

ZAMBIA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION'S SHADOW REPORT ON THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF STATUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	2
Acronyms.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....	6
SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.....	8
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Challenges and gaps.....	9
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING RECOMMENDATIONS.....	11
SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION.....	12
Quality Education Challenges and gaps.....	13
Quality Education Recommendations.....	14
SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY.....	16
Gender Equality Challenges and gaps.....	21
Gender Equality Recommendations.....	22
SDG 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION.....	23
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION Challenges and gaps.....	23
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION Recommendation.....	24
SDG 9. INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION.....	25
INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION Challenges and gaps.....	25
INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION Recommendations.....	26
SDG 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.....	27
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.Challenges and gaps.....	28
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES Recommendations.....	28
SDG 13. CLIMATE CHANGE.....	29
CLIMATE CHANGE Challenges and gaps.....	30
CLIMATE CHANGE Recommendations.....	30
SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND.....	31
LIFE ON LAND Challenges and gaps.....	31
LIFE ON LAND Recommendations.....	31
INTERSECTIONALITY.....	33
Health Intersectionality.....	33
Health SDG Implementation Status: Stalled.....	33
Quality Education Intersectionality.....	38
Gender and Equality Intersectionality.....	40
SDG 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION INTERSECTIONALITY.....	43
SDG 9. INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION Intersectionality.....	45
SDG 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES. INTERSECTIONALITY.....	47
SDG 13. CLIMATE CHANGE INTERSECTIONALITY.....	49
SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND INTERSECTIONALITY.....	51
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.....	53

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ACRONYMS

CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CP	Cooperating Partners
CSPR	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ECE	Early Childhood Education
HELSEB	Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CHAZ	Churches Health Association of Zambia
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
HMIS	Health Management Information Systems
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NUP	National Urbanization Policy
MoGE	Ministry of General Education
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
NDP	National Development Plans
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Civil Society Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Shadow report is the result of report reviews, a series of meetings and consultative processes by various Civil Society organisations that provided input. This report consequently seeks to provide an independent opinion on the implementation status of SDGs in Zambia and provide recommendations to facilitate accelerated implementation. The report has been done with the knowledge that the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report for Zambia shall be presented in July 2023. The objective of the VNR is to facilitate the sharing of experience including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

It has been observed that at the political level, there has been a strong commitment to delivering SDGs that has resulted in the adoption of the Eightieth National Development Plan (8NDP) as a means of implementation and monitoring. However, there is a challenge in investing and adhering to the plans due to the high debt repayment burden. This remains the main threat in achieving SDG targets.

The Leaving No One Behind policy highlights the fact that, while all Governments (including Zambia) are keen to ensure all service provision has equity, equality and quality, there is a tendency to leave out some players - especially the most vulnerable and marginalised groups. It notes that demographic imbalances, including rapid population growth, particularly in low-income areas; ageing populations; and the large share of young people involved in internal and international migration generate additional challenges to meeting the pledge to leave no one behind. Selected SDGs (3, 4, 5, 6 and 11) have been presented with a focus on Government's approaches towards the implementation of programs.

One promising area in the achievement of the SDGs is in education. There's been an increase in budget allocation to education through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which helped upgrade some educational facilities, improved learning furniture and provision of scholarships to vulnerable students (including children with disabilities). The budget increase led to the recruitment of 30, 000 teachers. Free education from Early Childhood to Grade 12 is being implemented as well. Despite these improvements, quality of education has been a challenge due to inadequate infrastructure and teachers. Schools do not have adequate infrastructure and skills to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities. Examination fees continue to be a barrier for some students sitting for GCE exams.

With the enactment of the Gender Equity and Equality Act, we hope to see issues affecting women and girls in Zambia addressed more effectively. However, many challenges and gaps are noted such as Gender parity at secondary level being less than 1. Gender equality could also benefit from more real-time data to inform decision making.

On SDG 6, construction and rehabilitation of boreholes showed progress. In 2022, World Vision drilled over 430 boreholes and installed 111 piped water systems. The recently launched Zambia Water Investment Program aims to raise \$5.75Bn to finance SDG6. Barriers to successful implementation of the SDGs were noted such as, Low budgetary allocations and delays in disbursements; institutional capacity of commercial utility companies, central and local government; and issues with multi-sectorial coordination. Further, the recommendations highlighted from the CSO shadow report of 2020 are yet to be addressed.

SDG 9 progress has been recorded despite not been covered in the 2020 CSO VNR shadow report. The government has established the new Ministry of Science and Technology under which a National Science and Technology Council was established. The development of an Industrial strategy will catalyse job

creation and investments in sectors like manufacturing, agriculture processing and mining. The country has made progress in expanding road networks and renovated and upgraded airports.

In respect to SDG 11, the Government has formed a solid waste management company. Private sector actors are being issued licences as franchise contractors and Community Based Enterprises (CBEs). Recycling is done by the private sector e.g., Zambia Breweries' Manja Pamodzi. The challenges and gaps noted in solid waste management include: limited capacities of CBEs and local authorities – equipment e.g., skip bins, trucks etc; Weak business management capacities of local authorities and CBEs to deliver efficient services; Communities have limited awareness on recycling; poor waste management practices, and inadequate solid waste infrastructure such as landfills. The report also highlights CSO's initiatives to complement Government's efforts.

The Civil Society SDG report has included a section on Intersectionality. This part of the document is intentional about showing the linkages between different SDGs and how they impact on different populations.

INTRODUCTION

This shadow report provides an independent CSO assessment of the implementation of SDGs in Zambia. The report identifies the current status of implementation and the critical challenges and gaps for successful implementation of SDGs. This was possible through consultation, a series of meetings, and reports on reviews of governments and key stakeholders' actions toward achieving SDGs. The recommendations, opinions and views presented in this report exclusively reflect the different stakeholders consulted. The objective of the VNR is to facilitate the sharing of insights with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To complement efforts by the Government of Zambia's VNR report, the Zambia's Civil Society Organisations worked together to prepare the shadow report. They provided their inputs through thematic writing sessions and validation through presentations and a final validation meeting.

CIVIL SOCIETY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL IMPLEMENTATION PERSPECTIVE

Zambia's current Eightieth National Development Plan (8NDP) has embraced an integrated multi sectorial approach. The country has domesticated the SDGs, the AU Agenda 2063, among others, into its 8th NDP. The 8th NDP has four strategic areas: Economic transformation and Job creation; Human and Social Development, covering education, health, food and nutrition, water supply and sanitation, reduced poverty, vulnerability and inequality; Environmental sustainability, covering climate change and environment and Natural resource management; Good Governance Environment, covering governance, rule of law, human rights and constitutionalism. The four strategic areas mainstream the SDGs and their targets. To complement these efforts, CSOs in the country have also been programming their work with the aim of contributing to achieving SDGs related to their thematic areas. This report focuses on: SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11.

In June 2020, The Zambian CSO's analysed the progress in implementation of SDGs, listed impediments for successful implementation and offered a number of recommendations on a number of SDGs including 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11. This report highlights the state or progress the government has made towards the implementation of the CSO recommendations, highlighting challenges and gaps, and providing an intersectionality lens to illustrate how the pace of progress is affecting the most affected groups.

¹[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/#:~:text=The%20voluntary%20national%20reviews%20\(VNRs\)%20aim%20to%20facilitate%20the%20sharing%20of%20experiences%2C%20including%20successes%2C%20challenges%20and%20lessons%20learned%2C%20with%20a%20view%20to%20accelerating%20the%20implementation%20of%20the%202030%20Agenda](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/#:~:text=The%20voluntary%20national%20reviews%20(VNRs)%20aim%20to%20facilitate%20the%20sharing%20of%20experiences%2C%20including%20successes%2C%20challenges%20and%20lessons%20learned%2C%20with%20a%20view%20to%20accelerating%20the%20implementation%20of%20the%202030%20Agenda)



SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Good health and well-being are fundamental to human development. Without good health, people cannot reach their full potential, and a healthy population is essential for sustainable economic and social development.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
Comprehensive sexuality education programs are narrow and should have broader gender approaches to address the underlying factors that have compromised SRH.	The government has finalised the review of the school based CSE curriculum through wide consultations with stakeholders.
Government-led initiatives to address teenage pregnancies and early marriages.	Government has embarked on the review of the 'Ending Child Marriage strategy and enacted the Child Code Act No. 12 of 2022. Teenage pregnancies have continued to be a challenge. The lack of a visible programme that engages communities and teenager pregnancy determinants continues to affect outcomes. To this effect, the Ministry of Health in March 2023, launched the new Adolescent Health Strategy that proposes interventions aimed at reducing the teenage pregnancy rate from 29 per cent to 26.5 per cent by 2026.
Apply more efforts in reducing stigma and discrimination against mental health conditions.	Government enacted the Mental Health Act to address Mental health conditions, However the inadequate community engagement, drugs, infrastructure and skilled personnel is testimony to the inadequate prioritization regarding mental health.
Government should make efforts to address data reliability issues.	Data reliability remains a challenge. The reliance on Census data results in estimate anomalies. This becomes more pronounced with the passing of years from the last census. Districts with more than 100 immunization coverage have reported vaccine preventable illnesses.
Civil society working on health issues should be mobilized into a coalition to ensure accountability, transparency and good governance.	NGOs have created coalitions and networks on thematic issues such as Domestic Resource Mobilisation for Health, Reproductive Health and Immunisation among others. NGOs have also partnered with the parliamentary caucus on SRH.
Government should promote local healthy meals among children to compete against unhealthy foods in order to address stunting and wasting.	Sub optimal progress is being made. The biggest effort is through health promotion during MCH activities. However, lack of a communication strategy with high visibility in the public space is testimony of the lack of progress in this area.

