effect on the supply of energy. The Hwange commissioned more energy supply unit, but priority seems toward mining and industry, with this increase in supply not cascading to businesses. Most households and companies have embrace use of solar increasing supply and access to energy for all. Paradoxically, majority of citizens still relay for energy from other sources such as coal, firewood both which are harmful to the environment. Initiatives for reliable and modern energy services have been made but the average Zimbabwean is unable to afford them due to their costs which is expensive Energy is not affordable and not environmentally friendly as the country continue to rely on fossil fuel for energy generation.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Figure 8 illustrates the rating of the progress made in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 8: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

The CSOs that participate in reviewing SDG 8 in the main conceded that Zimbabwe has made moderate progress. A few apex organisations (3) noted regression towards the realisation of SDG 8. Those that conceded progress cited efforts made through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Recreation to ensure inclusion and participation of youth with disabilities in their empowerment programs. However, lack of employment remains a major

challenge for youth, more so for youth with disabilities. Some institutional policies hinder YWDs from accessing employment opportunities on the same basis with others.

Organisations such as NASCOH have been identifying companies to partner with on improving their working environments so as to accommodate persons with disabilities and increase their employment opportunities. Capacity building of 240 youths with disabilities was also done to prepare them for employment. These efforts have helped in raising awareness even on the need to register with the Public Service Commission.

Women and girls continue to suffer the burden of unpaid care work yet there is no recognition of their effort. There is no framework in place that recognise care and domestic work and this continues to widen the economic growth between man and women and hinder women from participating in other development processes

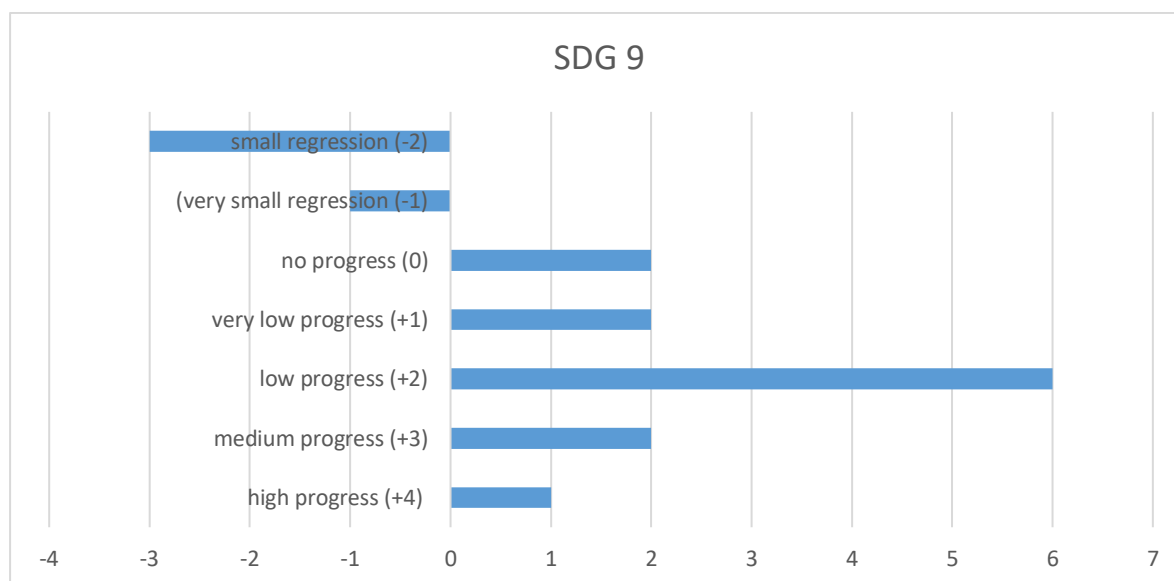
Unemployment remain high in the country, with the country not having clear policy frameworks to address the unemployment challenge. Most of the citizens rely on the informal economy, in which there are no mechanisms to ensure descent work, workplace standards and policies which protect workers. While at law, child labour is not permissible, within most farming and rural communities this is prevalent.

