

UNICEF ZIMBABWE

Social Inclusion Sectoral Report for the period January to December 2016



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Cover Photo: UNICEF Zimbabwe/2016

Caption: A care giver shares a light moment with Awakhile (10), left and Future (8) outside their family hut in Matebeleland South Province. The mother of the children ran away leaving the family to be taken care of by their elder sister Vanessa (17).



1.0 Executive Summary

Social Inclusion (SI) is the seventh outcome area in the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017). Social Inclusion seeks to improve policy environment and systems for disadvantaged and excluded children, guided by improved knowledge and data. As such, UNICEF Zimbabwe's Social Inclusion programme is guided by this global goal. In addition, the 2016 Social Inclusion programmes for Zimbabwe were guided and aligned to the new UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Programme (2016 - 2020), the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF 2012 - 2015) and the Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Social Inclusion programme was also guided by the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) national economic blueprint, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET: 2013 to 2018).

In line with the equity focus, Social Inclusion programming activities are cross-cutting to each of the other 6 outcome areas¹. This is because the origins and potential responses to poverty and social marginalization often lie beyond the scope of any single sector. For instance, influencing policy and the policy environment and the key policy actors, including community members, local authorities, parliamentarians and ministries of finance, plays a crucial role in redressing inequities and ensuring that the most deprived and excluded children and their families have the opportunities and resources necessary to realize their rights and participate actively and fully in decisions that affect them.

In 2016, in the area of **environment and climate change**, UNICEF completed a Sustainable Energy for Children study that has been used to influence the Child-focus of the National Renewable Energy Policy. UNICEF also initiated and completed a child-friendly booklet on climate change which will be distributed to all schools and also made available online.

In **Public Finance for children**, the UNICEF developed analytical National Budget Briefs, analysing fiscal trends in each of the social sectors. These briefs were disseminated across government, to members of parliament, civil society and media with the overall result being a collective attention being paid to the social sectors, resulting in improved disbursement rates against the budget allocations for the social sectors. To further advocate for improved investment in children UNICEF has aided in the implementation of the decentralized Local authority budget monitoring surveillance and tracking system. This will increase accountability and transparency in Local authority budgeting and financial management, as well as improve citizen (and children) participation.

In addition, UNICEF has been producing **the annual Official Development Assistance (ODA) analysis** that tracks aid flows into and across Zimbabwe. These are shared with the government as they give recommendations on what the government should do to increase fiscal space and hence increase spending in social service. Another important publication for 2016 has been the Weekly Liquidity Updates that provide good and timely information for UNICEF partners to help better plan and anticipate risks and scenarios within the macroeconomic environment. This has been necessitated by the current liquidity constraints facing the country.

¹ Health, HIV & Aids, WASH, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection

The **National Social Protection Policy framework**, which UNICEF has led over the past two years in a cross-sectoral and consultative effort, was approved by cabinet and launched in 2016. This significant achievement enables the harmonization of social protection programmes, enables better coordination within the sector and emphasizes the needs of children and vulnerable groups, in particular.

On **generation of data and evidence**, UNICEF partnered with the Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT) and different government departments to generate timely data and evidence in a number of areas. The MICS 2014 extended analysis produced five thematic papers. The Poverty Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey (PICES) which provides nearly 70% of the SDG indicators is underway. The Youth Investment Case for Zimbabwe (YICZ) Study was completed and launched in 2016. It was undertaken to; generate information on the situation of the youth, quantify the costs of not investing in the youth, identify together with the youth, opportunities for undertaking strategic investments in the youth in six key areas identified by the Zimbabwe Youth Policy, and prioritise these investments, cost them, and quantify the economic growth and social benefits of such investment in the short, medium and long-term.

Other reports that have been produced in 2016, in collaboration with ZIMSTAT and with financial aid of the **Thematic funding from the Government of Sweden** are: **Social Amenities Report, Women and Men Report**. The Social Amenities report enhances availability of data on the number of public infrastructures in all districts. This report provides critical information for use in institutional planning for area development. UNICEF and ZIMSTAT produced the Women and Men report with data from Government departments and civil society organisations. The report complements Government of Zimbabwe's pursuit of programmes that help it to achieve gender equality in all phases of the development process.

In the area of **external communication, public advocacy and communication for social and behaviour change**, a key result was the formation of a broad-based national coalition to end child marriages. UNICEF Zimbabwe helped to convene a meeting of Government, UN sister agencies, and non-governmental organizations, to forge a common approach. A five day capacity-building workshop was held for 60 coalition partners and a road map developed. Coalition partners began implementing community engagement activities, which were complemented by mass and social media messages. A campaign to end child marriages was launched in November 2016 at a musical concert headlined by UNICEF Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern and Southern Africa Oliver Mtukudzi. Ten technical working groups are leading on different aspects of the campaign and a communication toolkit is being developed for use in community dialogues.

With an estimated 4 million people needing **humanitarian assistance** as a result of the El Nino-induced drought, UNICEF Zimbabwe partnered with the Ministry of Health and the Food and Nutrition Council to produce communication assets for local and international news outlets. As a result, the impact on women and children received considerable visibility and contributed to an increase in resource mobilization.

In supporting implementation of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, UNICEF supported government line ministries to develop, implement and monitor national responses to the SDGs. Furthermore UNICEF, strengthened the movement for the realization of child rights based on Agenda 2030 and SDGs through engaging young people through U-report and convening dialogues with child rights oriented civil society, private sector organizations and the government.

With the aim of improving country office efficiency and effectiveness in delivering results for children, UNICEF trained professional staff in **Results Based Management** with the financial aid of the Thematic Funding from Government of Sweden.

This report, therefore, provides a detailed elaboration of the results achieved in 2016 using all sources of funding available to support the Social Inclusion Outcome area. UNICEF is grateful to all the donors who contributed to the achievements of results within this outcome area in 2016 and look forward to working together in 2017 to achieve even better results for the women and children of Zimbabwe.

2.0 Strategic Context of 2016

The year 2016 started on a promising note, with the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) projecting growth to gather pace over 2016. The economy was projected to expand by 2.7% from the 1.5% recorded in 2015, on account of the following, among other factors: continued implementation of economic reforms under the Staff Monitored Program² (SMP); clearance of arrears to the International Financial Institution (IFIs), thereby unlocking new financing for growth and poverty reduction; improved cost and easy of doing business; and positive growth in agricultural output

However significant headwinds were encountered during the course of the year resulting in an estimated growth of 0.6%, some 2.1 and 0.5 percentage points lower than the initial growth target and the 2015 growth, respectively. This was mainly on account of: (i) El Nino related weather conditions which affected agricultural production, for which government had to import food to avert starvation³, (ii) poor revenue out-turn against increasing expenditure demands particularly wages and outstanding bonuses for 2016, which resulted in an overall fiscal deficit of US\$1billion (7% of GDP), (iii) an acute liquidity crisis that compromised aggregate demand, (iii) weak commodity prices and (v) weak policy implementation, given the challenging domestic political environment.

Furthermore, the LIMA Plan for Arrears Clearance⁴ was not implemented, as only IMF arrears of US\$ 108 million were paid off in October 2016. As of October 2016, the country remained in debt distress with total outstanding obligations of US\$11.2 billion (79%) of GDP, of which US\$7.5 billion is external, whilst US\$5.2 billion was in arrears. The country would need to clear the remaining US\$1.7 billion⁵ arrears to other multilateral institutions to allow for access to concessional development financing, as well as investments in social sectors, which have remained underfunded over the years.

² An SMP is an informal agreement between country authorities and Fund staff to monitor the implementation of the authorities' economic program. SMPs do not entail financial assistance or endorsement by the IMF Executive Board.

³ Drought related grain importation amounted to US\$253.5million

⁴ Zimbabwe's arrears clearance plan that was endorsed by creditors during the 2015 Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank, held in Lima, Peru in October 2015

⁵ World Bank 1.16 billion and African Development Bank US\$610 million

It is therefore, important to note that the economic growth levels achieved during the period under review, are significantly below levels needed to ensure sustainable development and poverty reduction, thereby exacerbated risks of social exclusion and associated increased inequities and vulnerabilities. The Zimbabwe Poverty Atlas (2015) by ZIMSTAT revealed that poverty prevalence in some provinces of Zimbabwe was as high as 87% in rural areas.

The year 2016 also marked the start of a new UNICEF Zimbabwe 2016-2020 Country Programme, as well as the third year into the UNICEF 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. Formulated through dialogue with Government, development and implementing partners, the Country Programme 2016-2020 aims to support Zimbabwe to sustain and build upon the gains recorded for children in the previous Country Programme (2012 – 2015), while contributing to the national objective of strengthening resilience. It focuses on equity and building national and sub-national capacities to provide high impact interventions targeting the most vulnerable children. The selected strategies are risk-informed, rights- and results-based and aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and ESARO Regional Priorities

In addition, the Country Programme (2016 – 2020) was aligned with the ZUNDAF priorities, and contributed to four of the five main outcomes of the ZUNDAF National Priority 5⁶ (Access to Quality Social Services). Social inclusion programming is a cross cutting theme that contributed to improving evidence for guiding the policy environment and encouraging meaningful participation of children at national and decentralized levels. It will remain a cross cutting priority throughout the implementation of the SDGs because of its invaluable contribution to accessing rights by disadvantaged groups.

It is important to note that 2016 marked the first full year for implementing the SDGs, and therefore, provided a unique opportunity for the Country Office to align its Social Inclusion outcomes to the SDG agenda. Specifically, Social Inclusion outcome was strategically and will continue to be guided and aligned to the key SDGs for children, in particular, Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Goal 1 targets are (a) Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day and (b) Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

The year 2016 provided an opportunity for UNICEF to work with the government and partners in scaling up activities in line with the Global level of ambition, whilst at the same time advocating for strong partnership between the government, donors and other stakeholder necessary to achieve development goals. Activities carried out included raising awareness among children and local authorities on the SDGs in general and their respective role towards achievement of the SDGs.

The Social Inclusion outcome was also guided by other national priorities such as the Social Services and Poverty Eradication ZIM ASSET Cluster and the Data for Development cluster under the United

⁶ Increased access to quality formal and non-formal education, training and life skills development; increased access to and utilisation of quality basic health and nutrition services; increased access to social protection for the most vulnerable households; and increased access to and use of safe and adequate water supply, improved sanitation and hygiene services.

Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Social Inclusion Outcome focused on the upstream level to increase equity through advocacy that places the rights of the poorest and underprivileged children at the centre of Zimbabwe's political, economic and social agendas. The programme's strategies toward improved social inclusion comprised the facilitation of dialogue and collective identification and analyses of problems, enabling the testing, piloting and scaling up of solutions for children, and strengthening the participation of and voices for children. It also included the strengthening of institutional roles and capacities and the provision of technical support to sectors and cross-sectoral design, management and evaluation of actions, complemented by building national capacities in child rights and child-sensitive programming.

Zimbabwe also launched its Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP) (2016 – 2018), which was supported by UNICEF and partners. The I-PRSP focuses on specific short term measures, with long term impact on the livelihoods of the population, targeting particularly, the vulnerable segments of the society. The I-PRSP is another framework for which future Social inclusion programmes will be aligned to, as it is in sync with Social Inclusion outcomes of promoting and accelerate inclusive growth and poverty reduction through an improved policy environment.

3.0 Results in the Social Inclusion Outcome Area

The year 2016 saw the country office making significant progress towards its social inclusion objectives. This was mainly on account of the unwavering support received from bilateral donors, particularly thematic funding from Sweden. UNICEF was able to address country specific priorities in the areas of data generation and evidence, policy analysis and advocacy, public finance for children, children participation and representation, climate change and environmental sustainability, media engagement, and country programme planning and risk management.

Output 1: Increased national capacity to provide equitable access to inclusive systems that protect children, adolescents and women from poverty and promote social inclusion and resilience to climate change and humanitarian crises.

Child Sensitive Social Policies

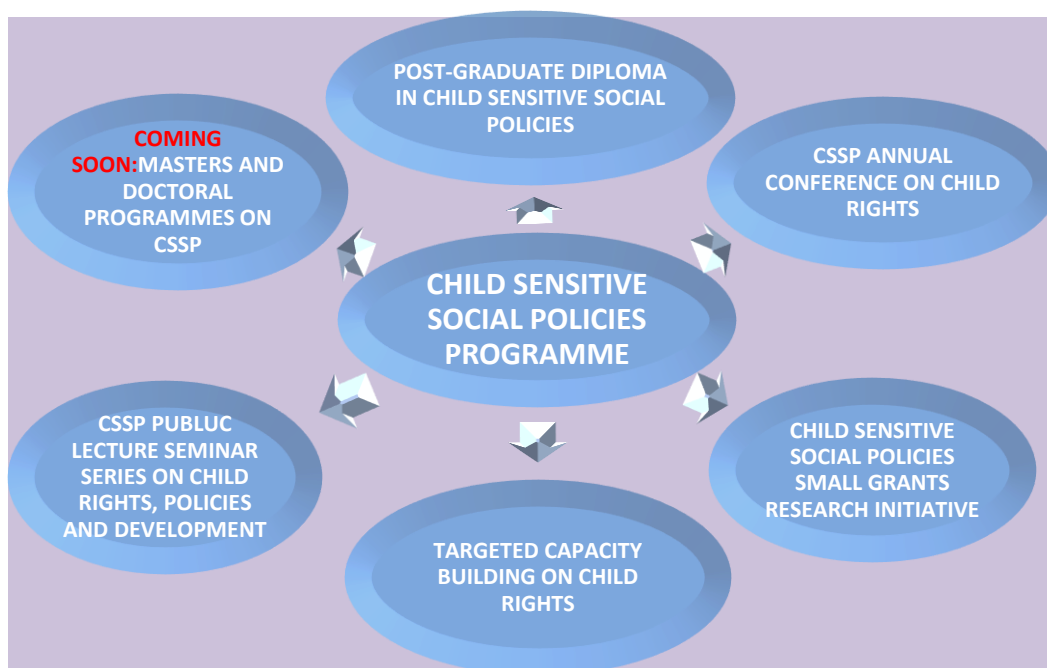
(i) Women's University in Africa

Cognizant of the lack of national expertise on child rights, policy and development in Zimbabwe and to increase national capacity for inclusive systems, in 2013, UNICEF partnered with the Women's University in Africa (WUA) to build a human capital base of qualified practitioners in child rights, policies and development through the establishment of a Child Sensitive Social Policies (CSSP) Programme. The first component of the CSSP programme was the development of a **Post-Graduate Diploma in Child Sensitive Social Policies**. The Diploma's main aim is to provide theoretical and practical training to various professionals who deal with children and children's issues in analysing, monitoring and evaluating public policy on children in order to strengthen programming, policy development and advocacy in the field of child rights, policy and development. Thus far, the Diploma has had 4 intakes since 2013 and has trained more than 150 practitioners in child rights, policy and development. At the

time of authoring this report (first quarter of 2017), the Diploma enrolled its 5th intake as it continues to attract professionals across various disciplines who work for and with children.

For the Diploma, UNICEF has, on a yearly basis been offering partial scholarships to students based on need and covering only the tuition fees for the first semester. The programme also has a staff complement of 7 competent lecturers who include a Programme Coordinator, a full time lecturer and four part-time lecturers. A UNICEF Resource Centre was established in the Main Library of the Women's University in Africa. The Centre is a research hub and is open to the entire student body and the public. It is duly equipped with IT equipment, office furniture, reading and computer desks and chairs.

The overwhelming response to the introduction of the Post Graduate Diploma in CSSP saw it quickly expanding to other areas as shown below:



(ii) Small Research Grants Initiative

In 2015, the CSSP Programme in partnership with UNICEF and SIDA launched the CSSP Small Grants Research Initiative. The objective of this initiative is to provide financial and technical support to selected organisations and individuals researchers to conduct desktop and empirical research on various issues of critical importance in child rights programming at a given time. The research that is carried out is used to inform programming, policy formulation and advocacy regarding children's rights, policies and development. From the research conducted, some of the articles produced are used to feed into the Zimbabwe Child Monitor, a publication started by the CSSP programme in 2015. Thus far, about 12 researches have been conducted in 2015 and 2016 through the grants and the Zimbabwe Child Monitor which benefits from the researches will be launched with its Vol 2 on the 10th of February 2017. The researches that were undertaken for the 2016 Small Grants are all tied up to the Violence Against Children study which UNICEF is undertaking.

(iii) Publicity of CSSP Programme

A high quality CSSP webpage was launched. The webpage provides information about the programme, the expected outcomes, entry requirements, target students, duration of the programme, and structure of the programme, assessment model, career prospects, fees and scholarships. Various brochures and booklets which outline what the programme is about and the courses on offer, as well as various public events within and outside the university are developed annually and distributed to potential students to create awareness and exposure of the programme to various stakeholders. The CSSP programme is also very active on social media in the form of Facebook and LinkedIn where CSSP programmes, events and activities are showcased.

(iv) Africa University

A Small Scale Funding agreement (SSFA) was signed between UNICEF and Africa University for the development of modules for a Masters in Child rights and Childhood Studies with the financial aid of thematic funds from the Government of Sweden. The programme will be starting in March 2017 and is the first masters of its kind in Southern-Africa. Africa University is a pan-African institution which draws students from across the continent. Currently 27 African countries are represented in the student population. This means that the benefits of this Masters programme in child rights and childhood studies will cascade throughout the African continent. The African continent has countries that are perceived to be abusing human and child rights therefore this programme will benefit students coming from such countries as they can advocate for the realization of children's rights at both community and national levels. These modules that will be taught in the programme are:

- Child Rights and Psychological Support
- Child rights, Advocacy and Public Policy
- Child Rights Programming
- Child Rights in the African Context
- Child Participation and Agency in Africa
- Parenting skills and Child Rights
- Sociology and Conceptions of Childhood in Africa
- Research Methods

Environment and Climate Change Research and technical support to the National Climate and Energy Policies

Environment and climate change is a core component of the Social Inclusion outcomes, given that climate change is one of the biggest threats facing global development with the developing countries being more vulnerable due to their low adaptive capacity. The following results were achieved in 2016, under environment and climate output:

(i) Sustainable Energy for Children – Operational Research

UNICEF designed this research to gather evidence on the root causes and barriers associated with energy access and also to empower communities to address challenges and associated negative impacts of barriers to energy access using innovative solutions which maximize the use of indigenous, clean and plentiful renewable energy to ensure long-term sustainability. These field level consultations on the subject of energy access have revealed measures which focus on reducing dependency on solid

(especially wood) and fossil fuel for energy, increasing the efficiency of energy production and shifting to cleaner and renewable energy sources which, when combined should help Zimbabwe to move towards low carbon socio-economic development as well as boost opportunity for generating finance from carbon credit programmes for use in the social sector. See report '[Sustainable Energy for Children in Zimbabwe](#)' and [Policy brief](#).

(ii) National Policy Support (Climate Policy and Renewable Energy Policy)

UNICEF provided support to the ongoing development of the National Climate Policy and Renewable Energy Policy while ensuring that the special needs of children are reflected. UNICEF has also advocated and communicated with various actors (institutional, government, non-government and private sector partners) on the topic of climate change and also raising awareness on the subject of children and climate change (through workshops, trainings, media, national and global committees, as well as university presentations).

(iii) Development of a Child Friendly Climate Change booklet and Climate Policy

Aspects of climate change are addressed in a number of syllabi from pre-school (Early Childhood Development) to primary, secondary and tertiary levels. However, findings from the study on Children and Climate Change in Zimbabwe highlighted that 40 per cent of secondary school children and almost one half of primary school children consulted had no idea of what climate change is. This highlighted a large need for a child friendly material development on this subject and so UNICEF developed child friendly materials on Climate Change which can communicate with all children in a fun and engaging manner so that they can understand how climate change relates to children, the fulfilment of the rights of the child, as well as how they can adapt to the impacts of climate change. The book will be finalized and printed during the first quarter of 2017.

(iv) Support to National Debating Competitions on the subject of Climate Change

In 2016, UNICEF continued to build their support to National Debate competitions and held this event at Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), which enabled ten leading schools from five districts to come together and debate on the topic of climate change and environment. These debate competitions target the younger generation in order to stimulate interest on climate, environment and sustainable development issues while they also serve to operationalise the incorporation of Climate Change into school curricula. Children were challenged to research, cite and act on climate change, and there was increased awareness on climate change raised among school children and teachers as a result.

(v) Conference of Parties (COP) 22 Climate Change Youth Mapping

In the lead up to COP 22 at Morocco and over the course of the past two years, UNICEF Zimbabwe have continued their *Voices of Youth Climate Mapping Activity*. *Voices of Youth* calls on young people through this digital mapping initiative in the run-up to COP negotiations to engage groups of children and young people to conduct digital mapping on climate change locally, and use [the map](#) and complementary child and youth-produced [media](#) for local advocacy with government, business and community. One of the aims of the mapping initiative is to connect the child/youth voices and views with local leaders and decisions makers - people who have the power to act on some of the things that are reported on the map. In 2016 the theme focused on Air Pollution, and Youth Climate Mappers from Zimbabwe actively engaged in the mapping and reporting of this issue. One representative from the

group [Darlington Tshuma](#) also participated in a [UNICEF global twitter takeover](#) documenting this experience and also travelled to represent the group at the ECOSOC Global Youth Forum in New York this year.

(vi) Improved Cook stove (ICS) Programming

In 2016, UNICEF continued to conduct pilot programmes on the use of improved cook stoves which are cleaner, emit less smoke, are more efficient at cooking and use less wood. Through these pilots, women are learning to construct the stoves themselves, and they then go on to train other women on stove construction and usage benefits. More detail on this programme can also be seen in UNICEF Blogpost [here](#) and SustainZim article [here](#).

(vii) 'Green Innovations Hub' (GiHub) Programme (<http://www.gih.space/>)

UNICEF in partnership with the Development Reality Institute continued its [Green Innovations Hub \(GiHUB\)](#) programme into 2016. This programme has the overall objective of igniting social change and unlocking young people's potential in contributing to achieving sustainable development through social innovation. The Green Innovations Hub is a platform for turning promising ideas into practical solutions, which address challenges faced by local communities in three selected regions of the country. Proposed ideas address issues such as reducing emissions, substituting fossil fuel use, energy efficiency, and energy relating to food and/or water, energy storage, or green communities. The ideas presented were assessed on their sustainability, replicability, innovativeness, capacity building, and alignment to project objectives, acceptance by the community at large and value for money. Nine youth catalyst grants of \$5,000 and 11 Cool Skool grants of \$1,000 were awarded during 2016 and some examples from the top 30 shortlisted candidates include: Crop drying, pellet manufacturing, solar school bags, eco-fuel production from litter, plant that converts waste oil into diesel, and a biogas digester for converting waste into fuel (more detail on winners [here](#)).

(viii) U-report Polls on climate change & Sustainable Energy

UNICEF have also furthered supported the strengthening of youth advocacy through conducting polls on [Climate change](#) and [Children's engagement in the National Renewable Energy Policy](#).

Output 2: Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan, budget and fund inclusive social policies.

Public Finance for Children (PF4C) is the main theme under this outcome area. In line with the global PF4C strategy, the Country Office works with the Government and partners to leverage domestic resources for investments in children. It is trite to note that how and where the Government spend its resource makes a huge difference to service coverage and quality, and often determines whether the most disadvantaged children are reached. Hence, PF4C seeks to ensure that public finance work better for children. The following results were achieved in 2016:

(i) Budget Analysis

UNICEF produced detailed sectoral budget briefs to understand the trends and implications of the 2016 National Budget allocations to social sectors. The budget briefs were used for advocacy with

government, the legislature, civil society and others to protect and improve social sector spending. The budget briefs available here https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/resources_18415.html.

In addition to the budget briefs, UNICEF carried out revenue and expenditure tracking of the 2016 national budget allocations and disbursements. These analysis are shared with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Macro-Economic Planning and Investment Promotion, within UNICEF and UNCT. These analysis were used to inform and guide discussions with line ministries to advocate for increased budget flows to child-related sectors and the need to improve the size, quality and equity of national spending to deliver results for children. Evidence from the analysis show huge gaps between budget allocations and actual disbursements, particularly for non-wage spending. This has formed the basis for engagement and advocacy with the key budget stakeholders during the 2017 budget preparations. Such advocacy can partly be attributed to have resulted in the improved non-wage disbursements by the national treasury to the social sectors in 2016 (against the approved budget allocations for 2016) compared to previous years, however, the non-wage disbursements are still small and are inadequate to cover the total need in the social sectors resulting in dependency on off-budget donor support.

UNICEF convened breakfast meetings and one-on-one meetings with line Ministries (Health, Education and Public Service & Social welfare); and their respective parliamentary portfolio committees to present results of budget analysis and advocate for effective budgeting that prioritizes children's rights and participation. Further, UNICEF worked with civil society stakeholders to advocate for effective citizen participation in the budgeting process, including children and improving budget transparency at both National and local levels. Partly due to these advocacy efforts, there were notable improvements in the 2017 Budget allocations to Harmonized Social Cash Transfers from US\$2 million in 2016 to US\$7 million, Expansion of the school feeding programme to higher grades that were not covered in 2016 and an improvement in the non-wage allocation to education to US\$14 million from US\$13 million in 2016.

(ii) Weekly Liquidity Updates

Due to the national financial/liquidity crisis, with funding from Sweden, UNICEF introduced a Weekly Liquidity Update that is produced using a variety of monetary, fiscal, trade and industry data, so as to support the planning, monitoring and risk management of the country office in this time of crisis. The Weekly Liquidity Updates have also provided good and timely information for UNICEF partners to help better plan and anticipate risks and scenarios within the macroeconomic environment.

(iii) Supporting Child Participation in the Budgeting and Planning Process

Children's right to be heard and to meaningfully participate in matters that affect them is central to UNICEF's mandate as guided by Article 12 of the UNCRC. As such, UNICEF values child participation in the budgeting process as a way of building their capacity and promoting child rights. Experiences from supporting the implementation of child-focused budgeting programmes have shown that it is possible to reach a greater number of children and have the desired impacts on child friendly budgeting for children both at local and national levels. As part of this goal, UNICEF has been working with national and local stakeholders to encourage the creation of structures that facilitates child participation, such as Junior Councils. With support from Swedish thematic funding, UNICEF supported the hosting of the

National Junior Councils Association of Zimbabwe (NJCAZ) 5th Annual General Conference in September 2016.

The Conference, which was attended by 21 Junior Councils (10 from Urban Councils and 11 from Rural District Councils) from the country's 10 Provinces, provided an important platform for Junior Councils to share knowledge and best practices on how they can effectively engage and influence policy and budget outcomes for the fulfilment of children's rights at the local level. In this regard, the Conference came up with a number of strategies to establish and strengthen Junior Councils in all local authorities in Zimbabwe to facilitate sustained youth and child empowerment as well as promote effective participation in all matters that concern children and youth.

Output 3: Enhanced capacity of disadvantaged and marginalized children and families to use social protection systems and participate in decision-making processes affecting them.

Support towards the national social protection framework and policies and the costing and financing of social protection

The National Social Protection Policy framework, which UNICEF has led over the past two years in a cross-sectoral and consultative effort, was approved by cabinet and launched in 2016, (see document here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_ZpXDKX3o0RM0Z4UmVhOGJPQ2M/view). This significant achievement enables the harmonization of social protection programmes, enables better coordination within the sector and emphasizes the needs of children and vulnerable groups, in particular.

Further, UNICEF managed to play a key convening role for other UN agencies and World Bank to work on joint Terms of Reference and engagement of an International consultant to support design and development of a single registry for social protection. Actual work started in 2016, with a broader aim of linking social protection registry to the national civil registry. Additionally, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to work on Harmonization of Social Protection Programmes. This is anticipated to significantly improve delivery of social protection interventions, generate efficiencies and improve social protection financing through streamlined programmes in line with the Social Protection Public Expenditure Review undertaken by the World Bank. Social Care work through the child protection case management system has enhanced demand driven services by supporting communities and families to participate in social protection related programs and activities. UNICEF advocacy work has partly resulted in increased budgetary allocation in the 2017 National Budget announced at the end of 2016 where for instance government allocation to the Harmonized Social Cash Transfers (HSCT) rose from 13% in 2016 to 48% in 2017.

Output 4: Increased national capacity to generate and utilize data and knowledge on key human rights and gender equality dimensions of social inclusion.

(i) The MICS 2014 extended analysis

UNICEF Zimbabwe in collaboration with the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) and various Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) line ministries with financial support from multiple donor agencies conducted the 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The MICS is an international household survey programme developed by UNICEF. MICS is designed to collect statistically sound,

internationally comparable estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women in the areas of health, education, child protection, HIV/AIDS, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion (WASH).

Thematic funds from the Government of Sweden supported the production of 5 thematic papers for the MICS 2014 extended analysis from further analysis of MICS 2014 by UNICEF and ZIMSTAT. These papers are:

- A Story of Inequality and Inequity in Zimbabwe
- Education
- Religion
- Nutrition, Health and WASH
- Child Protection, Child Marriage and Attitudes towards Violence

The purpose of the extended analysis was to closely assess the MICS 2014 data, present results that complement the MICS report as well as informing and guiding policy and programming initiatives of Government and development partners. In particular, this analysis is aimed at informing the implementation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset), the 2016 - 2020 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each thematic paper undresses and unpacks issues that will assist in addressing inequalities and inequities that exists through evidence based advocacy, programming. It was conducted with the help of an independent international consultant who is an expert in MICS and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), UNICEFs' local consultant and UNICEF sections in collaboration with Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), University of Zimbabwe, Ministries of Health and Child Care, and Primary and Secondary Education.

(ii) Youth Investment Case Zimbabwe

Thematic funds from the Government of Sweden supported the Youth Investment Case for Zimbabwe (YICZ) study which was completed and launched in 2016. UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment (MoYIEE), Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) and other key ministries in this ground breaking research. This study will aid the Government of Zimbabwe to harness the demographic dividend for economic growth which is presented by its population structure in which the proportion of youth aged between 15 to 34 years stands at 36% and the 0 to 34 years constitute 77%. It was undertaken to; generate information on the situation of the youth, quantify the costs of not investing in the youth (do nothing scenario), identify together with the youth, opportunities for undertaking strategic investments in the youth in six key areas identified by the Zimbabwe Youth Policy, and prioritize these investments, cost them, and quantify the economic growth and social benefits of such investment in the short, medium and long-term.

The results have been used to inform the UN joint youth programming, provide evidence for resource mobilization, strategic programme implementation and as an advocacy tool for supporting investments in adolescent health, education and adolescent spaces. Investing in youth development and their well-being is believed to contribute to poverty reduction, income equality and economic growth. The results will include the current situation faced by the youth and the cost of youth programming in youth health,

education, employment creation, culture, arts, sports and recreation. The draft document has already been shared with the Minister of Youth for policy formulation and analysis in his ministry.

(iii) Social Amenities Report

Social infrastructure and amenities are crucial in creating sustainable communities and as such, statistics on facilities and services play an important role in an economy by evaluating the standards of livelihoods among societies. Thematic funds from the Government of Sweden supported the production of the Social amenities report in which UNICEF partnered with Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT). By taking an inventory of the current facilities and amenities, the information, therefore, is also crucial for estimating future requirements in sectors such as health, education and agriculture among others. Service provision explains the living conditions of a population. The information collected in this survey will help policy makers in identifying and addressing the adequacy and shortfalls in the different amenities for the improvement of life among communities. The Social Amenities Report is available on: www.unicef.org/zimbabwe

(iv) Women and Men Report

The Government of Zimbabwe is committed to the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment. This Report presents statistics on women and men in Zimbabwe and aims to bring to light progress made in addressing gender issues in areas such as education, health, participation in decision making, access to agricultural productive services and participation in employment activities. This report also gives baseline information needed to assess and monitor Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on Gender Equality.

(v) Poverty, Income and Expenditure Survey (PICES)

The major National monetary poverty survey, Poverty Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey (PICES) is now underway and the thematic funds from the Swedish Government assisted in the Training of trainers' workshop that was held at the end of 2016. This survey provides nearly 70% of the SDG indicators and will also provide the Child Monetary Poverty Measure. The fieldwork has begun and is expected to end on 31 December 2017.

The Results Assessment Framework

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Progress
Number of nationally representative social, health and economic surveys conducted	0	2	100% achieved
Child Poverty and other SDG's indicators established and tracked.	0.00	1.00	100% achieved
Percentage of annual government expenditure for health sector,	6%	15% (Abuja Declaration)	7.25%
Percentage of annual government expenditure for education sector	21%	20 % (exceeded target)	17.76%

Percentage of annual government expenditure for social protection.	1.50%	4% (African average)	0.5%
Number of enrolled students in child sensitive social policies through academic programmes	44.00	40.00	Enrolled 29 students. two dropped out and one is deceased
Costed Programme of Action on social protection completed and endorsed by government.	0.00	1.00	Achieved however, finalisation stalled by Cabinet processes
Number of documents incorporating children's rights in the policy discourse/strategic plans on environmental sustainability, climate change, and renewable energy	0	3	Achieved
Number of equity based researches and analyses conducted	1.00	2.00	100%

External Communication and Public Advocacy

External communication is the voice of UNICEF speaking out for all children, but particularly the most marginalized. External communication raises the visibility of key issues affecting children, through compelling messages based in evidence that are designed to connect with and inspire key audiences.. External communication and public advocacy work in tandem to emphasize the obligations of citizens as child rights duty-bearers, and to promote innovation for children; together they fuel social engagement that will lead to shifts in public policy for children and bolster UNICEF's resource mobilization efforts. Key highlights in 2016 were:

(i) Ending child marriages campaign

A 5 day capacity building training workshop was run for 60 civil society organizations, representatives from Ministry of Women Affairs, UN Women, UNFPA, PLAN International and the Gender Commission to develop a road map for the campaign to end child marriages in Zimbabwe. Following the training, the different organizations' went into the districts and implemented community engagement activities which were complemented by national mass communication radio, print, TV and social media efforts. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Women Affairs and 8 civil society organisations (Childline, Humanitarian Information Facilitation Centre, Justice for Children Trust, Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe, Padare, REPSSI, SAFAIDS and Vhuka Africa) in implementing an intensive ending child marriages campaign in 8 districts with the highest prevalence of this harmful cultural practice.

The multi-media communication materials that were developed include Commuter Bus stickers, services brochure, media fact sheet, legal fact sheet, posters, key messages brochure, radio and television spots, community dialogues manual, website, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube social media accounts. The intensive campaign culminated in an edutainment concert attended by 500 people, led by the UNICEF East and Southern Africa Region Goodwill Ambassador Oliver Mtukudzi and various

popular Zimbabwean musicians. Ten technical working groups to coordinate different aspects of the campaign were formed with the most active being the messages and materials development working group. All the multi-media materials developed will be packed into a Communications Toolkit for ending child marriages in Zimbabwe and used by extension workers around the country.

(ii) Visibility of El Nino

With an estimated 4 million people needing humanitarian assistance as a result of the El Nino-induced drought, UNICEF Zimbabwe partnered with the Ministry of Health and the Food and Nutrition Council to produce communication assets for local and international news outlets. As a result, the impact on women and children received considerable visibility and contributed to an increase in resource mobilization.

(iii) State of the World's (SOWC) Children Report 2016

A key priority is the inequities in access to services that continue to negatively affect marginalized communities. UNICEF Zimbabwe used the SOWC 2016 to highlight inequities in Zimbabwe using data from the youth and child equity atlas, the child poverty atlas, and the food poverty atlas. A media briefing was held to highlight the key messages of the report and draw inferences to inequalities in Zimbabwe. The equity message was reflected in all of UNICEF's messaging throughout the year and statistics from both the SOWC and the equity atlases were used regularly by the media.

(iv) Child Participation

The Junior Parliament, supported by UNICEF, provided a platform for the President and members of his Cabinet to engage with over 300 child MPs drawn from all of the country's constituencies. Two sittings were held in 2016 where the President and his two Vice-Presidents pledged their commitment to ending child marriages.

(v) Social Media

UNICEF Zimbabwe continues to expand its reach through social media and other digital platforms. Monthly impressions averaged 170 on Facebook and 600 on Twitter. In addition, UNICEF Zimbabwe used the U-Report to reach its 50,000 U-Reporters with messages on violence against children, child marriages, and child rights in the constitution, among others.

Communication for social and behaviour change

Technical assistance was provided to partners developing communication programmes for ending gender based violence, including training in communication materials development with an emphasis on social and individual behaviour change.

Formative Research was conducted in collaboration with the Harare City Health Department to establish factors and drivers of Typhoid in the City. The findings are being used to design a communication strategy for combating outbreaks of Typhoid in Harare as well as for updating current WASH communication materials. Inputs were also provided to the Social Norms Research that sought to establish pathways for causes and effects of violence against children in Zimbabwe.

An Assessment was carried out to establish factors leading to the high uptake of Measles and Rubella vaccination among Apostolics in Manicaland and Mashonaland East Provinces. The Findings will be shared at a Conference of Religious and Traditional Leaders in 2017; whose objective will be to solicit faith based and traditional leaders support for increased uptake of vaccination services. The communication plan for implementing the National Nutrition Communication Strategy was designed and district implementation planning training workshops have been conducted in Zvimba, Masvingo and Bulawayo.

Innovation

UNICEF Zimbabwe's innovations strategy was guided by two principles: increasing effectiveness and efficiencies in its programmes and providing opportunities for participation to the marginalized. RapidPro was integrated with the Rural WASH Information Management System (RWIMS) and is supporting collection of real-time information on the status of communal water sources in communities affected by the 2016 El Nino drought. It improved the Government and UNICEF's ability to monitor and respond to the crisis.

The U-Report has been deployed in the urban WASH programme to improve communication between residents and local authorities. Residents report disruptions in service delivery and response teams immediately receive the SMS and promptly address the issue. The system has reduced distances communities travel to report faults, increased efficiency of response, and improved accountability as response times are monitored on a dashboard. It has also improved relations between the councils and the communities they serve.

The use of Open Data Kit for data collection and monitoring in the Zimbabwe National Food and Nutrition Strategy Community-Based Approach to Reducing Stunting continues to be used. Extension workers are using the systems to collect data on various nutrition indicators in four districts in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces and communities are using the data to formulate community-based interventions. RapidPRO is being used to promote citizen engagement and social accountable. A new RapidPro service is being set up to support weekly reporting on SAM and MAM screening, and referrals and admissions in 10 districts most affected by the drought.

Output 5: Strengthened capacity to generate knowledge and evidence on the situation of children and women and equity focused performance monitoring at all levels

(i) Support towards localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On 1 January, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came into effect, coinciding with the first year of the new Zimbabwe UN Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) 2016 – 2020 and the first year of the UNICEF Country Programme (2016 – 2020). UNICEF as the co-chair of the ZUNDAF Social Services and Protection results group prioritised providing technical support to the government, UN system and Civil Society Organisations in developing implementation and monitoring frameworks for SDGs. Whilst all SDGs have an impact on the lives of children and youths, UNICEF has prioritised those that are most relevant to the lives of children and youths with a focus on the social sector. Some of the key achievements were:

Working in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator's Office and government ministries, UNICEF participated and provided technical support to SDGs focal persons in developing a SDGs roll out plan for the country. The Government of Zimbabwe has put in place a draft SDGs implementation framework. The SDG implementation framework:

- Aligns all SDG goals to the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) seven clusters and implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress on SDGs will be done through the Zim Asset clusters.
- Identifies the line ministries responsible for implementation of the specific goals, monitoring and reporting of targets and indicators
- Provides clarity to UNICEF in relation to the specific Zim Asset clusters which the organisation is to follow up with in terms of implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDG targets and indicators that are of priority to UNICEF's work in Zimbabwe.

UNICEF has engaged and worked with the UNCT to ensure that a structured and coordinated system (UN Task Force) is in place to support the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) in implementation and monitoring of SDGs. The UNCT Taskforce was established in the first quarter of 2016 and UNICEF is a member, the TORs for the Task-Force were agreed and finalised. In liaison with the PMT, the UN SDG Task Force facilitates and coordinates UN support to the Government of Zimbabwe on issues related to the SDGs, as well as ensuring the SDGs are mainstreamed into joint policy, programming, advocacy and communications efforts of the UN in Zimbabwe.

On the 2nd of December, UNICEF organised and facilitated a SDGs sensitization meeting for NGOs. The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants from NGOs. The main objective was to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge about the SDGs and their implications for children so as to enhance pursuance of a shared agenda around SDGs. Five presentations were made and these were followed by a panel discussion where participants got an opportunity to engage in discussion and dialogue with the presenters. Key issues which arose out of the discussions were:

- Communication –the need to prioritise awareness raising among communities especially children and the youths as results of the U-report that was conducted showed that 70% of the respondents indicated lack of awareness on SDGs.
- Commitment – The need for commitment by all players (government, private sector, CSOs, development) since the achievement of SDGs is not based on one entity or stakeholder.
- Coordination and comprehensive implementation – the need for greater coordination of various stakeholders involved in SDGs implementation. With good coordination and comprehensive implementation the SDGs targets can be achieved.
- Consolidate partnerships- the existing partnerships require to be fit for purpose and specifically defined towards meeting the goals
- Checking – the need for strengthening monitoring mechanism was emphasised and this will require processes to be established for monitoring that will enable us to pause at different times and check the progress as we move towards 2030. The monitoring mechanisms should be utilised by all players in order to enhance coordination in implementation and checking on delivery of results.

(ii) Support to Delivering as One country

In March, UN Zimbabwe officially became a Delivering as One country, joining 50+ UNCTs around the world who have committed to deliver better results together. In the spirit of Delivering as One approach, UNICEF co-chairs the ZUNDAF SSP result group which has four sub-groups (Health, Education, Social Protection and Education). Some of the results which have been produced through the coordination and facilitation of UNICEF with other UN agencies and partners are as follows:

Strengthened Policy Frame-Work in Social Sector for improved Governance: UNICEF supported the development of the National Health Strategy, the Education Sector Strategic Plan, National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy, the National Plan of Action for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, the National Social Protection Framework and National Action Plan to end child marriages and child pregnancies. These costed strategies and plans are being used for domestic and external resource mobilization, as well as for improving the implementation effectiveness and efficiencies.

Strengthened Social Sector Service Delivery: UNICEF managed and provided technical support for the pooled funding mechanisms in health, education, WASH and child protection aimed at sustaining the gains made in the 2011-2015 cycle through the transition funds. Significant effort was directed towards systems strengthening resulting for example in: retention of health workers and increased proportion of district hospitals with three doctors; close to 90% of health facilities provided SAM treatment; strengthened capacity of health workers on comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment care and support for adolescents' resulting in an increase in number of adolescents (10-19 years) being tested for HIV (and receiving their results; increase in Gross Enrolment Rate in early childhood centres; increase in percentage of population using an improved source of drinking water.

(iii) Results Based Management (RBM) capacity building:

With the aim of improving the country office effectiveness and efficiency in delivering of results, a RBM training was conducted for 88% of the professional staff. Thematic funds from the government of Sweden was used to support this activity. The trainings were conducted in two phases in August and October 2016. The first phase targeted Chiefs of sections and senior management and the second training targeted Program Management staff. Consequently this has led to a gradual improvement in results based proposals and reporting.

(iv) Near Real time Monitoring (NRTM)

UNICEF worked on the "Near Real Time Monitoring (NRTM) Community-based Model for Stunting Reduction" project. This project was designed as the monitoring mechanism for the country's Multi-sectoral Community-based Approach to Nutrition Improvement for Stunting Reduction Programme. While the project is yet to show the intended results (better outcomes for children through better use of data for planning and accountability) it is demonstrating the potential to bring together several data types and concepts in programming. A common platform is being used to capture and present situation analysis data; data on conditions/practices that can be impacted on an on-going basis; data on the activities of those that are meant to bring about changes; data on community understanding and actions; and, data for social accountability that would otherwise not be available or visible beyond participating communities. Through frequent data collection the system is eliminating the grey phase between

claimed actions and changes in indicators thereby providing near real-time information on whether or not particular interventions are affecting community level practice.

Data collection has taken place in the 4 participating districts covering 110 wards and 1,236 villages. While the flow of data has been uneven, the data collected illustrates community needs and the gaps arising from limited use/responsiveness to the data. Gaps in the data on functionality has brought to the fore the inadequate operationalization of the idea of Food and Nutrition Committees at different administrative levels as well as unaddressed operational challenges faced by the committees. Concerns arising from observations related to the flow and utilization of data have led to discussions on sector responsiveness which in turn have exposed weaknesses in the planning and operationalization of the Multi-Sector Community-Based Approach to the Reduction of Stunting initiative towards implementation of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. Among the major weaknesses was the overemphasis on structures without adequate attention to clarity and commitment on what sectors are to deliver and how the resource needs for such delivery were to be met in the context of a tight fiscal environment within which core operations are often inadequately funded. Stakeholders have expressed satisfaction with the data and monitoring system and recommitted themselves to defining and taking forward sector-specific commitments to the reduction of stunting.

(v) End user monitoring:

The last programme cycle (2012 – 2015) of the Zimbabwe Country Office was characterized by high expenditure on supplies and equipment under the Transition Funds. It was essential for the country office to introduce end-user monitoring (EUM) of supplies to supplement programmatic monitoring and HACT assurance activities being undertaken on the programmes. With the adoption of the Results-Based Management approach, it was critical to ensure that required supplies were not only efficiently made available but were suitable for the intended purpose and used to drive the program activities to produce the expected outputs.

A system for EUM has been established and is functional in the office and a database for EUM is available in the office with reports and recommendations that can be used for following up. A total of 19 end-user monitoring trips were conducted to monitor items which included motor vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, ICT equipment, boreholes spares and tools, water supply equipment, office equipment and furniture, library books, nutrition supplies, health equipment and supplies, fuel, equipment for children with special needs, Accounting software and internet connection facilities. The monitoring trips covered a total of 83 government offices and field sites at national, provincial, district and community levels; with the greater number being at the district and community levels. The EUM activities have resulted in:

- Increased awareness by UNICEF sections on the need for proper supply-chain management in order to achieve results. Some sections are establishing supply tracking systems in order to ensure proper utilization and value for money.
- Increased support by UNICEF to the government line ministries in implementing asset management policies with a view to strengthen the supplies management systems as during the EUM visits it was noted that there is a challenge in asset management within some of the line ministries. Thirty eight implementing partners and 35 community-based facilities and villages were sensitized on asset management.

(vi) Civil Society Organizations oriented on partnership management:

Ninety five percentage of the targeted organization (57 out of 60 organizations) were oriented on partnership management. A total of 114 staff members from these CSOs attended the orientation meeting and the meeting improved the participants' awareness and understanding on:

- UNICEF Zimbabwe strategic direction, program priorities and global development contexts
- Partnership guidelines and partner selections process
- HACT procedures
- Financial, supply & HR guidelines

The Results Framework

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Achievement
Proportion of programme implementing partners trained on results based management (RBM)	0 (2015)	80% (2017)	The focus of training in 2016 was on UNICEF staff and 88% of professional staff was trained on RBM.
Proportion of programme implementing partners (CSOs) trained on the UNICEF partnership strategy and principles.	0 (2015)	80% (2017)	95% of the targeted CSOs were oriented on partnership guidelines, HACT procedures, financial, supply and HR guidelines.
Proportion of planned IMERP activities (evaluations + studies) completed satisfactorily	80% (2015)	90% (2017)	72% achievement, the set target will be achieved by 2017. 2 evaluations were completed and rated satisfactory by UNICEF HQ Evaluation Office.
Proportion of Country Office evaluations with a formal management response	0 (2015)	80% (2017)	100% achievement, Evaluation management response for all completed evaluation were developed and uploaded onto Evaluation Management Response Tracking system.
Number of UNICEF programmes/projects using a functional near-real-time monitoring (NRTM) system	0 (2015)	2 (2017)	1 program (Nutrition) in using a functional near-real-time monitoring (NRTM) system and the set target will be achieved by end of 2017.
Proportion of planned HACT assurance activities implemented	Prog. Visits = 100%; Spot checks=60% (2015)	Programmatic Visits=100% Spot checks=80% %	340% achievement for programmatic visits and 123% for spot checks.

		(2016)	
Number of UNICEF staff members knowledgeable on EUM	0 (2015)	15 staff members trained on EUM	13 program & 1 Supply staff's capacity on EUM strengthened through EUM monitoring accompaniment visits.

3.1 Key Strategic Partnerships and Inter-Agency Collaboration

Fostering strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to leverage on resources and expertise, has become a core strategy for UNICEF. UNICEF collaborated with the UN Country Team (UNCT) for the ZUNDAF and Joint Implementation Matrix implementation and monitoring process. UNICEF is co-Chair of the “Social Services and Protection” results group and is a member of other results groups. Furthermore, UNICEF has been collaborating with the IMF, World Bank and African Development bank in data generation and advocacy efforts towards protection and promotion of social spending for social inclusion.

UNICEF also managed to maintain strong partnerships with key government ministries chief among them, the Ministries of: Finance and Economic Development, Economic Planning and Investment Promotion, Environment Water and Climate, Youth indigenization and Economic Empowerment, Primary and Secondary Education, Health and Child Care, Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, Local Government, Rural Development, Preservation and Promotion of National Culture and Heritage and government departments such as: the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT), Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), Parliament of Zimbabwe, ZINWA, Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC), Urban Development Corporation (UDCORP), among others. UNICEF Zimbabwe also works closely with Non-governmental Organisations namely GOAL Zimbabwe, Development Reality Institute, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Practical Action, Zimbabwe Sunshine Group, the National Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) and the National Association of Junior Councils (NJCA).

UNICEF enjoyed close partnerships with both local media actors and international media development and child advocacy organisations. Working together with media organisations helped to ensure that media development assistance efforts targeted at women and children moved in the same direction, thereby ensuring greater impact and helped foster national ownership and decision-making on issues affecting children such as child marriages and child sexual abuse.

3.2 Value for Money

UNICEF strives to get the very best of every dollar spent through effective, efficient and economical use of funds. UNICEF has a mandate to be cost effective in its procurement and hiring procedures as well as in projects that involve support to partners. Sound procurement and hiring procedures and close

monitoring and evaluation of projects throughout the project cycle, correct communication strategies and platforms as well as vibrant multifaceted stakeholder involvement made it possible to increase grant efficacy.

UNICEF has maintained the high standards set in previous years and. For example, in the event of having to engage an external consultancy, the first step is to establish the terms of reference that are on occasion reviewed by UNICEF's East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). Depending on the payment modalities, if the consultant is to be recruited as part of UNICEF, a request is submitted to the Human Resources section for review. An advert is floated in the local media and online. Responding potential candidates are selected. The adjudication process involves a financial component, which is used in deciding the best possible candidate.

In the case of procurement, the partner and the UNICEF relevant staff assess the procurement needs that have been recommended, in normal cases by the UNICEF Spot Check team or auditors. The list of necessities is compiled. If the items to be procured involve Information technology, then the UNICEF Zimbabwe Technology for Development Section reviews the list and recommends based on cost efficiency. The supply section calls for bids in the local media and online. Companies responding to bids are considered based on the **quality of service** and the best **lowest possible pricing**. In the event that the goods are not available locally, UNICEF uses its Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with international companies to procure the goods.

3.3 Constraints, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Within the climate change and environment programme, the leading constraint was the weakness of partners in the technical, operational and administrative areas of climate and environment, both within government and civil society. In most instances partners are understaffed and underqualified to implement, monitor and report on programmes, and as a result, the UNICEF has had to invest in capacity strengthening through network programmes, training and cross-sectoral consultations.
- The deteriorating economic conditions continued to worsen government's fiscal stance and its resultant ability to channel funds to the social sectors. Given the high amount of fiscal resources going towards the wage bill (including pensions), the government is at risk of losing its ability to honour even the most basic of its obligations in the social sectors, relying rather too heavily on off-budget donor support. UNICEF has continued to engage with government, sharing analyses with the government and providing technical support the Reform Agenda and towards the Re-engagement Strategy.
- The introduction of the Masters programme in Child Rights and Child-Sensitive Social Policies has been delayed at both the Women's University in Africa (WUA) and the Africa University (AU) due to delays in official approvals by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE). As a result, UNICEF entered into short term arrangements with the Universities as a safeguard measure in the event the programmes are not approved and to avoid getting stuck in a long-term PCA without the desired result. Needless to say, both institutions are hopeful that their programmes will be

approved before the end of the year. If not, in 2017 UNICEF will continue supporting the efforts and advocating for approval.

- The staff vacancy rate at the national statistical office (ZIMSTAT), has been a major concern. With a vacancy rate of 40% and a freeze on all new recruitments by government, it has meant that UNICEF had to stretch the time of the very few staff members at ZIMSTAT to achieve planned results. On occasions, and often, this has meant working through weekends and public holidays, and working outside normal business hours. This has impacted on the timeliness of work completed and on the number of projects completed. The ZCO has supported ZIMSTAT by bringing in expertise on a project-by-project basis to augment the existing staff capacity. Our planned production of a Crime and Judicial Statistics Report with special emphasis on juvenile offenders has had to be postponed to 2017, for instance, due to the capacity gaps at ZIMSTAT.
- Another constraint has been the poor coordination of work between the Government of Zimbabwe and the World Bank, which led to delays in commencement of the national poverty survey. UNICEF played a pivotal role in bringing the parties together, in seeking common ground and persuading and influencing the parties until an arrangement was reached. The survey is expected to commence in the first half of 2017.
- The weakening of the governance arrangements and political interference within the national, provincial and district youth structures, has stalled efforts to intensify child participation in budgeting processes both at a national and sub-national level. Given the current level of political polarization in the country, the risk factor for UNICEF is high, and thus, the ZCO has resorted to supporting the revival of non-partisan 'Junior Councils' at the local government level to have a structured way and voice for child participation.

3.4 Risk Assessment and Risk management

To manage financial risk, UNICEF uses the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) framework guidelines. HACT is a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners. HACT establishes common principles and process for managing cash transfers among UN agencies and the approach has been adopted across all countries and operational contexts. UNICEF Zimbabwe endeavours to be 100% compliant all the time with the HACT Policy requirements to ensure effective risk management. In 2016, the office carried out spot checks to verify expenditure reports and assess internal control systems of all eligible implementing partners. Programmatic Visits were also conducted to obtain assurance on the implementation and reported programme results. To this end, the country office regularly carries out HACT Training activities for both staff members and implementing partners so as to ensure all stakeholders have an appreciation of the framework itself and fully understand their responsibilities. The office makes use of professional accounting firms' services for the conduct of some spot checks, micro assessments and audits.

To manage programmatic risk, UNICEF invests substantially in results based project planning, monitoring and evaluation, to create a strong evidence base in support of the realization of the rights

of children, especially the most disadvantaged. Regular monitoring visits provide insight, quality assurance, and builds an internal coalition to reinforce good practices in project implementation. Monitoring reports shared widely are a means to ensuring that results are received by all parties that may benefit from the findings in order to take corrective actions. Feedback is shared with senior managers and results from monitoring are shared and updated frequently.

Risk assessment and management are key elements that safeguard progress towards achieving planned results. Risk assessment was largely done as a continuous process embedded within each activity. Depending on the type of project, risk identification is a priority in the planning phase through the theory of change methodology or the log frame

4.0 Financial Analysis

This section provides information on the financial resources that were available to support Social Inclusion results in 2016. The planned budget for Outcome Area 7 from UNICEF's Regular Resources, and Other Resources (Regular and Emergency) amounted to **US\$2,860,001** as illustrated in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Planned Budget for 2016 Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion
Zimbabwe**

Output Area	Funding Type ⁷	Planned Budget ⁸ (US\$)
07-02 Social protection and child poverty	RR	1,000,000
	ORR	1,860,001
Total Budget		2,860,001

The country specific thematic funding received from the Government of Sweden was invaluable to achieving the results detailed in this report. The availability of thematic funding enabled the social inclusion outcome area to achieve key results such as the Social Amenities Report and the Women and Men Report. The Social Amenities report has ensured accessibility to information on the status of public infrastructures. This report provides critical information for use in institutional planning for area development. The Women and Men report provides information crucial to programming to achieve gender equality in all phases of the development process. The flexibility of thematic funding has been fundamental to achieving results that ensure social inclusion of children and women in Zimbabwe.

Table 2 below illustrates the country specific thematic funds received in 2016 for the Social Inclusion outcome area. These amounted to **US\$633,735.00**

⁷ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources – Regular, ORE: Other Resources – Emergency

⁸ Planned budget for ORR and ORE does not include estimated recovery cost.

**Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion
Zimbabwe**

Donors	Contribution (US\$)	Amount ⁹	Programmable (US\$)	Amount ¹⁰
Government of Sweden		633,735.00		592,276.00
Total		633,735.00		592,276.00

Table 3 below shows the total expenditure for outcome area 7. The greatest expenditure for the Social Inclusion outcome area incurred in 2016 was on Social protection and child poverty. The expenditure under this organizational target accounted for 50% of the total expenditure for the outcome area as shown in table 3 below.

**Table 3: Expenditures by Programme Area for Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion
Zimbabwe**

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount ¹¹ (US\$)			
	Other Resources - Emergencies	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
07-01 Social exclusion # data and evidence		491,949	476,470	968,419
07-02 Social protection and child poverty	61,997	515,367	1,026,534	1,603,898
07-03 Public finance and local governance		218,182	61,077	279,259
07-04 Policy advocacy # urban, civil society, parliament, environment		164,839	189,059	353,898
07-05 Human rights institutions		9,817	616	10,433
Total	61,997	1,400,153	1,753,757	3,215,907

The total expenditure for the outcome area was **US\$ 3,215,907** (as shown in Table 3 above). Table 4, below, shows the components of this expenditure that were directly supported by thematic funding. Total 2016 expenditure on thematic funding was **US\$ 1,428,089**. The funding was key in conducting and completing the various studies described in this report that are now raising awareness on issues affecting women and children and at the same time now informing policy and decision making at cabinet and parliament level.

⁹ Contribution amount: This is the total amount received from SIDA - Sweden

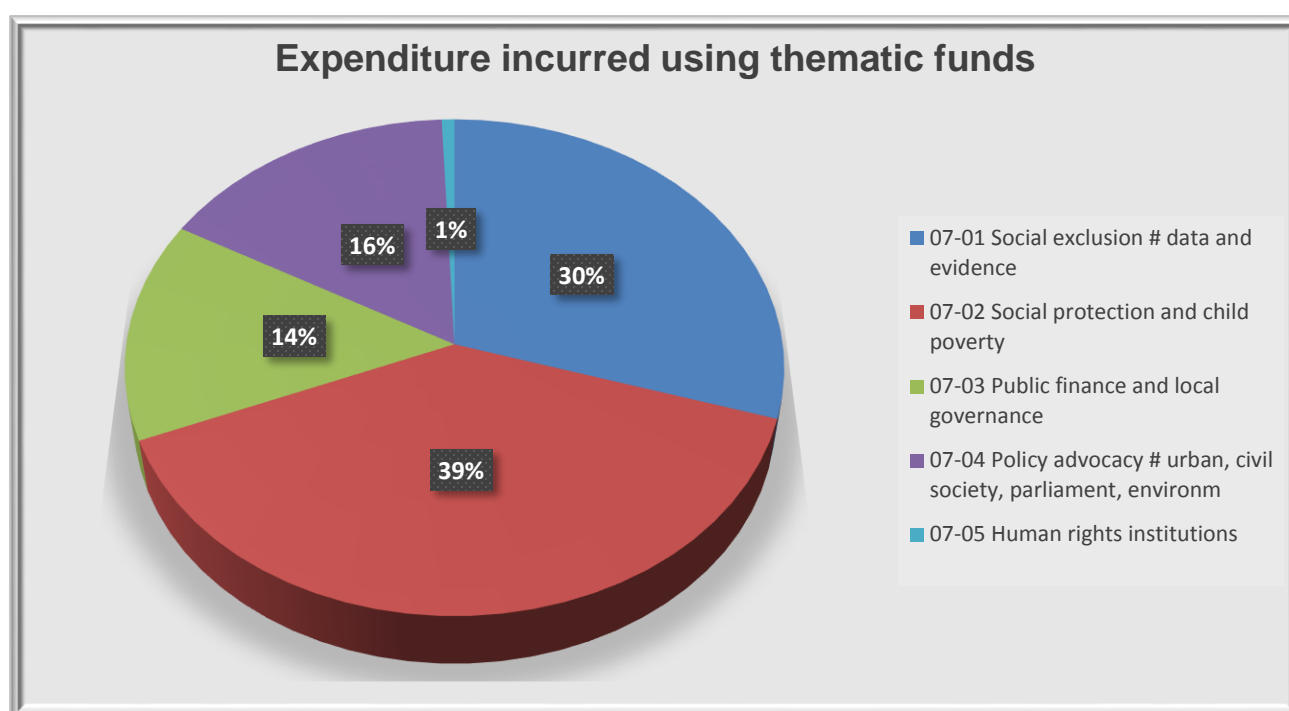
¹⁰ Programmable amount: This is the amount available for programming which is derived from contribution amount less cost recovery

¹¹ Expenditure figures provided do not include recovery cost, and are indicative figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System

Table 4: Thematic expenses by Programme Area for Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion Zimbabwe

Programme area	Total (US\$) ¹²	Utilised
07-01 Social exclusion # data and evidence		424,903
07-02 Social protection and child poverty		558,286
07-03 Public finance and local governance		204,405
07-04 Policy advocacy # urban, civil society, parliament, environm		230,722
07-05 Human rights institutions		9,774
Grand Total		1,428,089

The pie chart below illustrates the key expenditures incurred using thematic funds in 2015



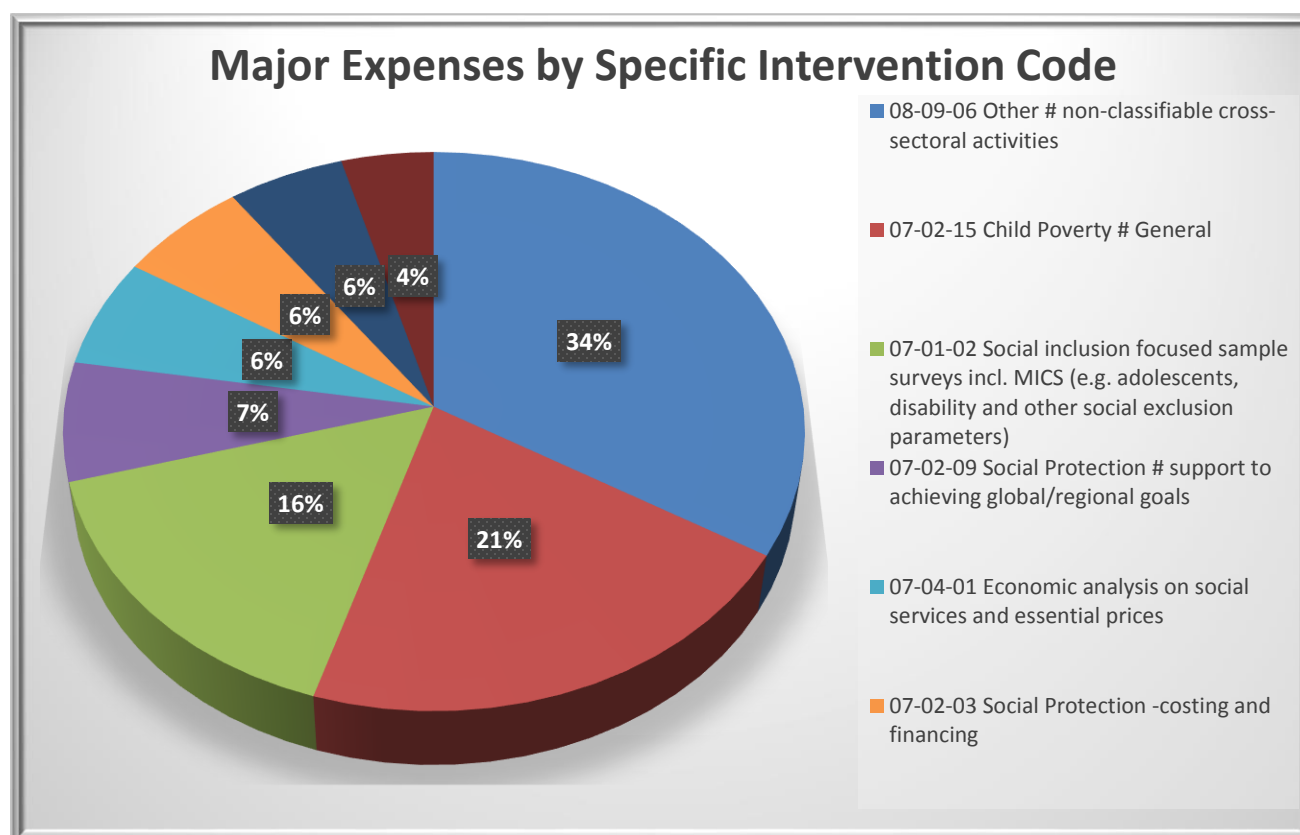
UNICEF also analyses expenditures using Specific Intervention Codes (SICs). Specific Intervention Codes refer to one of four codes that are used to identify an activity in UNICEF's Performance Management System. In 2016, the following were the major expenses incurred in the social inclusion outcome area, analysed using Specific Intervention Codes.

¹² Total Utilized figures excludes recovery cost and are indicative figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes for Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion Zimbabwe

Specific Intervention Code	Total Utilised (US\$) ¹³
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	926,679
07-02-15 Child Poverty # General	587,103
07-01-02 Social inclusion focused sample surveys incl. MICS (e.g. adolescents, disability and other social exclusion parameters)	439,421
07-02-09 Social Protection # support to achieving global/regional goals	189,623
07-04-01 Economic analysis on social services and essential prices	173,223
07-02-03 Social Protection -costing and financing	171,148
07-01-03 Analytical work on vulnerable groups	153,243
08-09-07 Public Advocacy	121,340
Total	2,761,781

The pie chart below illustrates the major expenses incurred by Specific Intervention Codes in 2016.



¹³ Total Utilised figures exclude recovery cost and are indicative figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System

5.0 Future Work plan

In 2017, the Social Inclusion activities will be grounded in the results based management approach by building capacities, and establishing processes to ensure that priority results are agreed, monitored, and reported at all levels. The activities will be guided by the need to consolidate and build upon the results that have been achieved in 2016, focusing on the overall goal of reducing child poverty and discrimination against children. This will be executed along with ongoing programme monitoring, capacity enhancement of IPs, conducting internal audits, resource mobilisation and grants management. Some of the activities that will be conducted in 2017, consistent with the Social Inclusion Annual Rolling Work plan (2016-2017) are outlined below:

- Rolling out of the Renewable Energy programme for social sectors (education, health).
- Conduct National Budget and Policy Analysis and Advocacy for increased budget allocation, transparency, efficiency and equity of expenditures for social sectors.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity development towards child friendly budgeting and enhanced Social Accountability in Local authorities, and scaling up the implementation of decentralized budget monitoring and tracking.
- Strengthen partnerships with public sector, private sector and National Committees for resource mobilization and resource leveraging
- Devise public advocacy strategies and visibility activities to strengthen support for women and children's rights
- Continue supporting research on issues affecting women and children
- Continue supporting the development of national expertise on child rights, policy and development in Zimbabwe to build a human capital base of qualified practitioners in child rights, policies and development.
- Develop a paper to monitor SDG's related to children developed
- Results based management and HACT capacity building for UNICEF and partners

**Table 6: Planned Budget for 2017 Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion
Zimbabwe**

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
OUTP 7.1: Poverty & Social Inclusion	RR	800,000	125,669	674,331
	ORR	1,673,913	43,508	1,630,405
OUTP 7.2: Inclusive Social Policy & Budget	RR	253,000	251,040	1,960
	ORR	400,000	370,031	29,969
OUTP 7.3: Inclusive Social Protection system	RR	200,000		200,000
	ORR	108,696		108,696

OUTP 7.4: Data And Evidence Generation	RR	260,889	254,069	6,820
	ORR	145,435	135,992	9,443
OUTP 7.10: Programme Support Costs	RR	845,957	452,500	393,457
	ORR	1,091,121	189,634	901,487
OUTC 08: Programme Effectiveness Outcome	RR	3,902,204	2,485,761	1,416,443
	ORR	5,511,678	5,212,457	299,221
Sub-total Regular Resources	RR	6,262,050	3,569,039	2,693,011
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular	ORR	8,930,843	5,951,621	2,979,222
Total		15,192,893	9,520,661	5,672,232

6.0 Expression of Gratitude

UNICEF Zimbabwe would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the Government of Sweden for the generous support to its Social Inclusion programme. These funds were fundamental in continuing dialogue with the Government of Zimbabwe through its ministries. This thematic grant made it possible to strengthen data and evidence generation and support environmental conservation, research and communication components of the UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Office through collaboration and cooperation with the Government of Zimbabwe and its arms.

List of Acronyms

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSSP	Child- Sensitive Social Policy
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
NF4C	National Finance for Children
PICES	Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey
SIDA	Swedish Government International Development Cooperation Agency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDAF/ZUNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
WUA	Women's University in Africa
ZCO	UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Office
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio Economic Transformation
ZIMDAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Database
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe Statistics Agency
ZINWA	Zimbabwe Water Authority
ZYC	Zimbabwe Youth Council

Annex 1: Human Interest Stories

CHILD RIGHTS ARE SACRED



CHILD RIGHTS ARE SACRED

Byron Adonis Mutingwende · Jun 29, 2016 · Community, Development, Social Comments Off On Child Rights Are Sacred

By Byron Mutingwende

Various stakeholders from the government and civil society organizations have said that the children's rights are sacred and should be protected at all times.

This emerged during the belated commemoration of the Day of the African Child that took place at the Belapazi Area in Ward 2 of Epworth near Harare on Wednesday, June 29th, 2016.

The Day of the African Child is celebrated to reflect on the 1976 massacre of children in Soweto who were protesting against injustices brought about by apartheid.

On 16 June 1976, South African children had had enough of segregation and second-class citizenship around their education and everything else in life because of apartheid. They took to the streets and they were no longer afraid to reclaim their dignity and humanity.

The apartheid regime then killed hundreds of the protesting children. June 16 has been set aside to remember the plight of the African child and offer measures to protect young men and women from oppression and abuse.

The activist said that most African countries have not achieved total liberation due to bad governance, corruption, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the leaders.

The ministries of local government, public service and social welfare and youths were among the

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The activist said that most African countries have not achieved total liberation due to bad governance, corruption, and human rights abuses perpetrated by the leaders.

The ministries of local government, public service and social welfare and youths were among the government representatives on the occasion. The event was organized by the Justice for Children Trust in partnership with organizations like the Zimbabwe Youth Council, Plan International and the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief, among others.

Read more at <http://spiked.co.zw/?p=1595>

PARLIAMENTARIANS KEY IN ENDING CHILD MARRIAGES

26.10.2016
8:13

Parliamentarians key in ending child marriages

The scourge of child marriages has been a topical issue across the globe lately- with Zimbabwe having its own share of the limelight. There is also a growing consensus that legislators are key in shaping the campaign to end child marriages in the country.



Zimbabwe joined the AU Campaign to end child marriages in mid-2015. The Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development with support from UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, the Child Rights and Women's Rights Coalitions has been working on a National Action Plan to End Child Marriages and its related communication for development activities. The Constitutional Court ruling of January 2016 has been an impetus to move the agenda forward. All these efforts are part of the global campaign to end child marriages.

Demographics touching on the growth of child marriage cases in Zimbabwe show that there is a worrying scale of the problem. The country is among African nations with high prevalence rate of child marriages that stands at 31 percent. A survey by ZIMSTAT indicates that one in three women aged 20 to 49 interviewed reported that they married before age 18. An estimated 4 percent married before the age of 15, the survey found.

In light of this grave scenario, parliamentarians in Zimbabwe have a key role in the fight against child marriages. Sessil Zvidzai, the Gweru Urban MP told The Zimbabwean that there are numerous ways in which the parliamentarians can up the fight to prevent existence of child brides.



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"Firstly as parliamentarians, we can facilitate the passing of laws that can deter would-be perpetrators of child marriages. We are aware that there has been a decision by the courts which bars children under 18 to get married but there is no binding law to that effect which has been passed," he said.

The former local government deputy minister added that the other way parliamentarians can assist in ending the trend is through advocating for national budgets that have allocations to fight against the scourge.

By Brenna Matendere

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“As MPs we can say we will not pass any national budget say for 2017 if it does not channel some resources towards ending child marriages. We can even say we urge the minister to allocate a certain percentage of the total budget,” he said.

Read more at: <http://thezimbabwean.co/2016/10/parliamentarians-key-ending-child-marriages/>

GIRLS' FUTURE AT STAKE AS CHIPINGE RECORDS SUCCESSIVE DROUGHTS



Girls' future at stake as Chipinge records successive droughts



Thomas Madhuku
Nov 11, 2016, Feature, General



Poverty and drought have been cited as the major drivers of child marriages in Chipinge as early marriages continue to ruin young girls' future.

Chipinge, one of the country's hot-spots in terms of women and child rights abuse has had successive droughts since 2005 and this has not been good to young girls who for tradition's sake have been married off before they reach 18 years.

Platform for Youth Development (PYD), an organisation leading a campaign to eradicate child marriages, says a research study it conducted came up with appalling figures on the extent of the vice in communities such as Chibuwe, Mabee, Chinyamukwakwa and Chisumbanje among others.

"We have been working in Chipinge communities and can authoritatively tell you that at least four in every ten mothers were married before they reached 18 years," says Cynthia Gwenzi, PYD's Gender and Advocacy Officer.

She adds that her organisation has a big role to help these victims and to challenge the practice which has been normalized.

According to the organisation, early marriages are a major hindrance.

Catherine Vhutuza from Chibuwe in ward 20 of Musikavanhu constituency notes that child marriages are indeed a problem in her community, calling on government to act and address the problem to save the girl child.

"Most poor families in Chibuwe cannot afford to send two or three children to school simultaneously, so they end up prioritizing boys ahead of girls and this is the reason why you find so many children being married before they reach 18 years of age," she said.

Her sentiments were echoed by Netsai Sithole from Checheche who said national statistics on child marriages were not

By Thomas Madhuku

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Read more at <http://263chat.com/2016/11/girls-future-stake-chipinga-records-successive-droughts/>

AVENGING SPIRITS DO NOT DEMAND YOUNG GIRLS – TRADITIONAL HEALER



Avenging Spirits Do Not Demand Young Girls – Traditional Healer



Staff Reporter
Nov 12, 2016, Feature



"I was married off to my current husband at the age of 16. I did not know him as I was given as compensation to appease the avenging spirit of a man who was said to have been murdered by my great grandfather," said Tariro Mbete (not her real name).

By Vimbai Kamoyo

Avenging spirits are an African concept where the dead who would have been aggrieved come back in spirit to torment and settle scores with those who wronged them and their relatives.

In most cases the avenging spirits demand beasts and young girls as compensation for the wrong that were done to them.

In a case that gripped the nation and made headlines, Midlands Provincial Minister Jason Machaya in 2012 parted ways with 35 head of cattle and \$15 000 to compensate the Chokuda family whose son had been murdered by the minister's son and other two accomplices.

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Arts and culture expert Pathisa Nyathi said avenging spirits were a

necessity as they ensured social justice and fairness.

"It is an African reality of ensuring social justice and fairness. Traditional Africans posited that reality is made up of material or physical and spiritual realms. Human beings themselves are constituted in the

same manner. They are both matter and spirit. Life is an enduring reality that transforms from one form to the other. Death, so argued the Africans was not the end but an important transition from material and physical to a completely spiritual reality. In a nutshell, justice and fairness are cornerstones of African jurisprudence. If one kills then there was need to compensate to secure justice and equilibrium to the family that has been robbed of its member.

Read more at <http://263chat.com/2016/11/avenging-spirits-not-demand-young-girls-traditional-healer/>

14.11.2016
13:19

Ending child brides: Advocate for more women as community leaders

In many communities that practise child marriage, women are often kept out of the decision-making processes and are not allowed a substantial voice in local politics.



Chief Charumbira

It has therefore been noted that it is vital that women are able to voice their concerns and advocate for women's rights in all spheres as this is often what accelerates the elimination of harmful traditions such as child marriages. In a community where there are more female headmen, chiefs, village heads among other community leadership posts, it is very likely that cases against the girl child such as child marriages will be very limited.

An inspirational example of how effective it is to have more women community leaders as a way of ending child marriages is found in West Africa where an organisation called Tostan is operating. **Tostan, a US registered international non-governmental organization** based in Senegal and is geared toward educating the people and ending harmful practices on the girl child, has current operations in over 450 communities in Senegal, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Mali, and Mauritania. The organisation has trained women in leadership skills and advocacy. As a result, 80% of their Community Management Committees are coordinated by women and this gives them the vital skills and confidence needed to engage in local community meetings. As a result more and more women throughout Senegal and other areas where Tostan works are being seen, heard, and having a positive impact throughout local communities in a way that is reducing cases of child marriages.

Women are crucial contributors to gender issues. Yet they are virtually

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ENDING CHILD BRIDES: ADVOCATE FOR MORE WOMEN AS COMMUNITY LEADERS

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Women are crucial contributors to gender issues. Yet they are virtually absent during key discussions of sexuality in communities. It is noted that only one in ten cases are women present at the discussion table where key decisions are made in rural communities. Their interests are neither well-received nor are they acted on.

Read more at <http://thezimbabwean.co/2016/11/ending-child-brides-advocate-women-community-leaders/>