



GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE



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Executive Summary

2012 - 2015 Zimbabwe National MDG Report

 <p>1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p>	 <p>2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</p>	 <p>3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</p>	 <p>4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</p>	 <p>5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</p>	 <p>6 COMBAT HIV / AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</p>	 <p>7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</p>	 <p>8 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p>
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The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era coincided with one of the most difficult periods in Zimbabwe's economic history, as reflected by severe economic challenges in the country, which saw gross domestic product (GDP) halving over the decade to 2008, and hyperinflation reaching 231 million percent at its peak in July 2008, amidst low agricultural productivity. Company closures, high urban unemployment of 30 percent and urban youth unemployment of 38 percent in 2014, and a large informal economy, all put a strain on the fiscal space, leading to a reduction in social services provision and an increase in poverty. The majority (53 percent) of those in the informal sector are women, and the unemployment rate of urban young women aged 15-34 years is the highest at 47 percent compared to 26 percent for urban young men.

Sanctions and the negative perceptions on the country, largely due to the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) of 2000 onwards, limited both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and the Government's ability to access some international funds, thus, compounding the country's debt overhang. In addition, the global financial and economic crisis reduced Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and export demand, and with most of the remaining ODA being channelled outside Government systems before 2009, it was difficult to align available funds with national priorities. A major exogenous challenge came in the form of the HIV and AIDS epidemic which affected all sectors of the economy, exerting great strain particularly on the country's health delivery system. Pervasive gender inequality, particularly in the economy, continued to marginalise women.

Despite these challenges, Zimbabwe has made significant progress in some MDGs, particularly in certain aspects of HIV and AIDS, gender equality, primary school enrolments and provision of books, tertiary enrolments, literacy, maternal health, child immunization, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), provision of essential drugs including antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), stoppage of the use of ozone depleting substances (ODS), among others. The

unfinished agenda of MDGs still lingers in the form of: addressing weak economic performance, high income poverty, agrarian reform following the land reform, high maternal mortality, high HIV prevalence, sustainability of the provision of essential drugs, food insecurity, gaps in gender equality-particularly in the economy and in decision making, water and sanitation, and environmental management.

Areas of Progress

MDG 1 – Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The proportion of the population below the Food Poverty Line (FPL) was more than halved from 42 percent in 2001 to 23 percent in 2011/12. However, the proportion of the population living below the Total Consumption Poverty line declined marginally from 75.6 per cent in 1995 to 72.3 per cent in 2011/2012. Rural areas continued to register very high levels of income poverty of 82.4 percent in 2001 and 84.3 percent in 2011/12, compared to urban areas with 42.3 percent and 46.5 percent, respectively.

MDG2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education

The net enrolment ratio (NER) remained high at 92.2 percent in 2014, with gender parity. Literacy rates for those aged 15-24 years remained universal around 99 percent, with gender parity. The Pupil/Book Ratio (PBR) reached 1:1 for the 4 core primary school subjects. The proportion of trained primary school teachers remained high at 89 percent in 2014. Grade 7 Pass Rates of 56 percent for girls and 47 percent for boys in 2012 were in the normal range, given the universality of primary education in Zimbabwe. Primary school i.e. Grade 1-6 dropout rates (DRs), declined from 7.9 percent in 2011 to 4.8 percent in 2012. Almost all primary schools (99 percent) had Early Childhood Development (ECD) classes in 2014.

MDG 3 – Promote Gender equality and Empower Women

Zimbabwe has made a lot of progress under MDG3, particularly, in relation to education at all levels. There is near universal literacy (97 percent) for the adults aged 15 years and above, which is the highest literacy level in Africa. Tertiary education enrolments increased by 288 percent, with women enrolment increasing

by 404 percent and men enrolment by 218 percent. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in tertiary education increased from 60 percent in 2000, to 95 percent in 2012. Secondary school (Form 1-4) enrolment increased by 11 percent from 2000 to 2014, with gender parity. The proportion of trained secondary school teachers remains high at 89 percent in 2014. The core text book to learner ratio for secondary education improved from around 2 in 2000 to 0.95 in 2013. However, secondary school 'O' level pass rate (PR) remains low at 24 percent in 2014. Nationally, secondary school (Form 5-6) NER improved from 3.2 percent in 2000 to 7.2 percent in 2014. Secondary school 'A' level pass rates (PRs) remained relatively high at 84 percent in 2014, with gender parity in most of the years.