Decent work is still lagging particularly in the informal sector and retail where labour rights are being abused in most Chinese ran enterprises.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Figure 9 illustrates the rating of the progress made in building resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 9: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

The majority CSOs that reviewed SDG 9 perceived that Zimbabwe has made low progress while others noted that the country had made small regression. The disability sector noted

that a few infrastructure has been made disability friendly with availability of ramps and rails. However, there is still need to upscale most of the infrastructure to be disability inclusive. Resources have been cited as a major drawback.

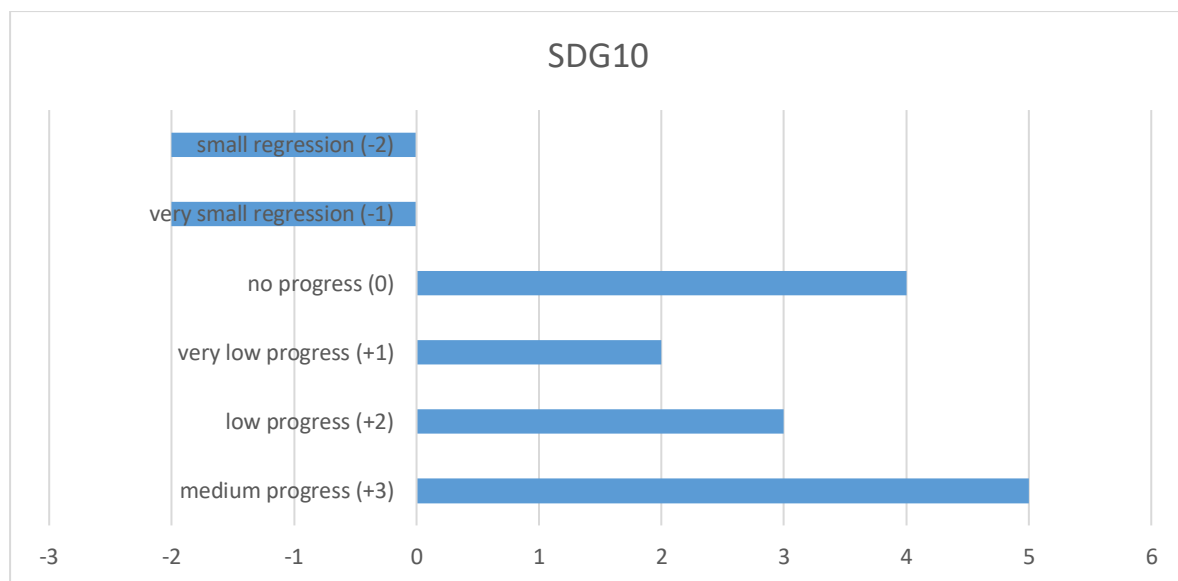
There is still a lot of work to be done in relation to infrastructure that is accommodative of persons with various types of disabilities including developing national accessibility guidelines.

There are increasing efforts at financial inclusion, with major banks developing products that target hard to reach and persons that have access challenges such as women and youth. The Women's Bank and Empower Bank both stand to close this gap.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Figure 10 illustrates the rating of the progress made in reducing inequality since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People's Score Card.

Figure 10: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

There is good policy implementation as seen by participation of women in decision making processes. Although some efforts are being made to ensure reduced inequalities at policy level, the issue remains at implementation level on the ground. Most of the detects of the National Disability policy are not being implemented, most probably due to lack of sensitization on the policy.