In cases of pandemics such as Covid-19, there is a need to share child messages focusing on rural and urban socio-economic dynamics to help mitigate the spread of the virus among children.	The review team did not find any evidence of Covid19 messaging addressing the social economic dynamics affecting rural and Urban Children.
Government should continue the expansion and successful use of media in child health programs.	The Government has continued using the media to promote Child Health.
Prioritising exercise and nutrition as preventive measures among children.	Unplanned and illegal structures have encroached on spaces for children to play and engage in sports. Land meant for sports has been grabbed from schools leaving learners without spaces to engage in sports. Malnutrition among under 5 children remains high. Stunting currently stands at 35%, the third highest in the southern African region. ² The need for good nutrition and exercise is being promoted through school curricula.
Scale up feeding programs and immunisation in schools.	School feeding programs remain largely donor funded. Few children are currently accessing government funded school feeding programmes. Government has continued introducing new antigens in the Immunisation schedule and scaled up Immunisation programmes in schools through the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and Covid19 Vaccination initiatives.

Good Health and Well-Being Challenges and Gaps

There has been a proportional increase in budgetary allocation to the health sector from 8% in 2021 to 10.4% in 2023. The nominal increment has however not been sufficient to account for rising inflation and increased disease burden. This has led to multiple crises such as drug and medical supply shortages, inadequate diagnosis capacities and a negative practice environment. The increments have also fallen short of the Abuja Target to achieve 15 Percent of the National budget going to health.

The Government has scored some success such as recruiting 11,000 health personnel, increasing the number of graduating health care workers. This is an important milestone in reducing the health worker to patient ratio.

²Zambia investment case 2022 – 2026.

Communities continue facing difficulties in accessing health facilities and services due to distance, inadequate staffing, inadequate drugs and medical supplies, inaccessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities³ and uncooperative attitudes by some health workers.

The Increase in the CDF allocation has increased resources for health infrastructure. The Presidential Directive to have a Maternity Annex and Running water for every health facility has catalysed investments in these two areas. Implementation however remains slow and uncoordinated.

The reduction in Maternal mortality rates from 398 per 100,000 in 2014 to 278 per 100,000 in 2021⁴ is commended. The National Health Strategic Plan (2022- 2026) has a goal of reducing MMR from 278 to 100 per 100,000. The country has made inroads in reducing home deliveries. Facility maternal deaths, however remain a source of concern.

While safe abortion in Zambia remains legal under the Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1972, unsafe abortion related morbidity and mortality are still high owing to limited access to safe abortion information and services, particularly among rural populations and youths.

Over the past 10 years, significant progress has been made in strengthening the policy, legal, institutional and strategic frameworks for multi-sector response to HIV & AIDS. Despite the scaling up of interventions, aimed at improving counselling and testing, prevention, treatment and care for HIV & AIDS, infections among young people continues to be a source of concern. HIV & AIDS remain highly medicalised with an inadequate investment made in community and health promotion-related interventions that aim to reduce new infections.

Zambia has developed strategic documents to address key health challenges. The adolescent Health Strategy, National Health Strategic plan, Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan, RMNCAH-N investment case and FP commitments all serve to highlight the political and technical will to resolve the many challenges confronting the health sector. The key challenge in implementing these strategies remains domestic financing. Areas such as Immunisation, HIV, Family planning, Covid 19 and others remain heavily externally financed.

Drug and Alcohol abuse has continued to rise. This has led to the emergence of drug and alcohol addicts. The growing number of people with mental health challenges which can be traced to alcohol and drug abuse has combined with the ineptitude of the public health system in dealing with this challenge to create one of the biggest threats to Zambia's Social and economic developments.

³VNR, 2020

⁴<https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/news/how-zambia-has-reduced-maternal-deaths-300-cent-16-years>

Good Health and Well-Being Recommendations

MCH and Water in Health Facilities: The government through the Ministry of Local Government needs to expedite the construction of the maternity annexe and water reticulation directive in all Health facilities.

RMNCAH-N Services: To achieve improvements in RMNCAH-N, there is need to invest in a competent and supported workforce, create an enabling service environment, strengthen the referral system for outreach services, improve community engagement and health promotion, strengthen access to information and services for vulnerable populations and improve efficiency in resource allocation and utilisation. Beyond this, there is also a need to update the legal framework on abortion to take into consideration the advancement in safe abortion services since the original Termination of Pregnancy Act was first enacted. To achieve the above, government will need to honour the commitments made in the RMNCAH-N Investment case.

Data: Government needs to invest in strengthening data reliability and use. Particular focus should be at the health facility level. In addition, there is a need to invest in community-level data collection and reporting mechanisms to capture community and health promotion interventions.

Nutrition Using Local Foods: Scale up nutrition education and domestic resource allocation towards nutrition interventions including transparent and accountable disbursement and expenditure of funds.

Spaces for sports, exercise and recreation: Government should create, regulate and protect public sports, exercise and recreation facilities. Options of Public private partnerships should be explored to ensure that they are well maintained and equipped. Each school (private or Public) should have a designated sports field which can accommodate different sports disciplines. All encroachments in such spaces should be demolished and the perpetrators be held responsible for rehabilitating the school or public recreation space.

Health Financing: The Government should meet the 15 percent Abuja target and explore additional local resources for health. This intervention will result in increased drug and medical supplies, improved diagnostic capacity and infrastructure.

Accessibility for Health: Make all health facility infrastructure accessible to all persons including persons with disabilities. This should include training of staff in sign Language.

Rights Based Approach to Service Delivery: All Human Resources for Health should be trained in Value Clarification to ensure a client right focused service delivery model. Patients' Rights should be publicised and mechanisms for their promotion strengthened at all service delivery points.

Stemming the growing Alcohol and Drug Abuse challenge: Zambia needs to urgently address the growing alcohol and drug dependency epidemic that is threatening its development. Reviewing and implementation of the alcohol policy should be expedited with a strong emphasis on prevention.

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is one of the most powerful tools for promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty. Quality education can help to break the cycle of poverty, improve health outcomes, and empower individuals to become active and engaged citizens. Education empowers people with the skills and knowledge needed to participate in the workforce and contribute to their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
Government to fulfil its promises to expand Early Childhood Education (ECE) to all the remote areas of Zambia at ward level.	The Number of Early Childhood Centres remains inadequate. Little investments are being made in this area.
Promotion of skills and careers during basic education processes other than concentration on passing examinations.	The Government has made progress in this area.
Value-based School system that rewards innovation, adaptability and joint efforts (current system promotes competition).	Government is yet to make the curricula more responsive to innovation, adaptability and joint efforts.
Reduce Teacher-pupil ratio to acceptable standard.	The government has recruited 30, 000 teachers and plans to recruit 4,500 more in 2023 to reduce the pupil learner ratio (UNICEF 2022). This effort should however be evaluated against the large number of children who have returned to school and been enrolled following the introduction of free education, inadequate classes and retiring teachers. When seen in this light, it becomes clear that the number of teachers continues to be inadequate.
Numbers of Primary Schools against Secondary Schools and Tertiary Schools suggest that people MUST FAIL along the way. There are more Primary schools compared to Secondary schools; more Secondary Schools compared to Tertiary Schools.	The number of school places as one progresses through the education system remains inadequate. Zambia has 9400 primary schools against 1300 secondary schools, translating to 8 primary schools for every 1 secondary school. Government planned to construct 120 secondary schools last year, however, 60 are still under construction (UNICEF, 2023).
Reduce distances to Schools in rural areas by constructing Schools closer to the communities.	Fewer secondary schools translate to longer distances for learners. This acts as a barrier to children with mobility challenges and poses a security threat for others.
Education broadcasting should not just be for emergencies but an alternative mode of delivering education.	The Government made commendable efforts to introduce learning via television stations during the covid19 peak. This has however been discontinued after the number of Covid19 cases reduced.
Invite corporate entities to support poor and vulnerable families to access quality education as corporate social responsibility.	Government is yet to create incentives that encourage private sector philanthropy in Education.

Enforce compulsory education to rid streets of children.

Government has embarked on the review of the 'Ending Child Marriage strategy and enacted the Child Code Act No. 12 of 2022. The Act compels parents to provide education support for their children. Enforcement and public education is yet to be realised.

Quality Education Challenges And Gaps

Zambia has taken steps to improve access to education through the government pronouncement of free education policy from early Childhood Education to Secondary level. This has translated into increased enrolment and re-entry at primary to secondary level with a teacher pupil ratio of more than 1:50-80 leading to increased pressure on the limited school facilities and resources such as classrooms, toilets and laboratories. The free education policy therefore threatens to lower the already low-quality education if left unattended.

The budget allocation towards education has been declining from 2019 to 2022. However, there has been an increment from K14.2Billion in 2022 to K20.3 billion in 2023. The Constituency development Fund has been instrumental in increasing the number of desks for learners. This is an important aspect of creating a conducive teaching and learning environment. Despite this increment the education budget allocation remains below the 20% SADC and CAIRO commitment. Despite the nominal increments to the Education Budget, two-thirds of it goes to non-discretionary spending. This leaves very little resources to address key issues needed to improve the quality of Education. Textbooks, teaching aids, computers, Laboratory reagents, staff housing, and school infrastructure, including water and Sanitation facilities remain inadequate. Inadequate funding has all but eroded preventive maintenance activities leaving workshops in various stages of disuse.

The government has made efforts to improve teacher training and enhancing the quality of education through curriculum reviews and the phasing out of lower qualification in the Teaching profession such as certificate in primary teaching and diploma at Secondary level (Education Statistics Bulletin, 2020).

The Government has been providing support to the most vulnerable children through the Constituency Development Funds with bursaries in secondary boarding schools and skill development as well as providing opportunities for disadvantaged adolescents' girls in extreme poor household in selected districts through the implementation of the Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment Projects (UNICEF, 2022) and the Adolescent Girls Accessing HIV Prevention and Education (AGAPE) project implemented by the Churches Health Association of Zambia. Despite these efforts, the number of bursaries remain inadequate to cater for the many vulnerable children who are still unable to meet other costs associated with free education such as books, uniforms boarding fees, food and transport.

Early Childhood education services for children with disabilities remains a neglected area. This is evident in the many districts without Early Childhood learning facilities that can meet the needs of children with disabilities⁵. Gender parity at secondary level is less than 1⁶ (Education Statistics Bulletin, 2020).

The various responsibilities that come with parenthood do not allow the learners to fully access and commit to education. Teenage pregnancies remain high. 12,330 pregnancies were recorded in primary schools with 5,078 readmissions. 4,089 pregnancies were recorded at secondary school level with 2,876 readmissions in 2020. (Education Statistics bulletin 2020). The proportion of pregnant children at primary schools is a great source of concern.

Zambia recognises the need to invest in ICT education. A study conducted by ZANEC in 2022, reported that, while about 14.7% of urban households had access to computers, only 2.7% in the rural areas had access to a computer. 88.1% of the urban households had access to a basic mobile phone compared to 61.6% in the rural areas. While access to mobile devices in rural areas stood at 61.6%, internet access was only at 6.6%, because rural areas lack access to reliable internet connectivity. This digital divide threatens to impede efforts at leveraging technology for education, health and other developmental efforts. Teachers were also found to be among the populations with limited digital literacy and ICT competencies (ZANEC, 2022)⁷.

School infrastructure remains largely unresponsive to people with mobility disabilities. Research should be carried out to determine accessibility by gender and disability in order to create a richer picture to inform interventions at addressing ICT skills and knowledge gaps.

Quality Education Recommendations

Funding: The government should allocate to 20% of the National Budget to Education as per SADC and Cairo protocols. The allocation to education should have a significant percentage allocated towards teaching and learning materials, teachers training and development, school management as well as building of more education facilities in order to improve quality.

Teacher Pupil Ratio: More teachers should be recruited to reduce the teacher pupil ratio.

Distance Barriers: More schools should be built to reduce the distance for learners, especially in rural areas. This will address the access due to distance challenge faced by many rural communities.

More accessible Bursaries: Government should decentralise and increase funding to HELSB to increase access to funding for tertiary education among eligible students especially vulnerable communities across the country. This should include a Waiver for application fees.

WASH in Schools: Government should develop and upgrade infrastructure to promote WASH in schools and make schools more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Disability Competent Education system: Government must strengthen pre-service training with disability inclusive content. Higher disability training should be incentivised and awarded through a rigorous meritocratic system. Funding for assistive technology, appropriate teaching and learning materials as well as home-based education for learners with disabilities who cannot access regular schools should be provided for.

Alternative Education Delivery Systems: Government must enhance investments in alternative modes of learning. The education broadcasting services should be supported to improve and increase content and

⁵UNICEF (2023) Disability Budget Brief.

⁶MOE: Education Statistics Bulletin 2020.

⁷ZANEC: 2022 Report "Status of Education Technology and Digital Literacy levels Among Teachers, Learners and Parents in Zambia

coverage. Partnerships with the public and private media houses and companies should be pursued.

Income contributing Schools: Government should strengthen schools production units to ensure sustainability.

Energy and ICTs: Government should enhance investments in electricity, alternative sources of energy and internet infrastructure to improve access to digital technology especially in peri-urban and rural areas.

Education Infrastructure: The government to accelerate the building of infrastructure in the education sector, including boarding and sanitation facilities to accommodate the increased number of learners arising from the free education policy. The Constituency Development Fund can be used to address infrastructure gaps.

Life Skills and Health education: Government to progressively invest and scale-up Life Skills and Health education through capacity building in the pedagogy, teacher training, production of LSHE teaching and learning materials and resources.

School Health Programmes: Government and partners to scale-up investment in school health and nutrition programs to promote a more inclusive education system.

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY

Gender inequality remains a significant barrier to sustainable development and social progress. Women and girls continue to face discrimination and violence in many areas of life, including education, employment, health, and political participation. Gender inequality also undermines economic growth and social cohesion, as it prevents women and men from realising their full potential and contributing to their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
<p>Government should allocate more resources to relevant institutions to ensure full implementation of all the progressive legislation on gender.</p>	<p>Zambia has made progress in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. The government has enacted policies and legislation to address gender-based violence. The Policies that have been formulated are: The Re – Entry Policy of 2008, Gender Policy of 2018 and the Legal Aid Policy of 2018. The legislation enacted is the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act of 2011; Education Act of 2011 that prohibits marrying off a learner; the Gender Equity and Equality act of 2015, which is an enabling legislation to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and providing for gender equity and equality in all spheres of life; Child Code Act of 2022 and; Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012. Further, the Government has integrated the One Stop Centre model in the Health facilities to respond to and manage the cases of GBV (GIZ, 2021).⁸</p>
<p>There is need to review legislation that impedes full realization of women’s rights in Zambia e.g., Article 23 (4) d, e and f in the Constitution, which allows Customary Law to override statutory law in matters of personal law, which often deals with issues of marriage.</p>	<p>Despite progressive provisions the discriminatory clause in Article 23 of the Constitution remains. In 2016, the country held a Referendum to amend and expand the Bill of Rights but could not meet the threshold; hence Article 23 of the Constitution awaits political will to hold a Referendum and amend and expand the Bill of Rights. Efforts have also been made to enhance women’s participation in decision-making processes, both in political and economic spheres.</p>

⁸Article 23(4) d, e and f allows customary law contrary to the new constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No.2 of 2016 which provides for equal rights.

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

The Anti – Gender Based Violence Act provides provisions to protect Zambians against Harmful cultural practices.

The law consists of a repugnancy clause, which acts to define the boundary between two legal systems, ensuring that statutory law supersedes customary law where the two conflict. In theory, the repugnancy clause allows customary law to adapt to prevailing values in Zambian society. In the event that written law does not conflict with a section of customary law, customary law is allowed to exist as long as a judge does not find it repugnant to natural justice or morality. A particular custom must first be formally challenged in court to be declared repugnant (Munalula, July 2013). Although the repugnancy clause exists to reconcile customary and statutory law, it is rarely, if ever invoked. It is therefore unsuccessful in promoting justice and reducing gender discrimination. Reasons for the clause’s lack of success include its inherent vagueness, the lack of training in clause implementation, personal subjectivity from society’s perception of women and history’s designation of repugnancy as a colonial instrument.⁹ The friction between customary and statutory law persists. Government needs to develop guidelines for all traditional leaders to guide them on their jurisdiction and referral mechanisms.

The Anti- GBV Act, which is a progressive legislation against GBV has some sections that remain unimplemented such as establishment of shelters for the victims of GBV and establishment of a fund to address GBV and guidelines on the said fund.

Legal awareness remains a major challenge for many communities due to the limited legal education programmes. This contributes to low confidence in the institutions of justice.

There is a 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.

The Anti- GBV Act, has some sections that remain unimplemented such as establishment of shelters for the victims of GBV and establishment of a fund to address GBV and guidelines on the said fund.

Victims of GBV have continued to face cost barriers in accessing justice. It is common for people to travel long distances requiring overnight stays to appear as witnesses and follow the legal proceedings over a long time before a verdict is reached. Long trials characterised by adjournments increase these costs and the emotional pain of continued interaction with perpetrators discourage people from seeking justice.

⁹Ameache P. mildner E. 2014; Southern African Journal of Policy and Development. Numbet1 Vol 1.

<p>There is a 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.</p>	<p>The Government has made strides in responding to GBV by integrating the One Stop Centre model in some of the Health facilities. This has led to partnerships with CSOs who have conducted multidisciplinary trainings on responding to GBV for Health workers and placed data clerks, psycho- social counsellors and Paralegal Officers to manage cases. Further, police officers have been placed in the OSCs to enable a coordinated and an effective case management pathway.</p> <p>The inadequate number of One Stop Centres increases the number of institutions that a GBV survivor has visit to access legal, health, social, economic and mental health services thereby discouraging survivors.</p>
<p>There is a need to provide more resources to shelters and counselling centres in order to provide a safe place to survivors of GBV who cannot stay in their homes. There is a need to ensure adequate Police and Justice response or legal aid to survivors.</p>	<p>Inadequate safe houses affect GBV survivors as they find themselves unprotected and unsupported by the state. This leaves them vulnerable to reprisals and discourage other survivors who may see the process of seeking justice as more painful than just suffering in silence.</p> <p>The inadequate number of Psychologists has limited the psychological support that survivors receive. It has become common place for a rape or defilement survivor to be counselled by a councillor whose only qualification is a pre and post-test focused counselling short course. The insufficient emotional support for survivors deepens emotional scars and reduces their chances of recovery.</p>
<p>There is a need to provide economic services to survivors in order to enhance women’s bargaining power and ability to leave abusive relationships.</p>	<p>The establishment of a fund to address GBV and guidelines on the said fund remain unimplemented.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Efforts have also been made to enhance women’s participation in decision-making processes, both in political and economic spheres.</p>

<p>Enact and implement marriage laws like the Marriage Bill (2015) which will see that all marriages (customary, civil and religious) are placed on an equal footing. All marriages will have to be registered; child marriage will be prescribed and minimum age of 18 set; marriages concluded without the free and informed consent of the spouses will be void; and registrars will be liable for committing an offence if they register marriages where a party is aged below 18 years. These provisions, amongst others, will ensure that Zambia's marriage laws are, to this extent, consistent with international treaty obligations.</p>	<p>The amendment to the Marriage Act, remains a draft. The Ministerial mandate has shifted from the Gender Division to the Ministry of Local Government.</p>
<p>Criminalize child marriages · Enact and implement child related legislation like the Children's Code Bill (2014) which will domesticate international treaties.</p>	<p>In 2022, Zambia enacted the Children's Code Act. The Acts provides for the protection of children from maltreatment and other forms of exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage, and sexual exploitation. However, the amendment to the Marriage Act, remains a draft as the Ministerial mandate has shifted from the Gender Division to the Ministry of Local Government</p>
<p>Implement international instruments that Zambia has acceded to on addressing child marriage.</p>	<p>Zambia has made progress with its commitment towards implementing the ratified Regional and International instruments and domesticated the CRC through the Children's Code Act of 2022; the SADC Protocol, Maputo Protocol and the CEDAW through the Gender Equity and Equality Act of 2015</p>
<p>Continued awareness-raising and campaigns to end child marriage, particularly regarding customary laws on child marriage.</p>	<p>Efforts are being made in this area.</p>
<p>Increase birth registration rates as one of the most effective means to prevent and detect early marriage.</p>	<p>The Children's Code Act was enacted in 2022</p>
<p>Make proof of age a requirement for all types of marriage, either by sworn statement or affidavit or production of a birth certificate.</p>	<p>The Children's Code Act was enacted in 2022</p>