The Upper House of Parliament/Senate, with its Zebra system of representation reached 45 percent share of women in 2013, up from 23.2 percent in 2008, against an MDG target of 50 percent, showing the effectiveness of the quota system in political decision making. The Lower House of Parliament saw the women's share increasing from 9 percent in 2000, to 32 percent in 2013.

MDG4 - Reduce Child Mortality

Progress was registered in all the indicators of child mortality as follows: under-five mortality rate declined from 120 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1999 to 75 deaths in 2014; and infant mortality rate declined from 65 deaths per 1 000 live births to 55 deaths during the same period. Vaccination against measles, increased from 71 percent in 1999 to 83 percent in 2014. Stunting among children under five years of age declined from 36 percent in 2005/06 to 28 percent in 2014, whilst underweight remained moderate at 11 percent in 2014. Exclusive breast feeding for children for the first six months increased from 26 percent in 2009 to 41 percent in 2014.

MDG5 – Improve Maternal Health

Maternal mortality ratio significantly declined from 1 069 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2002 to 526 deaths in 2012. Proportion of births attended to by

skilled health personnel increased from 69 percent in 2005/06 to 80 percent in 2014. Home deliveries in rural areas reduced from 41 percent in 2005/06 to 22 percent in 2014.

MDG 6 – Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

The decline in HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 years from a peak of 29.6 percent in 1998 to 21.5 percent in 2005 and to 16.7 percent in 2014, was the first such decline in Southern Africa, in 2005. HIV incidence among adults declined from 2.6 percent in 2000 to 0.9 percent in 2014. Adult Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) coverage improved from 69 percent in 2011 to 77 percent in 2013 (using CD4 count of 350), whilst Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage increased from 56 percent to 82 percent within the same period. Resultantly, total AIDS deaths have declined from 122 282 in 2000 to 38 616 in 2014, which is a 68 percent reduction. Similarly, AIDS orphans declined from 796 990 in 2006 to 567 480 in 2014, which is a 29 percent reduction. Tuberculosis (TB) incidence declined from 809 cases per 100 000 population in 2004 to 552 in 2013. Clinical malaria incidence declined from 113 cases per 1 000 people in 2000 to 40 cases in 2014.

MDG7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Despite financing challenges, the country has done commendably well in reducing ozone depleted substances (ODS) ahead of the 2015 deadline under the Montreal Protocol. Zimbabwe remains among the best in the region on biodiversity conservation. At national level about 15 percent of land is designated to conservation of biological diversity of which 2 percent are indigenous forests and 13 percent are Parks and Wildlife estates. Significant reforestation efforts are ongoing. Carbon dioxide emissions (CDIAC) decreased from 13 000 MT in 2000 to 9 861 MT in 2011.

MDG8 – Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Despite the uneven economic growth some notable progress was made in the ICT sector and supply of essential drugs. Following the adoption of the

multi-currency system in 2009, the macroeconomic environment was stabilised and inflation reduced to 3.7 percent in 2012. The economy recovered to positive growth in 2009, and real GDP increased from about US\$ 8 billion in 2008 to US\$ 14 billion in 2014. Even in the midst of unprecedented economic challenges, Zimbabwe sustained its own domestic resource mobilization in support of MDG6 in the form of the National AIDS Trust Fund (NATF), commonly known as the AIDS levy, as a home-grown solution of mobilising funds in the fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic, which has been acknowledged as international best practice domestic resource mobilization innovation. A marked improvement in the availability of selected essential medicines was noted from 9 percent of the health facilities having at least 80 percent of the selected medicines in 2009 to 83 percent in 2013. ICT registered tremendous progress with mobile-cellular penetration increasing from 2 percent in 2000 to 81 percent in 2014. Internet penetration rate increased from 0.4 percent in 2000 to 20 percent in 2014.