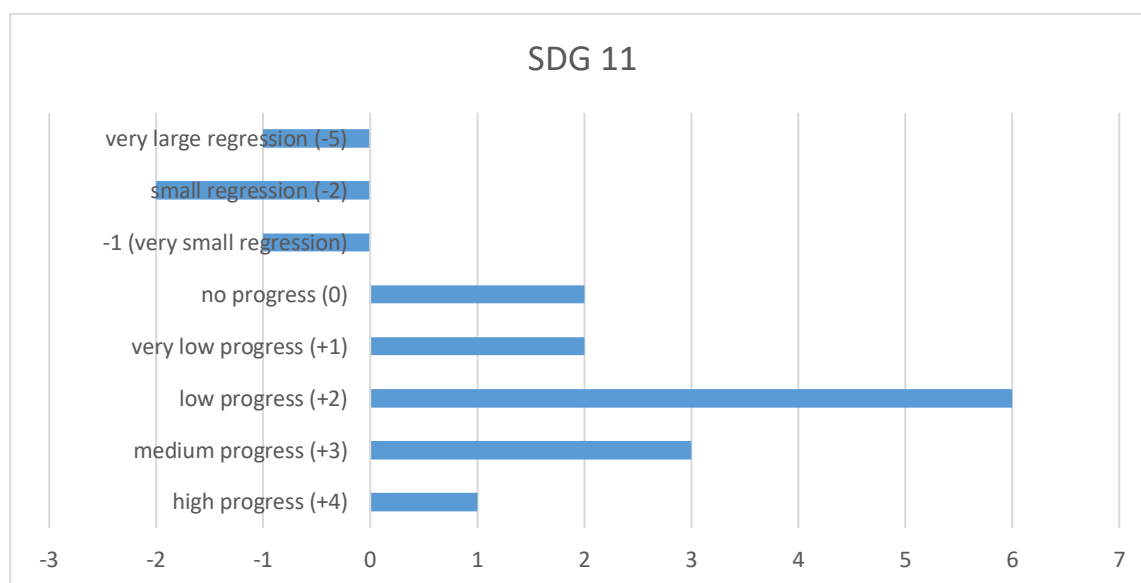
NASCOH and its members are working hard in advocating for inclusive policies in all sectors to enable equal participation including in decision making platforms. The two senators with disabilities provision is commendable although not enough and the lack of

representation from council level to parliament signify that there is still a lot to be done if equality is to be achieved especially for women and girls with disabilities

SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

Figure 11 illustrates the rating of the progress made in making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 11: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

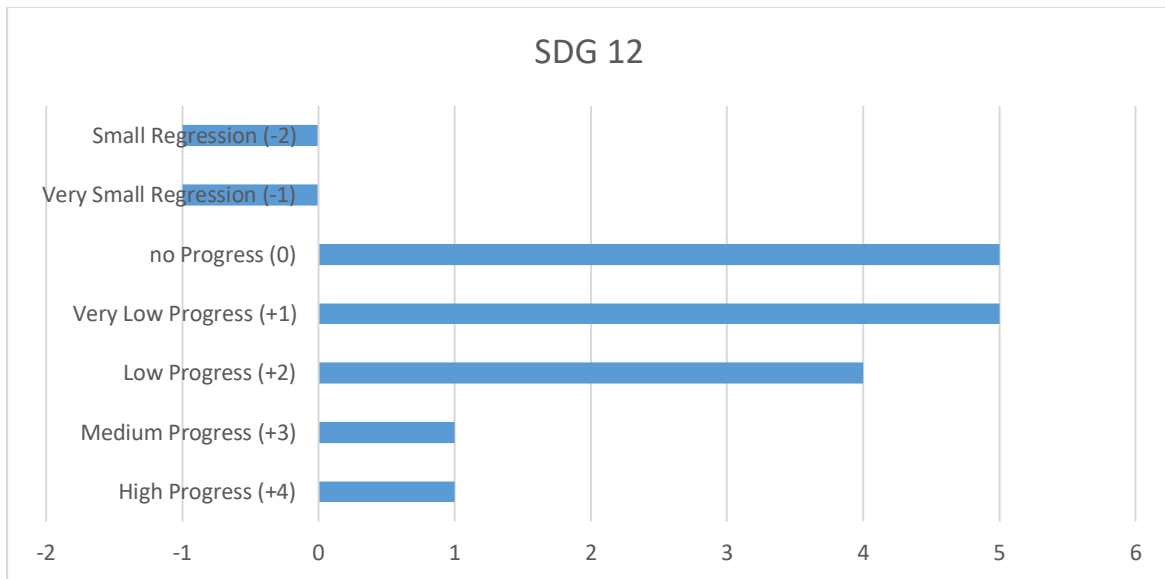
Due to technological advancement, PWDs are still faced with lack of universal designs that accommodate them in the transportation sector. Moreover, more efforts towards a disaggregated database for PWDs in their diversity still need to be developed. Accessible Early warning systems also need to be upgraded to be more disability friendly.