Enforce by-laws on ending child marriage in all Chiefdoms.	The Children's Code Act was enacted in 2022. Enforcement will be reviewed in due course.
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).	The Children's Code Act was enacted in 2022
Provide sexual and reproductive health information to girls in Schools and communities.	Government has made progress in implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education for in school young people. Government continues to face challenges in reaching out of school young people.
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.	Client satisfaction mechanisms remain weak, and largely unknown by clients. This makes it difficult for young people to report health practitioners and Teachers who exhibit discriminatory practices when seeking SRH services and information.
Ensure children who live far off have access to safe single-sex boarding environments.	Construction of safe single sex boarding environments remains slow.
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.	Zambia has toll free lines for reporting Human Rights Violations. The government needs to do more sensitisation on the toll free lines.
Establish and integrate School-Clinic Referrals (based on MoH Adolescent Health Services Standards) including looking at the option of establishing rural health clinics in School infrastructure to tackle long distances to accessing health services by rural communities.	Establishment of clinics in school infrastructure remains largely unimplemented.
Retrain and reorient health workers on adolescent reproductive health services utilizing forthcoming Adolescent Friendly Health Services Standards of Ministry of Health.	Progress has been made in training health workers in youth friendly health service provision and value clarification. This however remains largely funded by cooperating partners and civil society organizations.

Gender Equality Challenges And Gaps

Zambia has made progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The government has enacted policies and legislation to address gender-based violence, including the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act 2011, Gender Equity and Equality act of 2015, Re-entry policy, National Gender Policy, Children Code Acts of 2022, Disability Act of 2012 and has established institutions to support victims and survivors (GIZ,2021).¹⁰

The continued delays in the establishment of the gender commission as stipulated in the Gender Equity and Equality. Act NO: 22 of 2015 has negatively affected Institutional arrangements to address gender equality which presents itself in Low gender mainstreaming¹¹ and weak subnational implementation structures.¹²

The 13th National Assembly has a 3% reduction in female representation compared to those in the 12th National Assembly. As at 1st November, 2022, 25 (15 %) out of 167 Members of Parliament, were female.

Cultural norms and traditional practices still pose challenges to achieving gender equality. The dual legal system creates loopholes to negate progress in addressing agency, property, land, and other rights which are provided for in the law. Government needs to develop guidelines for all traditional leaders to provide guidance on their jurisdiction and referral mechanisms for cases that fall under statutory Law.

Legal awareness remains a major challenge for many communities due to the limited legal education programmes. Many citizens still look at bail as a sign that the accused person has been acquitted or has evaded justice. This contributes to low confidence in the institutions of justice.

Victims of GBV have continued to face cost barriers in accessing justice. It is common for people to travel long distances requiring overnight stays to appear as witnesses and follow the legal proceedings over a long time before a verdict is reached. Long trials characterised by adjournments increase these costs and the emotional pain of continued interaction with perpetrators discourage people from seeking justice.

The inadequate number of One Stop Centres increases the number of institutions that a GBV survivor has visit to access to services thereby discouraging survivors.

Inadequate training in forensic evidence collection has continued to negatively affect legal processes potentially leading to perpetrators being acquitted.

Inadequate safe houses affect GBV survivors as they find themselves unprotected and unsupported by the state. This leaves them vulnerable to reprisals. This discourages other survivors who may see the process of seeking justice as more painful than just suffering in silence.

The inadequate number of Psychologists has limited the psychological support that survivors receive. It has become common place for a rape or defilement survivor to be counselled by a councillor whose only

¹⁰Article 23(4) d, e and f allows customary law contrary to the new constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No.2 of 2016 which provides for equal rights.

¹¹Gender audit of the public and private sectors conducted by the ZNWL (2018)

¹²GIZ 2021, Zambia Gender Report 2017 TO 2019.

qualification is a pre and post-test focused counselling short course. The insufficient emotional support for survivors deepens emotional scars and reduces their chances of recovery.

The enactment of the legal services act has made it mandatory for institutions training paralegals and Paralegals to be certified by TEVATA or face sanctions. The curriculum for Paralegal Training includes non-paralegal related content such as entrepreneurship training. This increases the training costs for institutions who want to provide paralegal services. Paralegal service provision is mainly conducted by non-state actors who use self-generated resources. Reducing these costs, can help in increasing the number of people reached.

Gender Equality Recommendations

Gender Commission: Government must establish the Gender Commission as stipulated in the Gender Equity and Equality. Act N0: 22 of 2015.

Dual Legal system: The Legal Development Commission should develop and roll out guidelines for all traditional leaders to provide guidance on their jurisdiction and referral mechanisms for cases that fall under statutory Law.

Legal Education: Government must Scale up Legal awareness and partner with none state actors providing free legal and paralegal services.

Accessible Justice: Government should reduce the cost of justice by bringing justice institutions closer to the people and increasing support to the legal Aid Board.

Safe Spaces: Government should increase the number of One Stop Centres and safe houses. All first level Hospitals should have a One Stop GBV Centres.

Evidence: Government must train Health workers and law enforcement officers in forensic evidence collection and transportation to ensure evidence integrity.

Mental and Emotional support for GBV Survivors: Government should increase, deploy and retain Psychologists. Each first Level Hospital should have at least two to ensure continuity of service.

Free legal service providers: Government should work to ease the work done by organisations providing free legal and paralegal services by reducing the costs for certification and accreditation.

Safe single sex boarding environments: Government should expedite identification of all schools needing safe single sex boarding environments and construct them urgently.

Client Focused HRH: Government should find effective alternative content delivery methods to reduce the cost of trainings such as value clarification and Youth Friendly Health Service provision. This should be accompanied by strong monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that HRH uphold established standards.

SDG 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for human health, well-being, and economic development. Without access to clean water, people are at risk of waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and other health problems. Lack of sanitation facilities can also lead to the spread of disease and environmental degradation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
More investment in WASH infrastructure in Schools with clear standards for WASH in Schools developed and met by Schools.	Covid19 helped to increase hand washing facilities in schools. Toilets however remain inadequate.
Ensure equity and inclusion in delivery of WASH services in Schools, ensuring that children with disabilities are catered as well as providing for menstrual health needs of girls in Schools.	Government WASH infrastructure remains largely tilted against children with disabilities.
Model scalable, equitable and inclusive options that address WASH needs in Schools and surrounding communities.	Presidential directive to have waterborne toilets in all public places has catalysed CDF involvement. Progress however remains slow.
Finance-Improve financing towards WASH (By Government and supporters), strengthen existing structures, establish structures in Schools to manage funds and establish the link between Schools and the WASH unit of the Local Authorities.	The launch of the Zambia Water Investment Program to raise \$5.75Bn to finance SDG6 remains a source of hope. ¹³
Environment and Water Resources-Develop WASH infrastructure that reduces ground water contamination. Improve Solid Waste management. Also ensure climate resilience.	Non state actors have partnered with Government to improve WASH. World Vision drilled over 430 boreholes and installed 111 piped water systems in 2022. ¹⁴

Clean Water and Sanitation Challenges and Gaps

- Low budgetary allocations, and late disbursements.¹⁵
- Zambia suffers from relatively low rates of access to basic water and sanitation services. It was estimated that 6.3 million Zambians (36 percent) lack access to basic water services and 10.4 million (68 percent) lack access to basic sanitation services.¹⁶
- Only 25 percent and 41 percent of rural and urban households had adequate access to basic sanitation services.¹⁷

¹³Zambia Water Investment Program 2022.

¹⁴UNICEF WASH budget brief 2023 Publication.

¹⁵UNICEF WASH budget brief 2023 Publication.

¹⁶USAID Zambia Global Water Strategy 2022-2027

¹⁷The USAID Zambia Global Water Strategy 2022-2027

- Wider geographic dispersions and lower average incomes of rural populations contributed to reduced infrastructure provision and ability to pay for WASH services.
- The lower water resource coverage in rural areas negatively affected rural communities' health, productivity and livelihoods. Poor access to clean drinking water for home consumption and livestock have continued to impact livelihoods and economic growth.
- Women and girls especially those in rural areas covered longer distances and spent more time fetching water for domestic use. In pastoral communities, men and boys cover longer distances in search of pasture and water for livestock.
- Weak land use regulation and law enforcement continues to affect water recharge areas and settlement planning. This affects Governments efforts to provide safe water and adequate sanitation. This historic weakness has almost developed into a default settlement establishment process, with most citizens reasoning that Government will legalise any illegal settlement for fear of negative voter sentiment.
- Overlapping roles between the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in regulating commercial utility companies need to be resolved.

Clean Water and Sanitation Recommendations

Funding: Increase budget allocations and ensure timely and efficient utilisation of resources to the water and sanitation sector.

Planning for Water Resources: Develop a City/municipality Expansion Master plan for all established and emerging Human Settlements detailing measures to protect, harvest and use underground and surface water.

Community Based Enterprises: Prioritise development of clear guidelines and activities that support and monitor community-based enterprises for waste management to ensure community acceptance of their work activities.

Mandate Overlaps: Review and amend the Water supply and sanitation Act, to provide clear roles for the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.