Data Issues

There has been tremendous improvement in the availability of statistical data from the National Statistical System (NSS) in recent years, since 2009, in line with economic and social recovery, and reengagement with most development partners, resulting in the use of robust data in evidence-based policy making. The data improvement is noted in terms of quality, coverage, timeliness, adequacy, relevance and data disaggregation with regards to sex, urban and rural divide and other demographic characteristics, and this can be partly attributed to the requirements of the MDG monitoring and evaluation process. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) was the main producer of official statistics used in producing this report, complimented by administrative records. Data issues of concern include the following: resource constraints and a non-conducive environment for data collection, particularly, during the recession period, 2000-2008; different methodologies of measurement, reference periods, and age groups; lack of data disaggregation on recalculation; changing definitions;

not publishing data as stipulated in the internationally agreed MDG indicators; and absence of data on some MDG indicators in the NSS. Generally, gender disaggregated data on the economy, and also data on the environment and housing, is not readily available. Qualitative indicators of development remain a key data gap.

MDG Unfinished Business

MDG1 - Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The main unfinished business under MDG1 is the eradication of both structural and transient poverty in all its forms everywhere, and the reduction of inequalities, within the context of a broad-based/inclusive, pro-poor, gender-sensitive, and decent job-creating, dynamic economy with sustained high growth. Other unfinished business include the following: addressing informality in employment; reducing unemployment particularly for the urban youth and women; nurturing entrepreneurship under micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); improving agricultural yields in order to ensure food security for the whole population, particularly children and women. Given the increasing negative impacts of climate change, there is need to support irrigation development.

MDG2 - Achieve Universal Primary Education

There is need to sustain the gains in primary education, in particular the supply of core text books which was achieved with effective partnerships, reduce school dropouts, ensure gender equality in pass rates, and increase primary school electrification and computerisation. Although ECD has been introduced in almost all primary school, the facilities should be improved and enrolment increased.

MDG3 - Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Secondary school enrolment should increase substantially from the current levels, with gender parity; school dropouts should be reduced, paying special attention to marriage and pregnancy related girl cases; ensure gender equality in transition from Form 4 to Form 5, pass rates, and enrolment in

hard-core sciences; and increase secondary school electrification and computerisation. There is need to sustain the increase in enrolments in tertiary education ensuring gender parity; and increasing enrolment of women in hard-core science disciplines. Gender balance in political and economic decision making, and economic participation at all levels is long overdue. Domestic violence should be eliminated.

MDG 4 - Reduce Child Mortality

Unfinished business include: continued reduction in child mortality, paying special attention to infant mortality including neonatal mortality. Universal vaccination and exclusive breastfeeding of infants under 6 months, remain outstanding. Special attention must be paid to rural areas.

MDG5 - Improve Maternal Health

Continued reduction in maternal mortality; universal attendance of births by skilled health personnel, and eradication of home deliveries; universal antenatal care (ANC) of at least four visits; reduce adolescent pregnancies, remain key outstanding issues. Special attention must be paid to rural areas.

MDG6 - Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases

Sustained reduction in HIV prevalence and incidence, as well as behaviour change remain key in the fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Other outstanding issues are: universal comprehensive knowledge on HIV transmission and prevention is required; elimination of stigma and discrimination; universal coverage of ART and prevention PMTCT; sustain the reduction in TB; reduce malaria and other diseases.

MDG7 - Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Access to safe water and sanitation remains a major outstanding business to be addressed, paying particular attention to rural areas. Other outstanding issues include: sustained reforestation, and rural electrification; prudent management of wetlands, solid waste (particularly in urban areas), the environment in general; and providing adequate housing.

MDG 8 - Develop a Global Partnership for Development

To ensure the generation of domestic resources for the sustainable financing of SDGs, success in economic performance in all its facets is a must for Zimbabwe. Prudent debt management; complete re-engagement with the international community; improving the business environment; attracting FDI, where it is needed; and value addition/beneficiation of the country's primary commodities; remain as key outstanding issues. Given that modern ICTs are fast taking over and changing the development terrain in terms of speed of and access to information, all sectors should embrace the benefits of ICTs, so that Zimbabwe can move into an e-economy within the next 15 years.