The participation of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction programs has improved with the civil protection Department taking great initiatives in ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities are included. These efforts should, however, be monitored to ensure that all the committees and structures at all levels are representative of persons with disabilities. The Government has made moves to put in place the Disaster Reduction Policy which will go a long way to address this in the wake of increasing natural and human disasters.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Figure 12 illustrates the rating of the progress made in ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 12: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs

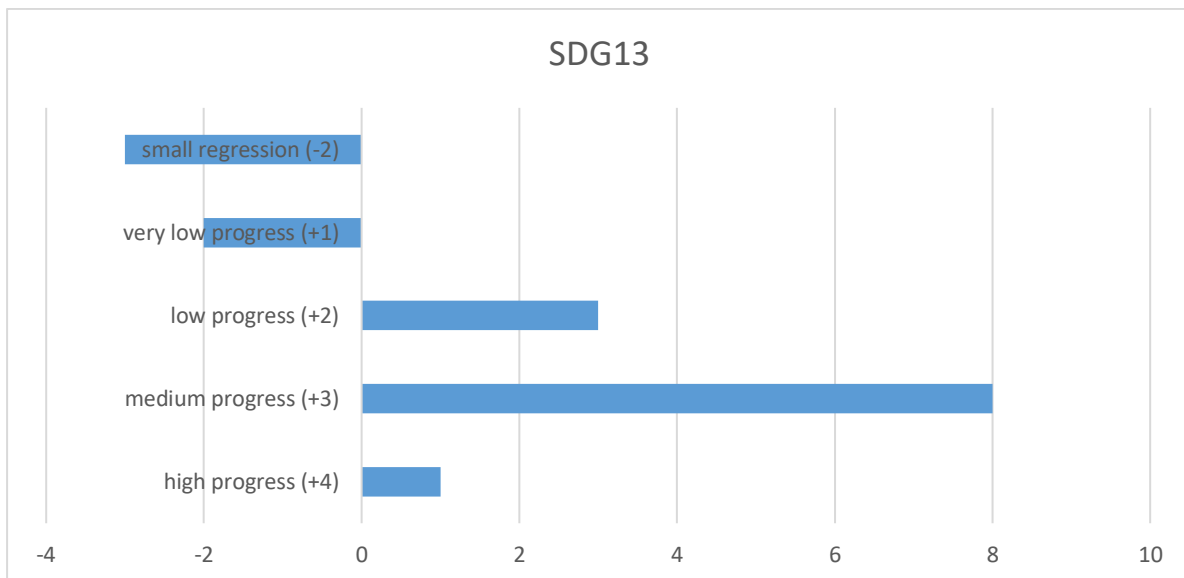


Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Figure 13 illustrates the rating of the progress made in combating climate change and its impact since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People's Score Card.

Figure 13: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

Just like in Disaster risk management, climate change sensitisation need to be enhanced especially towards PWDs. Accessible Early warning systems also need to be upgraded to be more disability friendly

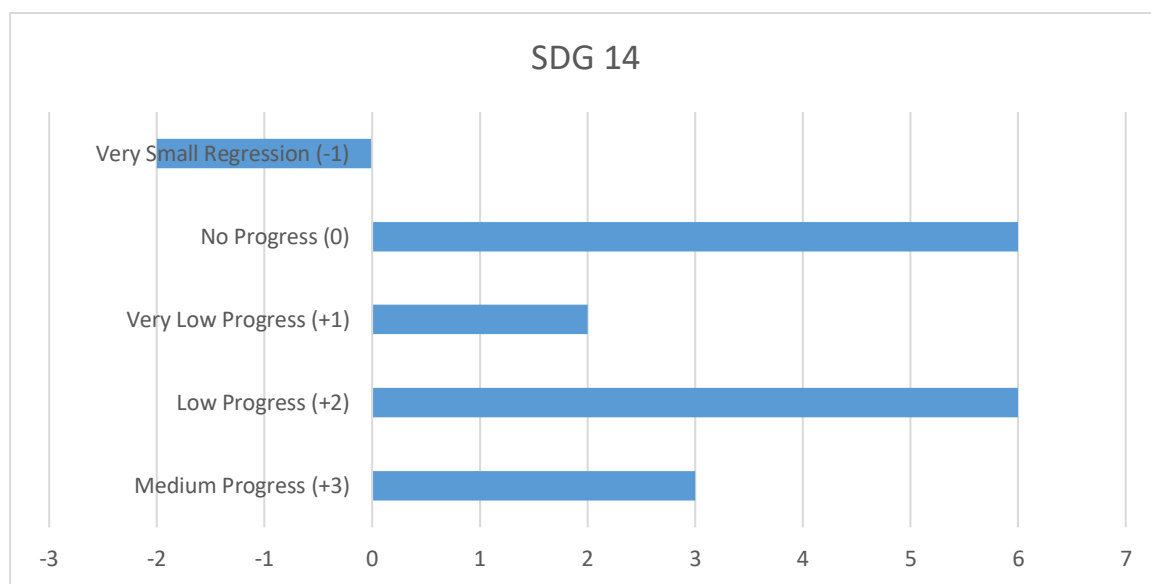
Awareness raising among persons with disabilities were done and are being done for them to participate effectively in climate change programs. Organizations and Government Departments carrying out programs related to climate change

Climate education has been on going in various spaces and there has been a great improvement in terms of conversations around climate change both online and offline platforms especially on the negative effects of Climate change. Recently the government issued a statement on the national disaster caused by the El Nino drought. However, there is need to reach out to rural communities with the information. Strengthening the communities to be resilient has been as a result of poor planning and no priority

SDG 14: Life below water

Figure 14 illustrates the rating of the progress made in making life below water sustainable since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 14: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs

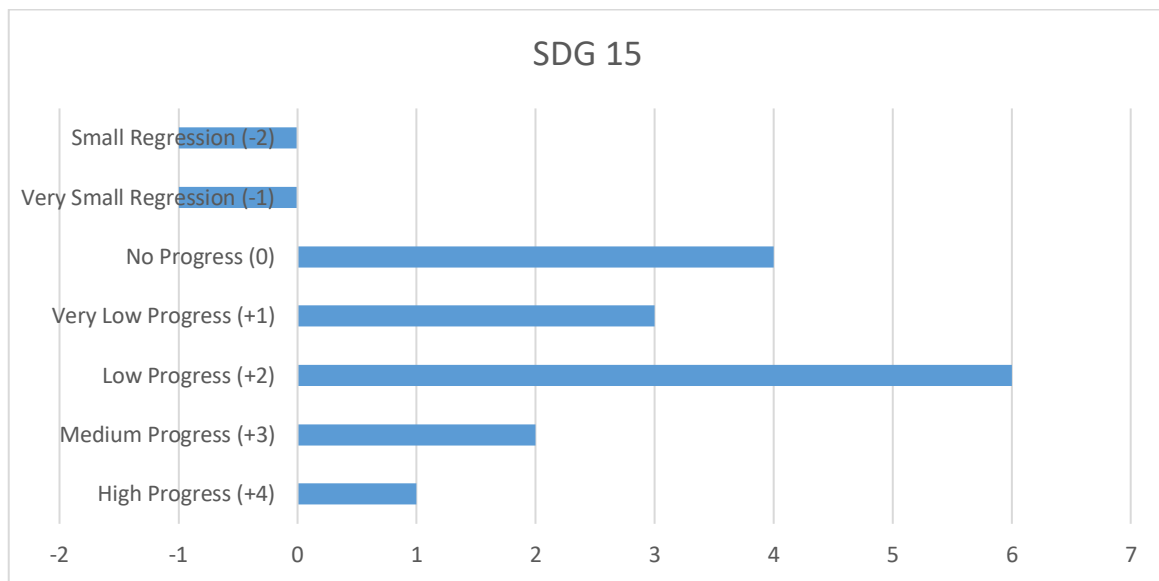


Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People’s Score Card

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Figure 15 illustrates the rating of the progress made in protecting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People’s Score Card.

Figure 15: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



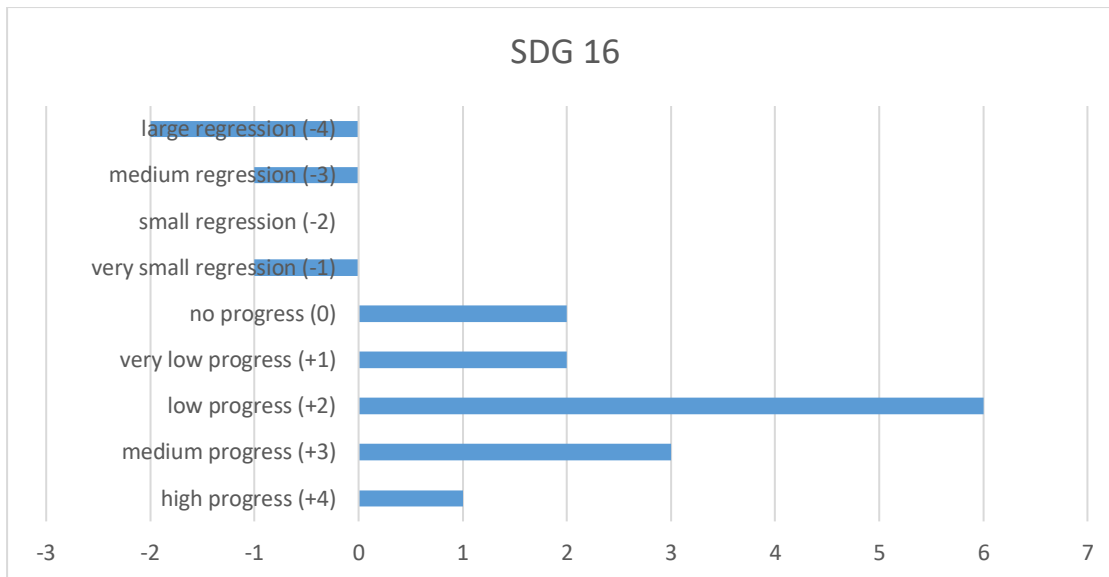
Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

Very little progress has been made with regards to wildlife preservation and laws have been made more tough to perpetrators of wildlife poaching which is a huge step in wildlife conservation

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Figure 16 illustrates the rating of the progress made in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People's Score Card

Figure 16: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



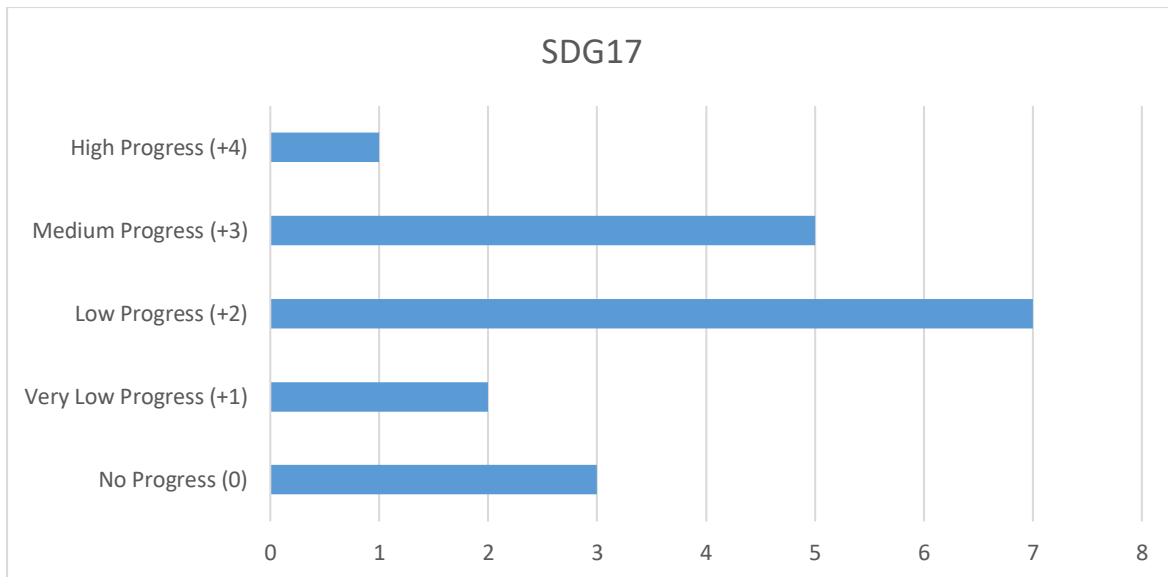
Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

The Judicial system accommodates everyone including PWDs. However, there is still need for disability awareness and Sign language training to ensure maximum participation and inclusion of PWDs in their diversity. Institutions such as the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission ZACC have engaged with various stakeholders to reduce and fight corruption and bribery. Corruption is being done and there is little progress to combat corruption starting from the local council Policies have been drafted but are not being implemented if implemented they are only enforced on those without power and means.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Figure 17 illustrates the rating of the progress made in strengthening the means of implementation since the 2021 VNR. The ratings were provided using the Likert scale adopted from the People's Score Card.

Figure 17: CSOs Rating of the progress made in achieving the SDGs



Source: Authors Computation from the consolidated People's Score Card

The country is participating in the 4th Monitoring round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) - a strong measure on its commitment to address this goal as it is related to Development Cooperation, ODA and inclusive multi stakeholder dialogue and processes at the country level. The country has an elaborate system, Devpromis to track flows of ODA in the country and a National Development Cooperation policy framework that sets up coordinative platforms accessible to the Government and Development Partners. CSO inclusion in such spaces remains marginal. Debt remains a key challenge, with the African Development Bank Engineered Debt and Arrears Clearance process facing challenges on its implementation especially as relates the recommendations on Governance and CSO Enabling Environment. Lastly, the efforts by the Government to amend the Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Amendment Bill with a more restrictive legislative framework that threatens the existence of local CSOs will have an adverse effect on progress made relating to this goal.

Means of Implementation

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

There is room to strengthen Public-Private Partnerships, domestic resource mobilization, and financing.

There is a need to identify concrete capacity development plans and technology-based support needs for CSOs in the country, to enhance their contribution towards sustainable development.

Coverage of domestic resource mobilization should include private sector contribution.

CSOs consulted also highlighted that some development partners do not perceive value in the prioritized SDGs which makes it difficult for CSOs who support those priorities to access required funds. The CSOs also cited that UN funding and technical support is limited to certain spheres of work/categories of stakeholders, mostly government, and so there is limited capacity to meet the financial and support needs of CSOs. In terms of policy alignment and integration, efforts must be made to ensure that national policies, strategies, and plans align with the SDGs.

This includes integrating SDGs into sectoral policies related to social service delivery and human capital development. The formulation of NDS 2 presents an opportunity to push for this. While we appreciate the Whole of Government approach, more can be done to establish mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination to promote synergies and avoid trade-offs between different goals.

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

- Accessible information and availability of disability disaggregated data
- Improved affordability of assistive devices and modern technology such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, sunscreen lotions for persons with albinism pills for mental health patients, and medication for epileptic patients
- Improved monthly social grants for persons with disabilities

- Education curriculum pictorial presentation should be inclusive
- Ensuring good health and wellbeing for persons with disabilities
- Fast track implementation of Disability Policy and finalisation of the Disability Bill
- Government to continuously engage with partners for technical and financial resources
- Inclusive education that cater for the needs and facilitates learning on an equal basis
- Provision of assistive devices and modern technology, pills for mental health patients, Lotions and sunscreens for people with albinism and medication for epileptic patients.
- Strengthening PWDs voices, values, needs and interests at all levels
- Health system should respect the sexual reproductive health rights of PWDs
- Disability should be mainstreamed within the proportional representative system through the legislated quotas to ensure PWDs occupation of political leadership positions
- The Government must formalize day care centres for children with multiple disabilities