SDG 9. INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION

Infrastructure, industry, and innovation have a critical role to play in achieving sustainable development and addressing global challenges such as Poverty, Inequality, and Climate Change. Some of the key targets of SDG 9 include improving access to affordable and sustainable infrastructure and technology, increasing the share of industry in employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP), enhancing research and development, and promoting sustainable and resilient industrialization in Developing Countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
Not reported	<p>Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of the new Ministry of Science and Technology under which a National Science and Technology Council was established. ● The development of a strategy on Industrialisation and Job Creation to attract investments in sectors like manufacturing, agriculture processing and mining. ● The country has made progress in expanding road networks. ● Renovated and upgraded airports. ● The government through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts launched a youth-volunteer programme where it is targeting to attach 2 million youth to different industries for apprenticeship. The UN has so far supported 2,000 slots. The Ministry selected 2000 young people who had applied for internship programmes while on the other hand, it has engaged relevant institutions to help recover about K400 million that was given out as loans to youth.¹⁸

Industry, Infrastructure And Innovation Challenges And Gaps

- Insufficient analysis and identification of existing local investor and philanthropy potential to finance infrastructure projects. The case of the Ndola Lusaka Dual Carriageway is a textbook example of how an external investor can borrow from Public institutions to finance a project and make a huge profit in the long run.
- Perceived politicisation and corruption in large infrastructure projects. This creates a climate of uncertainty when potential investors have to consider the possibility of power transitions. The case of the North-western Railway line serves as a classic example of political sentiment blocking private public partnerships.
- Lack of effective transitional protectionism, industrial incubation and mentoring processes to grow industries which can ride on existing resource advantages e.g. battery Manufacturing, copper wire manufacturing, wood processing, jewellery manufacturing etc.
- Zambia’s failure to ratify the International Labour Organisation Convention 190 as a way of making the world of work more inclusive and secure serves to perpetrate GBV practices in the world of work.

¹⁸ Zambia Daily Mail, May 23, 2023.

Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation Recommendations

Domestic Resource Mobilisation: The Zambian Government must increase financing towards infrastructure leveraging on domestic resources. To do this, the Government must create strong investment institutions backed by Constitutional provisions which protect private property and insulate PPPs from political pressure and changes.

Tracking Infrastructure Development: Government must prioritize regular maintenance, asset management and development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track infrastructure performance.

Skill Gaps: Government must address the skills gap through the strengthening of technical and vocational training programs. Government should introduce an apprenticeship-based qualification system for people with limited literacy and create awareness on the youth volunteer program to allow as many youths from different parts of Zambia to participate in the program.

CDF and SDG Alignment: Government must ensure that the CDF Infrastructure guidelines are aligned with SDG Indicators.

SDG 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

More than half of the world’s population currently lives in cities, and this number is expected to rise to 68% by 2050. In 2021, 45.19% of Zambia’s population resided in Urban Areas. This was an increment of more than 5% from 2011.¹⁹ This rapid urbanisation presents both opportunities and challenges for sustainable development. On the one hand, cities can be engines of economic growth and innovation, providing opportunities for employment, education, and cultural exchange. On the other hand, cities can also be centres of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation, with inadequate housing, transport, and social services.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
Speed up the process of finalizing the National Urbanization Policy (NUP) and include waste management in cities as one of the main priority areas.	Government has formed a solid waste management company. ²⁰ National Lands Policy (2021). ²¹ National Slum Upgrading Strategy.
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.	Recycling is done by the private sector e.g., Zambia Breweries Manja Pamozi. ²²
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.	Private Sector actors are being issued licenses as franchise contractors and Community Based Enterprises (CBEs).
Build the capacity of municipalities in Zambia to deal with waste management from point of generation, collection, transportation and disposal of waste.	There is inadequate progress in this area.
Increase public awareness amongst citizens on good waste management and the negative impact of poor waste management on human health and the environment.	There is inadequate progress in this area.

¹⁹<https://www.statista.com/statistics/455963/urbanization-in>

²⁰Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development reports.

²¹National Lands Policy

²²ZB Manja Panodzi reports

Sustainable Cities And Communities.Challenges And Gaps

- City and settlement planning remains far behind the expansion needs of human settlements and cities.
- Community Based Enterprises (CBEs) engaged in waste management have limited capacities to adequately contribute to creating a clean and healthy habitat.
- Local authorities lack the business management capacities and support to deliver efficient services to the citizenry in realising safe, healthy and conducive living environments for city communities.
- There are limited programmes to create awareness on the need for recycling despite the emergence of private sector players. This has contributed to poor waste management practices and attitudes.²³
- The government has not sufficiently invested in solid waste management infrastructure such as landfills nor incentivised or facilitated PPPs in this area.
- Weak coordination by local authorities and regulators. The role conflict between ZEMA and Ministry of Local Government in enforcing municipal by laws and awareness raising persists.
- The limited incentives on setting up recycling companies and solid waste collection companies continues to affect recycling and waste management capacity.
- The lack of affordable public housing continues to affect the poor who are forced to live in make shift structures which are vulnerable to weather elements.

Sustainable Cities And Communities Recommendations

City Master plan: Government must develop a City/municipality Expansion Master plan for all established and emerging Human Settlements detailing future expansion areas for different functions. This must be accompanied by mechanisms to make state land accessible to all citizens wanting to build homes.

Capacity Incubation: Government must create catalytic waste management capacity strengthening mechanisms aimed at Community Based Enterprises, solid waste and recycling companies.

Competent Local Authorities: Government must build the capacity of Local authorities to deliver efficient services to the citizenry and enforce regulations and bylaws to realise safe, healthy and conducive living environments.

Mind-set Change: Government must implement a multimedia communication strategy to influence attitudes and behaviours that promote the creation of a clean, green and healthy environment.

²³Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development reports.

SDG 13. CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing the world today, with far-reaching impacts on ecosystems, economies, and societies. The effects of climate change, including rising global temperature and sea levels, extreme weather events, and changing precipitation patterns, can have devastating consequences on food security, water resources, and public health.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
A home-grown financing mechanism with a clear roadmap.	Zambia has developed a National Climate Change policy that highlights the country's commitment to addressing the impact of climate change. ²⁴
Awareness raising and capacity development and Private sector participation must be encouraged.	Government continues to collaborate with communities through supporting partnerships through Community Forest Management Groups (CFMG) that increase the implementation capacity, and through engagement of honorary Forest Officers to increase forest protection. This has resulted in the establishment of CFMGs that cover a total area of over 5.3 million hectares.
Strengthen audit systems.	Progress to strengthen community system audits remains inadequate.
Expand the livelihood diversification programs in order to contribute to alternative livelihoods for the communities affected by climate change.	Promotion of alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on forests such as through the Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development (TRALARD) project is promising but inadequate in its scope and coverage.
Ensure nationwide implementation of the 2016 National Policy on Climate Change.	The new government has introduced the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE) in an effort to address climate change challenges. Zambia signed the Glasgow leader's declaration in 2021 committing to protect and conserve forests and land use. The government has continued to support implementation of programmes for reforestation and afforestation through natural regeneration projects and tree plantation support by public and private sector partners such as ZAFFICO. According to MGEE in 2022, it was reported that over 14 million seedlings were planted on over 52 hectares of land. Zambia's hydroelectric power is a source of energy and the use of solar energy contributes to the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions. ²⁵
Expedite the process of enacting the Climate Change Bill.	Currently been tabled in parliament.

²⁴ <https://www.unclearn.org/news/zambia-has-launched-its-national-climate-change-learning-strategy-a-big-step-towards-ramping-up-climate-change-education/>

²⁵ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/activity-database/momentum-for-change-renewable-energy-for-sustainable-development-in-zambia>

Climate Change Challenges and Gaps

- Zambia is faced with high deforestation which threatens the integrity of forests. This is fuelled by the high demand for agriculture, infrastructure development, charcoal production, furniture and fuel wood.
- The Zambian Government has not allocated adequate resources to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Zambia has limited technological capacity. This has contributed to challenges in the adoption of climate resilient technologies and practices.
- The Climate Change Bill was approved by Cabinet in October, 2019. However, the bill hasn't been enacted. The bill will give the country a legal framework to address Climate Change.

Climate Change Recommendations

Expedite the process of enacting the Climate Change Bill: the bill once enacted into law will provide a legal framework to address issues of climate change.

Reforestation: Government should invest in reforestation programmes and increase financing through domestic resource mobilisation for Climate Change Adaptation.

Financing: Government must explore innovative financing mechanisms to scale up climate action efforts.

Smarter Agriculture: Promote smart agricultural practices like agroforestry, agro-ecology and other sustainable land management techniques.

Working Together: Strengthen the coordination mechanisms for multisectoral climate change interventions.

Knowledge is Power: Increase public awareness and understanding of climate change impacts, adaptation strategies, mitigation measures and decentralize information.

Data for Decision Making: Strengthen data and monitoring systems on climate to enhance decision making processes.

Inclusivity: Government should implement marginalised and disability inclusive disaster risk reduction measures.

SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND

Terrestrial ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, and wetlands, provide a range of vital ecosystem benefits, including clean air and water, carbon sequestration, soil protection, and habitats for biodiversity. However, these ecosystems are under threat from a range of human activities, including deforestation, land degradation, and habitat loss.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT	CURRENT STATUS TO DATE
Not reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zambia has made progress in establishing protected areas such as national parks, protection of wild life, community-based conservation initiatives that contribute to the preservation of ecosystem.²⁶ ● The Government has adopted the One Health Strategy as a way of combating transmission of disease from animals to humans ● Establishment of the Ministry of Green Economy and the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation to harness environmental sustainability innovations.²⁷ ● Zambia's rich diversity of wildlife has benefited from measures to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking.²⁸

Life on Land Challenges and Gaps

Life on Land Challenges and Gaps

- Regulatory institutions continue to be weakened in preference for business agenda. The Mining activity in the Lower Zambezi is a case in point.
- Livelihoods dependant on environmentally damaging occupations such as Charcoal burning, selling and use, continue to lack feasible and readily accessible options.
- Land use decisions continue to predominantly be made by people with limited broad based Land use technical knowhow such as headmen and women. The decisions made by these traditional functionaries do not take into account strategic land use considerations thereby reducing sustainable and use options.

Life on Land Recommendations

Stronger Institutions: Zambia must strengthen the environment management institutions and position them beyond the reach of political power and business interests.

Alternative Livelihoods: The Government should develop programmes to offer viable and accessible alternative livelihoods for people involved in environmentally harmful occupations.

Community Ownership: The Government should foster meaningful community participation in land use decision making, benefit sharing and conservation efforts.

Collaboration: The Government should work to foster partnerships among government agencies, civil society organisations and local communities to promote integrated and multi sectorial approaches to conservation.

²⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/zm/zm-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.mgee.gov.zm/#>

²⁸ <https://undpinzambia.exposure.co/partnering-to-fight-wildlife-crime-in-zambia>



INTERSECTIONALITY

Intersectionality refers to how various factors such as race, ethnicity, social class, nationality, gender, sexuality, and ability, overlap and have a compounding effect that can cause disadvantage or advantage. The following is illustrative of this point. Poor health means less economic productivity and increased vulnerabilities to poverty. Poor Health outcomes increases women’s inability to participate in economic ventures and education because of the increased burden of caring for the sick.

This section of the Civil Society Shadow Report makes an effort to highlight how the progress in SDG implementation impacts on other SDGs and specific groups in society. This is intended to create a rich picture of the inextricable link between SDGs and how different groups are affected. It is hoped that this will give birth to a holistic approach to development.

HEALTH INTERSECTIONALITY

Health SDG Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress.**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Distance Barrier to Health facilities	Women	Delays in accessing care during pregnancy results in death or complications with lifelong implications.
Rising Drug and Alcohol abuse	Children	Children are easy prey for people selling drugs.
	General Public	Increasing number of addicts is creating a gang culture and increasing insecurity in the country.
	Children	Social mobility options are limited. Children are forced to forgo their childhood and start engaging in income generating activities, some of which are hazardous to their health because of their parent’s addiction.
Slow progress of Family Planning Uptake	Women of reproductive age.	Inadequate family planning services increase the number of unplanned pregnancies, increasing the risk of maternal mortality and disrupting career progression and livelihood expansion for women.
	Women	Women, traditionally expected to lend a hand to other women who have just delivered, are required to temporarily abandon their livelihoods to offer care to mother and child. In instances of Maternal death, they are required to dedicate most of their time in raising an orphan.
	Girls	Increased risk of unplanned pregnancies, leading to school dropout, early marriage, limited life choices and livelihoods. Women with low education attainment are also more likely to suffer from GBV and are less likely to seek legal redress because of economic dependence on the GBV perpetrator.

Inadequate drugs in Health Facilities	Poor Households	Lack of Health insurance leads to increased morbidity time, reducing time for income generating activities and worsening poverty. Lack of drugs in public health institutions increases out of pocket expenditure on health. This leads to the selling of economic assets to meet health care related costs resulting in devastation of incomes and economic vulnerability.
	Women	Increased bedridden durations for patients. Women, the primary care givers, find themselves with increased demands on their time and resources. This affects their progression in careers, businesses, and education thereby weakening their capacity to negotiate for their Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). This ultimately affects their chances of participation in Public policy decision making and Leadership positions.
Low Investments in HIV Prevention	Women	HIV incidence was 0.56% among women and 0.06% among men. HIV prevalence was markedly higher among women than men in each age group from ages 20-24 years through 35-39 years and among 45-49 years.
	Young People	Zambia has in the recent past witnessed a rise in new HIV infections especially among young people who accounted for 40% of the new infections in 2021.

SDG 3 focuses on ensuring good health and well-being for all. Good health and well-being is also a key driver of sustainable development. Therefore, progress on SDG 3 can have positive impacts on the achievement of other SDGs. Here are some examples of how SDG 3 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 3 and SDG 1: No Poverty - Poor health can lead to poverty, and poverty can lead to poor health. Improving health and well-being can help to break this cycle.
2. SDG 3 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger - Malnutrition is a major health issue, and improving health and well-being can contribute to reducing hunger and achieving SDG 2.
3. SDG 3 and SDG 4: Quality Education - Good health is a prerequisite for learning, and improving health and well-being can promote better educational outcomes.
4. SDG 3 and SDG 5: Gender Equality - Gender inequality can lead to poor health outcomes for women and girls. Promoting good health and well-being can help to address gender inequality and empower women and girls.
5. SDG 3 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for good health. Improving health and well-being can contribute to achieving SDG 6.

6. SDG 3 and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Good health is essential for productivity and economic growth. Improving health and well-being can contribute to achieving SDG 8.

7. SDG 3 and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - Good health is a basic human right, and improving health and well-being can contribute to reducing inequalities.

8. SDG 3 and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Good health is essential for building sustainable communities, and improving health and well-being can contribute to achieving SDG 11.

9. SDG 3 and SDG 13: Climate Action - Climate change can have a significant impact on health, and improving health and well-being can contribute to addressing the challenges of climate change.

QUALITY EDUCATION INTERSECTIONALITY

Quality Education SDG and Implementation Status: **Progress with Challenges**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Overcrowding in Classes	All learners	Teachers are unable to assess the learning needs for each child and develop a strategy to support them. This leads to low and learning outcomes.
Inadequate school feeding programmes due to heavy reliance on cooperating partners.	Children from poor households	Hungry children can't concentrate on their studies.
Long Distance to Schools	Disabled children	Children with mobility related disabilities face challenges accessing schools. This reduces their advancement and ultimately results in lower participation in economic activities and public life.
	Girls	Girls are vulnerable to sexual predators along the way and will usually choose to stay home if the groups they walk with have already started off. This leads to absenteeism.
Weak CSE Implementation	Girls	Suboptimal knowledge of SRH knowledge exposes girls to early pregnancies and HIV infections. Weak CSE implementation has resulted in increasing HIV infections among girls.
	Boys	Weak CSE implementation has resulted in increasing HIV infections among boys.
Income contributing Schools:	Girls	Schools are unable to implement local solutions faced by learners due to limited fiscal space. Schools are unable to support Girls with menstrual products due to limited funds

The country's debt burden prevents it from investing in education. SDG 4 supports and contributes to meeting SDG targets, create awareness, mind-set change and ultimately improve livelihoods. SDG 4, aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It is a crucial goal that is closely linked to other SDGs. Education is also a key driver of sustainable development. Therefore, progress on SDG 4 can have positive impacts on the achievement of other SDGs. Here are some examples of how SDG 4 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 4 and SDG 1: No Poverty - Education can help to break the cycle of poverty by providing individuals with the skills and knowledge to find better-paying jobs and improve their well-being.

2. SDG 4 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger - Education can contribute to food security by teaching individuals about sustainable farming practices and nutrition.
3. SDG 4 and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Education can promote healthy behaviours and lifestyles, as well as enhance health literacy, which can lead to better health outcomes.
4. SDG 4 and SDG 5: Gender Equality - Education is a key factor in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls.
5. SDG 4 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Education can promote hygiene and sanitation practices, as well as water conservation, which can contribute to achieving SDG 6.
6. SDG 4 and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Education can help individuals acquire the skills and knowledge needed to find decent work and contribute to economic growth.
7. SDG 4 and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - Education can help to reduce inequalities by providing individuals, regardless of their background, with the same opportunities to develop their skills and reach their potential.
8. SDG 4 and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Education can promote sustainable urbanization and community development by providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to build and maintain sustainable infrastructure.
9. SDG 4 and SDG 13: Climate Action - Education can promote climate literacy and sustainable practices, as well as develop the skills and knowledge needed to address climate change.

In summary, SDG 4 is a key goal that is closely linked to other SDGs. Education is a powerful tool that can contribute to achieving many of the other SDGs. By promoting inclusive and equitable quality education, we can help to build a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Achieving SDG 4 requires collective action from governments, civil society, and the private sector to invest in education and ensure that education systems are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of learners. By focusing on quality education, SDG 4 can help to create a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable world for all.

QUALITY EDUCATION INTERSECTIONALITY

Quality Education SDG and Implementation Status: **Progress with Challenges**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Overcrowding in Classes	All learners	Teachers are unable to assess the learning needs for each child and develop a strategy to support them. This leads to low and learning outcomes.
Inadequate school feeding programmes due to heavy reliance on cooperating partners.	Children from poor households	Hungry children can't concentrate on their studies.
Long Distance to Schools	Disabled children	Children with mobility related disabilities face challenges accessing schools. This reduces their advancement and ultimately results in lower participation in economic activities and public life.
	Girls	Girls are vulnerable to sexual predators along the way and will usually choose to stay home if the groups they walk with have already started off. This leads to absenteeism.
Weak CSE Implementation	Girls	Suboptimal knowledge of SRH knowledge exposes girls to early pregnancies and HIV infections. Weak CSE implementation has resulted in increasing HIV infections among girls.
	Boys	Weak CSE implementation has resulted in increasing HIV infections among boys.
Income contributing Schools:	Girls	Schools are unable to implement local solutions faced by learners due to limited fiscal space. Schools are unable to support Girls with menstrual products due to limited funds.

The country's debt burden prevents it from investing in education. SDG 4 supports and contributes to meeting SDG targets, create awareness, mind-set change and ultimately improve livelihoods. SDG 4, aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It is a crucial goal that is closely linked to other SDGs. Education is also a key driver of sustainable development. Therefore, progress on SDG 4 can have positive impacts on the achievement of other SDGs. Here are some examples of how SDG 4 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 4 and SDG 1: No Poverty - Education can help to break the cycle of poverty by providing individuals with the skills and knowledge to find better-paying jobs and improve their well-being.
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3. SDG 4 and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Education can promote healthy behaviours and lifestyles, as well as enhance health literacy, which can lead to better health outcomes.
4. SDG 4 and SDG 5: Gender Equality - Education is a key factor in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls.
5. SDG 4 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Education can promote hygiene and sanitation practices, as well as water conservation, which can contribute to achieving SDG 6.
6. SDG 4 and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Education can help individuals acquire the skills and knowledge needed to find decent work and contribute to economic growth.
7. SDG 4 and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - Education can help to reduce inequalities by providing individuals, regardless of their background, with the same opportunities to develop their skills and reach their potential.
8. SDG 4 and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Education can promote sustainable urbanization and community development by providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to build and maintain sustainable infrastructure.
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In summary, SDG 4 is a key goal that is closely linked to other SDGs. Education is a powerful tool that can contribute to achieving many of the other SDGs. By promoting inclusive and equitable quality education, we can help to build a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Achieving SDG 4 requires collective action from governments, civil society, and the private sector to invest in education and ensure that education systems are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of learners. By focusing on quality education, SDG 4 can help to create a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable world for all.

GENDER AND EQUALITY INTERSECTIONALITY

Gender and Equality Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Inadequate One Stop Centres	Women	The need to engage multiple institutions in different locations increases the time for accessing legal, emotional, social, economic and psychological support. This discourages survivors from accessing the support they need.
Inadequate Human Rights and Legal Education	Women	Ignorance on acceptable and unacceptable behaviour lead many women to accept GBV as a normal part of gender relations. This leads to GBV becoming “normalised”.
	Children	The denial of children’s rights to education, food, guidance and others, robs them of their childhood and compromises their chances of becoming productive and responsible members of society.
	People with disabilities	The denial of their rights normalises discrimination on the basis on disability.
Inadequate Safe Houses.	Women and Children	Survivors of GBV find themselves under constant threats from GBV perpetrators and their supporters. Future survivors will look at the hardships and futility associated with seeking legal redress and support and resign themselves to suffer in silence. This contributes to impunity and deaths associated with GBV.
Inadequate support for Survivors of GBV The inadequate number of Psychologists has limited the psychological support that survivors receive	Women and Children	This leads to withdrawal of GBV cases from the courts and acquittal of GBV perpetrators, fuelling a sense of impunity and contributing to people with economic means and power feeling like they are above the law.
Persisting Dual Legal system.	Women	The dual legal system creates a challenge where women have different rights depending on which legal system is being referred to. Property rights in customary law are different from statutory law. The inaccessibility of statutory law subjects’ women to lower protection.
	Girls	The optional arbitrary choosing of which legal system to subject a case to means that someone who has raped a minor will be subjected to a civil case in which the family is compensated by a few goats, cows, money or other means of exchange. This situation continues to abate perpetrators in the name of customary demands.

Additional costs imposed on CSOs supporting communities in legal education and services	Women	This will reduce the number of paralegals trained. Stop paralegals trained before Legal Aid act of 2021 from providing education and support services.
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SDG 5, is focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. It is closely linked to other SDGs. Gender equality is not only a goal in itself, but it is also a key driver of sustainable development. Therefore, progress on SDG 5 can have positive impacts on the achievement of other SDGs. Here are some examples of how SDG 5 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 5 and SDG 1: No Poverty - Gender inequalities can lead to poverty among women and girls. Addressing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment can help to reduce poverty.
2. SDG 5 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger - Women play a crucial role in agriculture and food production, and gender inequality can limit their ability to contribute to food security. Empowering women in agriculture can improve food production and reduce hunger.
3. SDG 5 and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Gender inequality can result in unequal access to healthcare and services, which can have negative health outcomes for women and girls. Promoting gender equality can improve health outcomes for all e.g., Lack of access to health services (SRH) by adolescent girls and young women leads to high teenage pregnancy and HIV.
4. SDG 5 and SDG 4: Quality Education - Gender inequality can limit access to education for girls and women. Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls can improve access to education and promote lifelong learning.
5. SDG 5 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Women and girls are often responsible for collecting water and managing sanitation in households. Gender inequality can limit their access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Promoting gender equality can improve access to clean water and sanitation for all.
6. SDG 5 and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Gender inequality can limit women’s access to decent work and economic opportunities. Promoting gender equality can increase economic growth and reduce poverty.
7. SDG 5 and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities - Gender inequality is a form of inequality, and addressing it can contribute to reducing overall inequalities.
8. SDG 5 and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions - Gender inequality can limit women’s access to justice and political representation. Promoting gender equality can improve access to justice and political participation for all.

In summary, achieving SDG 5 is essential for the achievement of other SDGs. Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty and inequality. Achieving SDG 5 requires collective action from governments, civil society, and the private sector to promote gender equality and eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence. It also requires addressing the root causes of gender inequality, including social norms, attitudes, and practices that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women and girls. By focusing on gender equality, SDG 5 can help to create a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world for all.



SDG 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION INTERSECTIONALITY

Clean Water and Sanitation Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Long Distances to access Water	Girls and Women	Drawing water is culturally considered to be a female task. Long distances to water sources reduce the amount of time available for girls to study. The need to draw water before going to school means that girls will report late for school and are more likely to be punished for this infraction. Most of them will eventually choose to drop out instead of the continuing indignity of punishments. This contributes to the high school drop out rate for girls. Sexual predators are also likely to attack girls during their trips to and from water sources. In some areas infested by crocodiles, drawing water is a high risk activity.
Water for Pasture	Boys and Men	In pastoral communities, men and boys cover long distances in search of pasture and water for livestock.
Inadequate WASH In Schools	Girls	Current investments are inadequate to support girl's menstrual hygiene needs. This leads to chronic intermittent absenteeism among girls during their periods. This affects their progression in the education system.
	Disabled Girls	WASH infrastructure does not meet the physical needs of disabled girls leading to loss of privacy and embarrassing events. This leads to high dropout rates for disabled girls.

WASH is a driver for social-economic development and national development and almost all SDGs ride on SDG 6 as it borders on life and death. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) is focuses on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. As such, it can have a significant impact on the achievement of other SDGs. Here are a few examples of how SDG 6 can affect other SDGs:

1. SDG 6 and SDG 1 (No Poverty): Access to clean water and sanitation can improve health outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and increase productivity, which can help reduce poverty and promote inclusive development.
2. SDG 6 and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Access to clean water is essential for agriculture, as it is needed for irrigation and livestock watering. In addition, access to sanitation can reduce the spread of water-borne diseases, which can impact food security.
3. SDG 6 and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being): Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for preventing the spread of water-borne diseases, reducing child mortality, and improving maternal health.

4. SDG 6 and SDG 4 (Quality Education): Access to clean water and sanitation is important for schools and educational institutions to provide a healthy and safe learning environment.

5. SDG 6 and SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Access to clean water and sanitation can improve the lives of women and girls by reducing the time and effort needed for tasks such as collecting water and caring for sick family members.

6. SDG 6 and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): Access to clean water and sanitation can reduce the energy needed for tasks such as boiling water and washing clothes by hand, which can improve access to affordable and clean energy.

7. SDG 6 and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Access to clean water and sanitation can improve productivity and reduce healthcare costs, which can support economic growth and job creation.

8. SDG 6 and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure): Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for the development of resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrialization.

9. SDG 6 and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Access to clean water and sanitation is necessary for the development of sustainable and liveable cities, with efficient water and wastewater management systems.

In summary, SDG 6 is an important enabler for the achievement of many other SDGs, as it provides the necessary water and sanitation infrastructure to support sustainable development and inclusive growth.

SDG 9. INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION INTERSECTIONALITY

Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Perceived politicisation and corruption in large infrastructure projects.	Women	The entry barriers to business disproportionately affects women. Challenges in accessing affordable capital and limited political influence puts women at a disadvantage in securing infrastructure projects.
	Zambian Businesses	The high cost of capital on the Zambian market means that foreign businesses enjoy an unfair advantage over local contractors.
Lack of effective transitional protectionism, industrial incubation and mentoring processes to grow industries.	Women	The entry barriers to business disproportionately affects women. These include finance, social connections, connections to successful local manufacturing
	Zambian Businesses	Limited access to affordable finance and technology gives foreign companies an advantage over local ones.
Inadequate skills and technology to support industrialization and innovation efforts	Youths	Youths graduate from schools and institutions of higher learning expecting to find jobs and livelihood opportunities. They find themselves unemployed due to the lack of an adequate fit between their skills and industry needs. This leads to depression and idleness, which contributes to increasing drug and alcohol abuse. The importation of skills in some areas of the construction and manufacturing sectors is an indictment on the inadequacies of the education system.
Delayed ratification of the International Labour Organisation Convention 190	Women	Women are the most affected by GBV in the workplace. They are subject to sexual harassment, demands for sexual favours in exchange for employment and promotion prospects.

Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9) focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. As such, it can have a significant impact on the achievement of other SDGs. Here are a few examples of how SDG 9 can affect other SDGs:

1. SDG 9 and SDG 1 (No Poverty): Resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrialization can create jobs and economic opportunities, which can help reduce poverty and promote inclusive economic growth.
2. SDG 9 and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Sustainable agriculture relies on resilient infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and transportation networks, to ensure that food can be efficiently produced and distributed. In addition, industrialization can support the development of food processing and storage facilities, which can help reduce food waste and increase food security.

3. SDG 9 and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being): Access to quality healthcare requires well-functioning healthcare systems, which in turn rely on resilient infrastructure, such as hospitals, clinics, and medical supply chains.

4. SDG 9 and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): The development of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, requires investment in infrastructure such as power grids and storage facilities, which can be supported by SDG 9. In addition, sustainable industrialization can help reduce the energy intensity of production processes, leading to lower energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

5. SDG 9 and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrialization can help create sustainable and livable cities, with efficient transportation systems, green buildings, and access to basic services such as water and sanitation.

6. SDG 9 and SDG 13 (Climate Action): SDG 9 can support climate action by promoting the development of low-carbon infrastructure, such as public transportation systems and renewable energy projects. Furthermore, sustainable industrialization can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote circular economic models.

In summary, SDG 9 is an important enabler for the achievement of many other SDGs, as it provides the necessary infrastructure and innovation to support sustainable development and inclusive growth. It can help promote inclusive and equitable development by ensuring that everyone has access to affordable and sustainable infrastructure and technology, and that industrialization benefits all members of society, including women and marginalized groups.



SDG 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES. INTERSECTIONALITY

Sustainable Cities and Communities and Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
City and settlement planning remains far behind the expansion needs of human settlements and cities.	Disabled populations.	Unplanned city and settlement expansion does not take the needs of differently abled people into consideration. This affects their ability to make a livelihood and access public services. Infective drainage systems lead to flooding. The health and physical risk posed by these flash floods is more pronounced for people with disabilities who rely on assistive devices to aid their mobility
	Poor Households	Most of the flooded communities in Lusaka are resident to low incomes families. The cost of relocation or coping with the flooding becomes a financial stress and can also lead to loss of livelihoods.
Local authorities lack the business management capacities and support to deliver efficient services to the citizenry in realising safe, healthy and conducive living environments for city communities.	Women	Inadequate Lighting and unplanned streets provide good hiding places and getaway routes for criminals. Women are especially vulnerable to attacks under these circumstances.
Communities have poor waste management practices and attitudes. ²⁹	Poor people involved in recycling at waste dumps	The lack of separation between hazardous and non-hazardous materials exposes dumpsite pickers to many health risks.
Substandard structures	Poor Households	The lack of affordable public housing leads poor people to construct make shift homes which are vulnerable to weather elements.

SDG 11, focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, has significant linkages with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

²⁹ Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development reports.

Addressing SDG 11 can both positively and negatively impact progress towards achieving other SDGs, and vice versa. Here are some examples of how SDG 11 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 11 and SDG 1: No Poverty - Sustainable urban development can create employment opportunities and promote economic growth, which is essential for reducing poverty and achieving SDG 1.
2. SDG 11 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger - Sustainable urban development can promote access to nutritious food and support urban agriculture, which is essential for achieving SDG 2.
3. SDG 11 and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Sustainable urban development can promote access to healthcare services, improve air quality, and support active and healthy lifestyles, which is essential for achieving SDG 3.
4. SDG 11 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Sustainable urban development can promote access to clean water and sanitation services, which is essential for achieving SDG 6.
5. SDG 11 and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - Sustainable urban development can promote access to affordable and clean energy sources, such as solar and wind power, which is essential for achieving SDG 7.
6. SDG 11 and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Sustainable urban development can create employment opportunities and promote economic growth, which is essential for achieving SDG 8.
7. SDG 11 and SDG 13: Climate Action - Sustainable urban development can promote low-carbon transportation, energy-efficient buildings, and other climate-friendly practices, which is essential for achieving SDG 13.
8. SDG 11 and SDG 14: Life Below Water - Sustainable urban development can promote sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and protect marine ecosystems, which is essential for achieving SDG 14.
9. SDG 11 and SDG 15: Life on Land - Sustainable urban development can promote sustainable land use and protect terrestrial ecosystems, which is essential for achieving SDG 15.

In summary, addressing SDG 11 is essential for achieving sustainable development, and progress towards SDG 11 can positively impact progress towards other SDGs. Achieving SDG 11 is important because it can help to ensure that urbanization is sustainable and inclusive, promoting economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability. By making cities and human settlements safer, more resilient, and more sustainable, we can create a better future for all people, regardless of where they live.

SDG 13. CLIMATE CHANGE INTERSECTIONALITY

Climate Change and Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Deforestation	Women	Women are responsible for firewood collection. As forests recede, they have to walk long distances to collect firewood. This reduces their time for resting and pursuit of other productive activities.
Slow adoption of climate resilient technologies and practices.	Women	The slow roll out of electricity and continued reliance on firewood continues to disproportionately expose women to wood smoke and its associated respiratory complications. High dependency on rain fed agriculture makes farmers vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture productivity. Women are highly reliant on subsistence agriculture activities for their livelihoods.

SDG 13 focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It has significant linkages with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Addressing climate change can positively impact progress towards achieving other SDGs, and vice versa. Here are some examples of how SDG 13 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 13 and SDG 1: No Poverty - Climate change can lead to prolonged droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events that affect crop yields and can lead to food insecurity and poverty. Mitigating climate change can help prevent these impacts, reducing poverty.
2. SDG 13 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger - Climate change can lead to reduced crop yields and food insecurity, particularly in developing countries. Promoting sustainable agriculture practices that are resilient to climate change can help ensure food security and support the achievement of SDG 2.
3. SDG 13 and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Climate change can exacerbate the spread of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever. Addressing climate change can help prevent the spread of these diseases and promote good health and well-being.
4. SDG 13 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Climate change can lead to reduced water availability and quality, particularly in areas prone to drought. Addressing climate change can help ensure access to clean water and sanitation, which is essential for achieving SDG 6.
5. SDG 13 and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - Mitigating climate change requires a transition to clean energy sources, such as wind and solar power. This transition can help ensure affordable and clean energy for all, which is essential for achieving SDG 7.

6. SDG 13 and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Climate change can lead to increased urban flooding and other extreme weather events that can damage infrastructure and disrupt communities. Addressing climate change can help promote sustainable urban development and resilient communities.

7. SDG 13 and SDG 14: Life Below Water - Climate change can impact marine ecosystems and biodiversity, leading to reduced fish stocks and negative impacts on coastal communities. Addressing climate change can help protect marine ecosystems and promote sustainable use of ocean resources.

8. SDG 13 and SDG 15: Life on Land - Climate change can lead to habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity, making it difficult to achieve SDG 15. Mitigating climate change can help protect ecosystems and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

In summary, addressing climate change is essential for achieving sustainable development, and progress towards SDG 13 can positively impact progress towards other SDGs and will require a global effort and cooperation from all sectors of society, including governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals.



SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND INTERSECTIONALITY

Life on Land and Implementation Status: **Stalled Progress**

Selected Key SDG Challenge	Groups Most affected by Pace of Progress	How they are affected
Livelihoods dependant on environmentally damaging occupations such as Charcoal burning, selling and use, continue to lack feasible options.	Men	The rapid depletion of natural resources which support their occupations reduces their ability to provide for their families. This creates and identity crises in which men resort to negative coping mechanisms such as drug and alcohol abuse.
Land use decisions continue to predominantly be made by people with limited broad based Land use technical knowhow such as headmen and women.	Women	Decisions which result in the lowering of the water table mean that women will have to travel long distances to fetch water.

SDG 15, focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. It has significant linkages with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Addressing SDG 15 can both positively and negatively impact progress towards achieving other SDGs, and vice versa. Here are some examples of how SDG 15 affects other SDGs:

1. SDG 15 and SDG 1: Protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss - can help reduce poverty by promoting sustainable agriculture practices, improving land management, and supporting rural livelihoods.
2. SDG 15 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger - Ensuring sustainable land use and protecting ecosystems can help promote food security and support the achievement of SDG 2.
3. SDG 15 and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Protecting natural ecosystems can help prevent the spread of diseases and promote good health and well-being.
4. SDG 15 and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Promoting sustainable land use and protecting ecosystems can help ensure access to clean water and sanitation, which is essential for achieving SDG 6.
5. SDG 15 and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - Promoting sustainable land use can help ensure access to clean energy sources, such as biomass and wind power, which is essential for achieving SDG 7.

6. SDG 15 and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Ensuring sustainable land use and protecting ecosystems can help promote sustainable urban development and resilient communities.

7. SDG 15 and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - Promoting sustainable land use and protecting ecosystems can help reduce waste and support responsible consumption and production.

8. SDG 15 and SDG 13: Climate Action - Protecting and restoring ecosystems can help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from land use changes.

9. SDG 15 and SDG 14: Life Below Water - Protecting terrestrial ecosystems can have positive impacts on marine ecosystems and biodiversity, which is essential for achieving SDG 14.

In summary, addressing SDG 15 is essential for achieving sustainable development, and progress towards SDG 15 can positively impact progress towards other SDGs. Achieving SDG 15 will require a concerted effort from all sectors of society, including governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals. This will involve measures such as protecting and restoring forests, reducing land degradation, promoting sustainable agriculture and forestry practices, and conserving and restoring biodiversity.



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Comprehensive Reporting: Zambia is a signatory to all SDGs. The Government should not hand pick some SDGs for reporting and completely ignore others. Reporting on all SDGs will contribute to holistic and sustainable development. For this reason, an SDG VNR that does not speak to reducing poverty is an indictment on the prevailing political will, to address poverty. Reducing poverty should be every government's preoccupation even without SDGs.

Desegregated and timely data: The Zambia Statistics Agency should improve data availability to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. Lack of readily available and reliable data on some SDGs creates the impression that the Zambian Government is not concerned about development in an area nor serious about tracking progress. Lack of desegregated data elements such as gender, age group, location etc., implies a lack of interest in granular analysis to establish which groups are most affected by the lack of progress. Disaggregated data inform priorities and intervention choices.

Intersectionality: The inextricable links that connect all SDGs cannot be denied. Actions or stagnation in one area has the potential to stall or retard progress in other SDGs. The Challenges that necessitated the development of SDGs affect people and institutions differently. This reality is the basis for addressing development through an intersectional lens. It provides insights on which populations to prioritise and how. All SDG intervention development, implementation and evaluation should have an intersectional lens.

Shorter collective Monitoring Intervals: Tracking progress on SDG implementation is a high impact intervention. It creates opportunities for learning, changing strategy and resource allocation. Zambia should develop an annual review mechanism to track SDG progress unlike waiting till the time of the VNR.

Greater Non State Actor involvement in VNR: Non state actors are critical to achieving sustainable development. They can complement Government in implementing high impact interventions with faster reaction time and flexibility. The optimal utilisation of non-state actor, comparative strengths can only be realised through effective national and subnational coordination and social contracting mechanisms that value the voices of all stakeholders. It is not possible to value the contribution that Non state actors, such as CSOs, make in SDG attainment but have a lukewarm approach towards including them in the review process. For this reasons the reporting on implementation needs to be made more inclusive and allocated sufficient time to ensure as many voices as possible. Timely engagement in a predictable roadmap, of as many stakeholders as possible in the SDG review process, will be an important strategy to ensure broad-based ownership and cooperation.