Recommendations: Lessons Learnt from the MDGs for SDGs

Political Will and National Ownership

Political will at the highest level is a critical success factor of the SDGs, as evidenced by the achievements in HIV and AIDS including orphan care, education and gender under the MDGs. Broad consultation of all stakeholders from national to grassroots levels, remains key for national ownership. Goal prioritization facilitates in directing concrete development efforts, particularly within a context of limited resources. As such, there is need for the country to prioritise some of the upcoming SDGs. Managing international relations is central in a global village. In this regard, Zimbabwe should continue to work tirelessly on its re-engagement initiatives. Inter-sectoral collaboration is critical for the achievement of all the SDGs. Modern ICTs are fast taking over and changing the development terrain in terms of speed of and access to information. ICTs are enablers and catalysts cutting across all sectors, and usually problems in any sector have an ICT solution. In addition, ICT including its downstream industries can create massive employment and MSMEs.

Prioritising the Economy

Under the SDGs, the country should prioritize the 'MEANS' Goals and 'MEANS' Targets, that is, those SDGs and targets that underpin economic 'success'. The

country must endeavour to build a sustained broad-based/inclusive, pro-poor, gender-sensitive, decent job-creating economy which is central for poverty eradication, food security and sustained human development. The development of key economic enablers, such as energy, roads, rail, water, and ICT, infrastructure, is a critical pre-condition for economic growth and development. An effective framework should include all the key facets of development including enlarging the economy; equitable redistribution of the key means of production such as land and minerals to ensure inclusive economic transformation and economic empowerment of the indigenous people; governance and other human rights issues. The macroeconomic environment should be made more conducive, and ease of doing business improved for private sector and for FDI, and finance and debt management should be prudent. Effective social protection is useful in protecting the vulnerable groups and relieving hunger.

Comprehensive Agrarian Reform to Support High Agricultural Productivity

In addition to the land reform, going forward there is need for a comprehensive agrarian reform package to farmers to ensure high productivity, which would include improving access to agricultural inputs, credit, tillage, extension services, research and development innovation, markets, rehabilitation of irrigation systems, roads, dip tanks and communication infrastructure, including good access to basic social services in the newly resettled areas. This would help to make agriculture viable and enhance household and national food security. Rain-fed agriculture under climate change is fast becoming a huge risk to the whole country, such that promoting and supporting irrigation is central under the SDGs.

Sustainable Financing

Domestic financing, including through Public Private Partnership (PPPs) and joint ventures, is central in the achievement of the SDGs as it is more sustainable, even though this should be complemented by global partnership resources. In this regard, the performance

of the domestic economy in the next 15 years remains key.

Environment, Water and Sanitation and Housing

There is better sustainability in the demand led water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) model compared to the supply driven one, supported by community based management of infrastructure and environmental management. There is need to intensify rural electrification efforts, particularly using renewable sources of energy, and also re-forestation programmes. Given the increasing urban and peri-urban populations, there is need to increase the construction of low-cost housing, and support private initiatives to construct houses.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

SDG baselines should be as close as possible to the time the programme is started to ensure relevance in setting the targets. Indicators under the SDGs should be customized to local relevance. M&E should not be reduced to “on-track” and “off-track” assessment, but rather to tracking development progress made particularly by countries with low initial levels of human development and other complexities, such as Zimbabwe. There is need to continuously develop the National Statistical System’s (NSS) capacity to ensure the efficient monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. In this regard, at the start of the programme, there is need to set up a comprehensive stand alone SDG database which is continuously updated.

Gender and Women Empowerment

In addition to having its own goal, gender should be mainstreamed in all the SDGs and at all levels. It should be borne in mind that on all outcomes the desired outcome is gender balance, so outcomes with more women or more men are not a success and should be watched out for. Economic empowerment and education remain strongly related, through the labour market, such that the girl child is automatically relegated to soft and low remunerating occupations and professions. Quota systems and affirmative action remain relevant in moving forward the gender equality

and women empowerment in education, politics and the economy.

Priority Areas for the Post-2015 SDG Agenda

As Zimbabwe gravitates towards the implementation of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals in 2016, Government has decided that it will implement all the 17 SDGs as they were deemed to be important to the country. However, in terms of focus and prioritisation, Government, taking into account the above guidelines has decided that it will focus and prioritise the following ten SDGs (in that order):- SDG8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment; SDG7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all; SDG2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and

promote sustainable agriculture; SDG9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; SDG6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; SDG13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; SDG17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development; SDG3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; and SDG5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Focus on the priority SDGs will trigger activity in the remaining seven, leading to the ultimate achievement of SDG1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere.