







# Zimbabwe's Journey in Fulfilling the International Conference on Population and Development Commitments: Towards ICPD30



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# List of Acronyms

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<b>AADPD</b>	Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>BEAM</b>	Basic Education Assistance Module
<b>CBC</b>	Competency-Based Curriculum
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>CMR</b>	Child Mortality Rate
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>DVA</b>	Domestic Violence Act
<b>ECD</b>	Early Child Development
<b>EPR</b>	Employment to Population Ratio
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
<b>GoZ</b>	Government of Zimbabwe
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HTEIs</b>	Higher and Tertiary Education Institutions
<b>HSCT</b>	Harmonized Social Cash Transfer
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology
<b>IHL</b>	International Humanitarian Law
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IMR</b>	Infant Mortality Ratio
<b>LFCLS</b>	Labour Force and Child Labour Survey
<b>mCPR</b>	Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Rate
<b>NAPOVC</b>	National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

<b>NDP</b>	National Disability Policy
<b>NDS</b>	National Development Strategy
<b>NGP</b>	National Gender Policy
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development AID
<b>PoA</b>	Programme of Action
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEZ</b>	Special Economic Zones
<b>TFR</b>	Total Fertility Rate
<b>TSP</b>	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>VCT</b>	Vocational Training Centres
<b>ZAPS</b>	Zimbabwe Assisted Pull System
<b>ZDHS</b>	Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey
<b>ZGC</b>	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
<b>ZHRC</b>	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
<b>ZMPMS</b>	Zimbabwe Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Survey

# Message from the Government of Zimbabwe

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Zimbabwe has been implementing the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was adopted by 179 countries in 1994, Cairo. Periodic reviews have been conducted since then to assess progress, identify gaps and challenges, and to advocate for policy changes in order to achieve national development goals and priorities in line with the principles and commitments reflected in the ICPD PoA. A progress review was undertaken in 2022 and a country report was submitted to the African Union Commission (AUC).

The ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) transformed the way in which the linkages between population, poverty reduction and sustainable development were addressed, by putting the rights, needs and aspirations of individual human beings at the centre of sustainable development. Advancing the ICPD Programme of Action's promise of universal access to Sexual and Reproductive health of girls and women's empowerment and gender equality, while leaving no one behind, in particular youth, as agents of positive change and the leaders of the generation to carry forward the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, requires new, innovative and strategic partnerships.

Zimbabwe made country specific-commitments in line with the 12 global commitments at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 held in 2019. A National Task Force was set up to monitor and report on progress towards fulfilling the country's commitments. This report presents the status of implementing these commitments.

Zimbabwe's journey in fulfilling the ICPD commitments has been forward looking.

In October 2023, the Government of Zimbabwe successfully hosted the 20th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South to South and Triangular Cooperation in Population and Development in Victoria Falls in collaboration with Partners in Population and Development and UNFPA. This was a High-Level Consultation leading up to ICPD30. It was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe who underscored that investment in health, water, sanitation, education, energy, roads, housing and other social amenities are impacting on the quality of life of citizens. President Mnangagwa called for "seamless coordination to scale up South to South Triangular Cooperation and for Member States to consolidate their engagements and partnerships within the S2S Triangular Cooperation framework to unlock increased resources for national development plans". The conference adopted the Victoria Falls Declaration.

Thirty years after the landmark ICPD conference in Cairo, where we set out to achieve a world in which people lived longer, healthier lives and enjoyed more rights and choices than ever before, the Government of Zimbabwe remains committed to the unfinished business of the ICPD.

## **Mr G.T. Guvamatanga**

Secretary for Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion

## **Dr Aspect Maunganidze**

Secretary for Health and Child Care

# Message from United Nations Population Fund



2024 is a milestone year for us the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Family – we are celebrating 30 years of the commitment of the historic International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action which was adopted in 1994, in Cairo by 179 member states representing diverse

regions and cultures.

The ICPD Programme of Action was remarkable as it set the standard for people-centred development and recognized that reproductive health and rights, women's empowerment and gender equality are cornerstones of population and sustainable development programmes. The Sustainable Development Goals – Agenda 2030 further fortifies the ICPD principles, aiming to achieve universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights by the end of this decade.

This ICPD transformative agenda is as relevant today as it was 30 years ago amidst significant global trends such as urbanisation, migration, climate change, and digitalisation. Zimbabwe is undergoing rapid demographic, social, and economic transformation as it strives to attain an empowered and prosperous upper-middle income society by 2030. The Vision is anchored on five strategic pillars namely: macro-

economic stability and financial re-engagement; governance; inclusive growth; infrastructure and utilities; and social development. Cross-cutting to the pillars are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise development; youth development; gender equality and women empowerment; as well as sports, recreation, arts and culture.

Zimbabwe has systematically fulfilled its obligations in taking stock of her progress, achievements, challenges, lessons learned in the implementation of the ICPD commitments under the coordination of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Trade Investment and of the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the ICPD Task Force and development partners. Concrete actions and recommendations from this review will contribute to achieving the transformative results of zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero Gender Based Violence, and Harmful Practices such as child marriage by 2030.

UNFPA is committed to support the Government of Zimbabwe's efforts in achieving its ICPD Commitments. In collaboration with all partners and with our collective commitment, dedication and passion, we can advance the unfinished business of ICPD PoA at all levels ensuring that no one is left behind!

**Ms. Miranda Tabifor**

UNFPA Representative



# Background

- I. **Zimbabwe has been implementing the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was adopted by 179 countries in 1994, in Cairo.** Periodic reviews have been conducted since then to assess progress, identify gaps and challenges, and to advocate for policy changes in order to achieve national development goals and priorities in line with the principles and commitments reflected in the ICPD PoA.
- II. **In November 2019**, the international community commemorated 25 years of implementation of the ICPD PoA in Nairobi Kenya. The Governments of Kenya, Denmark and UNFPA co-convened the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to mobilize the political will and financial commitments for the full implementation of the ICPD PoA. Countries made specific commitments aligned with the 12 global commitments on the following five themes:



Universal Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in the context of universal health coverage

Creating financing momentum



Demographic diversity and sustainable development

Gender Based violence (GBV) and Harmful Practices against women and girls



Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in humanitarian and fragile contexts

- III. **Zimbabwe made country specific-commitments in line with the 12 global commitments, which were outlined in the “Nairobi Statement on ICPD25: Acceleration of the Promise”** endorsed at the Summit. The commitments were based on the 2018 review

on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD), and other relevant national and sectoral policy documents.

- IV. **Post the Nairobi Summit (2019)**, a multi-sectoral National ICPD Taskforce was put in place to coordinate and periodically review implementation of the 12 Commitments made by the Government of Zimbabwe to accelerate towards achievements of the ICPD PoA goals and objectives.
- V. **The Government of Zimbabwe successfully hosted the 20th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Population and Development in October 2023 in Victoria Falls.** This was a High-Level Consultative Meeting which was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe which adopted the Victoria Falls Declaration.
- VI. **Coordinated by the ICPD Taskforce**, Zimbabwe successfully produced the AADPD@10 National Report which, at the 2023 Lusaka Conference, contributed to the AADPD Continental Report.
- VII. **In preparation of the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development on ICPD30 scheduled from 29 April to 3 May, 2024 in New York**, the ICPD Taskforce coordinated a review of progress on the implementation of Zimbabwe's ICPD Commitments and produced a National Report, covering the period 2022 to 2023 when data collection and reporting started. The key highlights of the report are contained in this abridged report.



ation and Development (PPD)  
Governmental Organization  
g South-South Cooperation







# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 1

# Progress made on Commitments

**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 1:** Intensify our efforts for the fully, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD PoA, key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

## Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

### 1.1 Revise the National Population Policy

The National Population Policy has not been updated yet. However, key population and development, education, health including SRH, youth development and gender equality issues were integrated in the 14 priority areas of the NDS. Within these 14 NDS1 priorities, various policies and strategies on health, education, environment, family planning, youth, migration, gender issues including GBV have been formulated and implemented since 2019.

### 1.2 Put in place and capacitate a High-Level National Coordination Board for implementation of the National Population Policy

A High-Level ICPD Task Force co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and Child Care, and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment Promotion coordinates the review and implementation of national policies and strategies including the Population Policy in line with the ICPD PoA .

### 1.3 Capacitate the responsible Department in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment Promotion

Training of staff on population issues will be conducted once the updated Population Policy is in place to guide implementation.

### 1.4 Conduct the Population and Housing Census in 2022

ZIMSTAT conducted a digital Population Census in 2022 using the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) method. This enabled ZIMSTAT, for the first time, to produce the Preliminary Census Results within three months of data collection. National and provincial reports were produced and disseminated.

A thematic data analysis plan with all possible thematic topics was developed and is being implemented. At the time of producing this progress review report, three thematic reports on the following subjects: vital statistics, mortality and gender were almost complete while reports on fertility, youth, disability thematic analysis among others are anticipated to be completed in 2024.

ZIMSTAT conducted a digital  
Population Census in 2022 using  
the Computer Assisted Personal  
Interview (CAPI) method





# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 2



and will strengthen strategies to reduce teenage pregnancies.

## 2.2 Avail comprehensive short, long term and permanent family planning methods at all services provision points by 2030

Zimbabwe has one of the best performing Family Planning programmes in the Southern Africa region with a Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) for currently married women of 67% in 2023. This is an increase from 59% in 2010/11. This translates to a total of 2,050 000 women using family planning and contraceptive services in Zimbabwe.

Unmet need for family planning among married women declined from 13.8% in 2012 to 11% in 2023

**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 2:** Zero Unmet Need For Family Planning information, services and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives, including during humanitarian crises.

## Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

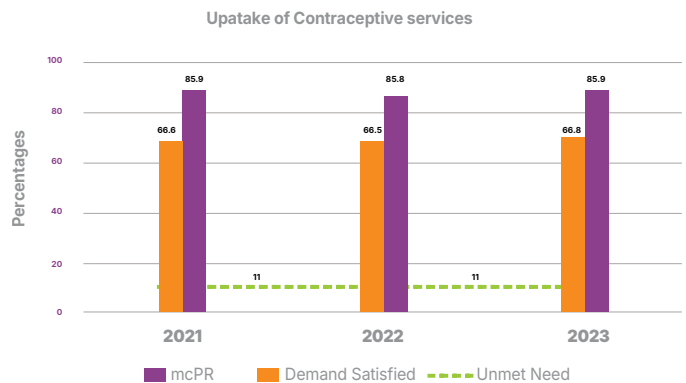
### 2.1 Curb teenage Pregnancies from 21.6% to 12% by 2030

Teenage pregnancy remains a big challenge in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS-2015) results show a teenage pregnancy rate of 21.6% among the 15 to 19 age group.

According to the National Assessment of Adolescent Pregnancies in Zimbabwe conducted in 2023, 21% of all antenatal bookings made between 2019 to 2022 were for young girls aged 10 to 19 years.

Results from the Zimbabwe National Population and Housing Census (2022) show that there has been a decline in adolescent birth rate from 108 live births per 1,000 women in 2019 to 86.7 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in 2022 (Census). Adolescent birth rate (15-19 years) is an indication of teenage pregnancy. The census results also show that adolescent fertility rates are higher in rural areas (108.8/1,000) compared to urban areas (44.3/1,000).

Efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy are ongoing and will be strengthened through the NDS1 and the National Health Strategy (NHS) 2021-2025. In addition, the ASRH Implementation Plan and Family Planning Strategy are being developed



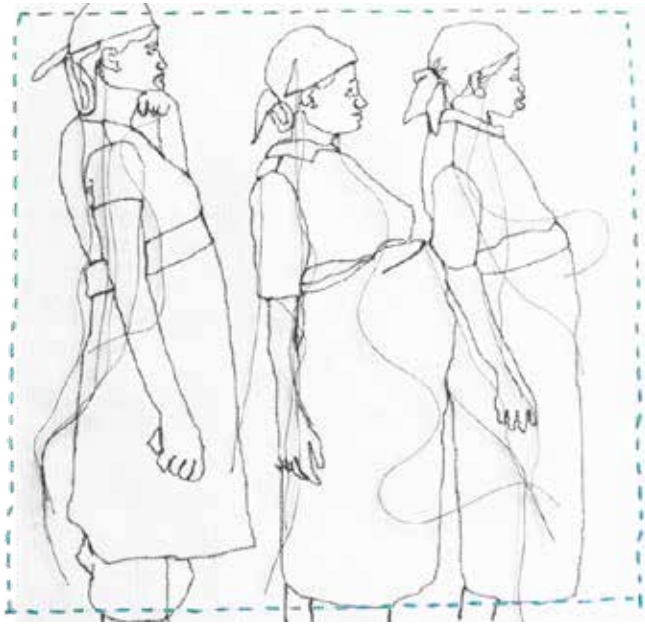
The Government of Zimbabwe signed a Compact of Commitment with UNFPA in 2023, which facilitated increased domestic funding for the procurement of contraceptives. Under this Compact, the Government of Zimbabwe allocated approximately USD1.5 million from the Treasury in both 2022 and 2023 for the procurement of contraceptives. This is in addition to other grants and financial support given to the Ministry of Health and Child Care and ZNFPC.

The census results also show that adolescent fertility rates are higher in rural areas (108.8/1,000) compared to urban areas (44.3/1,000).





**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 3**



Key interventions to reduce maternal mortality included strengthening health systems for management of emergency obstetric complications during antenatal, childbirth and postpartum periods; availability of essential drugs and increased access to and utilisation of community based essential maternal, new-born and child health information and services through reinforced community level interventions

### 3.2 Development of Comprehensive national SRHR package and integrate it into the national UHC strategies, policies and programs

The Government continues to strengthen institutional mechanisms for SRHR/HIV integration at all levels. A strong partnership has been developed between UN Agencies, the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council, the National AIDS Council and other development partners to ensure the integration of SRHR/HIV services

To make health for all a reality in Zimbabwe (UHC), the Government of Zimbabwe launched the Health Resilience Fund (HRF), a pooled donor funding mechanism which seeks to accelerate progress towards achieving health systems resilience to shock and equitable access to quality health care, with special emphasis on women, newborn, children, and adolescents. The fund was launched together with the National Health Strategy (NHS) 2021-2025, the NHS Investment Case and the National Health Sector Coordination Framework (HSCF).

Zimbabwe implemented the Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls from 2019 to 2023 in collaboration with the European Union and the United Nations, providing integrated SRHR/GBV services to over 5,025,976 women, men, boys, and girls.

Integration framework for SRH/FP/ HIV & AIDS and MCH is now in place

### 3.3 Deployment of two trained midwives to provide maternity services at all eligible Primary Health Care facilities by 2030

This is on-going and is one of the key strategies in the National Health Strategy 2021-25 and the Community Health Strategy 2021-2025

**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 3:** We commit to zero preventable maternal Deaths and morbidities, such as Obstetric Fistulas, by, inter alia, integrating a comprehensive approach of the essential Sexual and Reproductive Health package, including measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortions, and post -abortions care into national Universal Health Coverage strategies, policies and programs, and to protect and ensure all individuals' right to bodily integrity and autonomy and to provide access to essential services in support of this right.

### Country Specific commitments and Achievements

#### 3.1 Increasing by 50% the maternal mortality reduction from the current 651/100000 live births by 2030

Maternal mortality has been on the downward trend in the country due to various interventions implemented by the Government of Zimbabwe. According to the National Population and Housing Census of 2022, maternal mortality ratio was at 362 per 100 000 live births, a reduction from 525 per 100 000 live births in 2012. The Zimbabwe Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Survey (ZMPMS) of 2022 shows a maternal mortality ratio of 217/100 000 live births down from 657/100 000 live births in 2008



# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 4







**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 4:** Ensure access for adolescents and youth to comprehensive and age-appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive, quality and timely services to be able to make informed choices about their sexuality and reproductive lives, to adequately protect themselves from unintended pregnancies, Gender Based Violence, STIs and HIV/AIDS, and to be able to transition safely into adulthood.

### Country Specific commitments and Achievements

#### 4.1 Support to all SRHR service provision points to provide youth friendly services

Government has put in place structures for the implementation of programmes to empower and protect adolescents and young people in a coordinated manner within the framework of the revised National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2023-2027

The Government, through the Ministry of Health and Child Care has also developed Minimum Packages and Provision of Youth Friendly SRH services across the country under the health facility, community and school based approaches to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health programming;

The percentage of health service delivery points offering youth friendly services increased from 50% in 2020 to 76% in 2023.

#### 4.2 Support all schools, public and private, are delivering a quality assured CSE package,

#### including HIV information by 2030

By 2023, under basic education, all 10,517 schools are implementing the Guidance and Counselling syllabus where SRH is tackled in a holistic manner.

#### 4.3 Ensure hard to reach populations such as Person with Disabilities (PWD), PLRA, emergency areas, prisons, sex workers, young people in conflict with law have immediate access to comprehensive SRHR services

In line with the President's mantra of leaving no one and no place behind, the National Disability Policy was launched in 2021. The policy covers various aspects, including health, education, and accessibility.

Zimbabwe's system has ensured that disadvantaged and vulnerable populations are represented in national and local institutions as evidenced in its key result area on effective representation of the people through the women's quota, disability quota and the Zebra systems.

During 2019-2023, the Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls was funded by the EU, and implemented by the Government of Zimbabwe and the six UN agencies (ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNWOMEN) with involvement and contributions of multi-stakeholders. This initiative included Intensified SRHR mobile outreach services to reach under-served areas especially during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.



# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 5





**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 5:** Zero Sexual and Gender Based Violence, including zero child, early and forced marriages, as well as zero female genital mutilation in order to realise all individuals' potential as agents of change in their society - both socially and economically

## Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

### 5.1 Align all laws pertaining to marriage to the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment No. 20) of 2013, by 2030.

The Government, through the alignment process, passed into law the Marriages Act [Chapter 5:17], a law which has an important focus to deal with the scourge of child marriages. It repealed the Marriage Act [Chapter 5: 11] and Customary Marriages Act [Chapter 5:07] in their entirety.

The Act complies with the constitutional demand that lawfully recognized marriages are contracted between a man and woman above 18 years of age [Section 3], and in this regard criminalises the facilitation of and/or contracting of any marriage with any person who is a child as defined by the constitution.

### 5.2 Implement the National Plan of Action on Ending Child Marriages, harmonize marriage laws and set the age of marriage at 18 years, by 2030.

Child marriages remain a pressing issue in Zimbabwe, with approximately 34% of girls under 18 years old being married, and an alarming 5% of girls under 15 years old being married.

Government of Zimbabwe launched the National Action Plan on Ending Child Marriages and its implementation is underway

The Marriages Act prohibits forced marriages by requiring the consent of both parties to the proposed marriage.

Marriages under civil and customary law are now equal before the law

### 5.3 Invest resources to provide comprehensive multi-sectoral services for survivors of GBV and to strengthen key institutions;

The Government of Zimbabwe continues to implement a multi-sectoral response to Gender Based Violence (GBV), including the Domestic Violence Act and related laws.

The Government of Zimbabwe with support from Development Partners established 7 One Stop Centers in a bid to strengthen the GBV Referral Pathway. The provinces covered are Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Bulawayo and Midlands Provinces.

The Government is convening Provincial Chief's Indabas in all the provinces, districts and wards. The Indabas are aimed at sensitizing Chiefs and other traditional leadership structures on constitution and legal provisions prohibiting GBV and child marriages and highlighting the health, social and economic consequences of these practices

Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development developed a High-Level Political Compact (HLPC) on ending Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices. The Compact was adopted and signed by the Head of State, Development Partners, Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, Independent Commissions and CSOs who committed to collectively upscale national and sub-national efforts to eradicate all forms of GBV and Harmful Practices by 2030 at all levels.

Support services for victims of GBV have increased, for instance the First Lady, Amai Mhangagwa's 575 platform launched in 2021 has improved access to comprehensive assistance for victims, including PWDs who remain at a heightened risk of SGBV

During 2019-2023, the EU funded Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls was implemented by the

Government and UN agencies with involvement and contributions of multi-stakeholders. The programme contributed to improving policy and legal frameworks, increasing the accountability to gender equality and rights of women and girls, strengthening the justice system for survivors of GBV, building community based models for GBV service delivery in line with international standards, and introducing innovative approaches for women's economic empowerment and civil society activism.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender, Community and Small Enterprise development with support from partners developed and launched the 2023-2030 National Strategy To Prevent And Address Gender Based Violence. The strategy provides a framework in which the Government and other stakeholders will work to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in the coming years.

#### **5.4 Economically and socially empower women and girls to be actively engaged in the country's development**

Economic empowerment of women - through

the Zimbabwe Women's Micro Finance Bank, Small and Medium Development Corporation, Zimbabwe Women Development Fund, Zimbabwe Community Development Fund and the Empower Bank continues to financially support women and youth with capital to start projects. In 2022, the Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank disbursed a total of ZWL 561 million to 10,665 women and 2,294 men. In 2023, a total of ZWL 11 billion was disbursed to 115, 453 clients. 85,878 were females and 29,575 males.

#### **5.5 Finalize and fully implement the Disability Amendment Act to support service access by women and girls with disabilities by 2030.**

In 2021, the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr. E. D Mnangagwa launched the National Disability Policy, which aligns with ICPD commitments. The policy covers various aspects including access to health and education. The policy will also ensure that public places have facilities such as ramps for individuals using wheelchairs, as well as Braille and other disabled-friendly amenities for the visually impaired and other individuals with disabilities.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender, Community and Small Enterprise development with support from partners developed and launched the 2023-2030 National Strategy To Prevent And Address Gender Based Violence. The strategy provides a framework in which the Government and other stakeholders will work to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in the coming years.

# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 6





**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 6:** Using national budget processes, increasing domestic financing and exploring new and innovative financing instruments and structures to ensure full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

## Country Specific commitments and Achievements

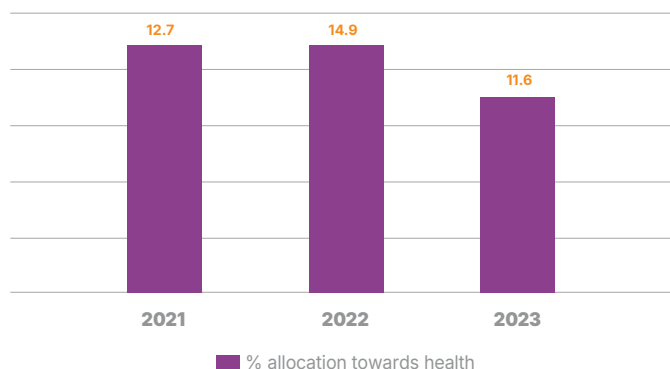
### 6.1 Allocate at least 15% of the national budget to the health sector with specific allocation for SRHR and Family Planning, by 2030.

In 2021, the proportion of the National Budget allocated to health was 12.7% (Z\$54.7 billion). About 8% (Z\$5.27billion) of the Z\$54.7 billion allocated in 2021 was earmarked for Public Health Programmes. Family Health was allocated 35% (Z\$1.86 billion) of the total public health allocation. ZNFPC was allocated Z\$1.1 billion for family planning.

In 2022, the allocation towards health increased to 14.9% (Z\$117.7 billion), about 15% (Z\$17.7 billion) of the Z\$117.7 billion was earmarked for the Public Health Programme, of which 14% (Z\$2.5 billion) went towards Family Health, while ZNFPC was allocated Z\$654 million.

The proportion allocated towards health decreased to 11.6% (Z\$713.8 billion) in 2023, whereby, the Public Health Programme was allocated approximately 39% (Z\$279.8 billion) of the Z\$713.8 billion and 4% (Z\$12.1 billion) was allocated towards Family Health. ZNFPC was allocated Z\$3.5 billion.

National Budget Allocation to Health



### 6.2 Improve allocations from the HIV and Aids levies to SRHR and Family Planning by at least 5%.

When introduced, the Healthy Levy was earmarked for the procurement of medicines and blood related products and no allocation was earmarked for SRHR and FP. Discussions for this broadened Levy allocation base have been initiated and are still in progress

### 6.3 Allocate 10% of the Global Fund allocated to Zimbabwe to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning as per Global Fund Financing Framework.

The 10% allocated to SRHR and Family Planning from Zimbabwe's Global Fund allocation has not yet taken place. Discussions are currently underway although Global Fund is currently contributing to funding national condom requirements.

### 6.4 Finalize and implement the National Health Insurance Scheme.

The National Health Insurance Scheme is not yet finalized. The relevant Bill has been drafted and consultations are scheduled to begin in 2024.





# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 7

**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 7:** Doing what is in our power to increase the percentage of Official Development Aid (ODA) specifically earmarked to ensure universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights to complement domestic financing of Sexual and Reproductive Health programmes.

### Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

#### 7.1 Ensure that aid support is aligned to UN priorities which includes universal access to SRHR/ Family planning

The Development Cooperation Policy is now in place to ensure coherence in public sector interventions, and guarantees that development assistance plays a strong catalytic role in economic and social development. The policy is being operationalised to ensure that official development assistance is allocated in alignment with government national priority areas.

In line with the Development Cooperation Policy and in support of national priorities, the United Nations and the government of Zimbabwe signed the Zimbabwe United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (ZUNSDCF) which seeks to prioritise social protection, health including SRH, climate action and resilience building, gender equality, democratic and economic governance among other key development priorities

The HRF (2023-2025) was launched in January 2023 with the collaboration of funding partners and UN agencies. It aims to improve healthcare for vulnerable mothers, newborns, children, and adolescents in Zimbabwe. These initiatives focus on providing comprehensive services that cater to diverse needs, including those related to disability.







# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 8



**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 8:** Harnessing the demographic dividend by investing in adolescents' and youth's education, employment opportunities and health, including family planning, and Reproductive Health services.

### Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

#### 8.1 Proactively invest in post-secondary school skills building to reduce youth unemployment by half, by 2030

The number of schools increased across all levels between 2021 and 2022: Primary schools increased from 7,081 to 7,386 (4.3%); and secondary schools from 3,066 to 3,131 (2.1%).

Three more state Universities were established over the same period.

#### 8.2 Define and implement policies that promote youth engagement in relevant developmental issues by 2030

The proportion of youth in decision making rose from 3% in 2021 to 5.2% in 2022 and participation in national development processes rose from 20% to 42%. In 2022, 64, 825 youths were equipped with leadership skills, a notable increase from 36,000 youths in 2021.

#### 8.3 Promote health for in school children through implementation of the Zimbabwe School Health Policy

In 2018, the School Health Policy was launched with the goal of mainstreaming health topics including sexual and reproductive health into all education levels which helps students develop a better understanding of their own well-being, promotes healthy behaviors and lifestyles, and equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their health. This policy is being implemented at all levels, with age-appropriate health topics being taught in classrooms and reinforced through extracurricular activities.

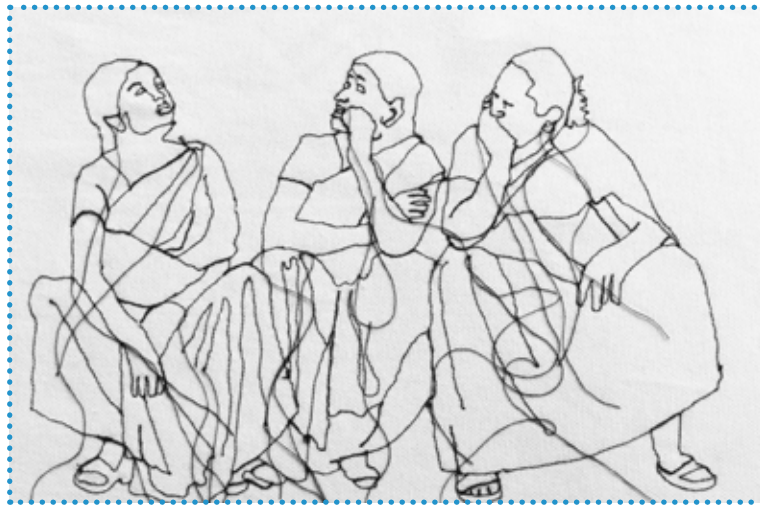
#### 8.4 Support access to contraception for young people to reduce the high teen pregnancy by half by 2030

Through the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the government has also developed minimum packages to provide youth-friendly SRH services in health facilities, communities and schools. Youth-friendly SRH services provide young people with access to accurate information, confidential counseling, and affordable healthcare options.



# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 9





**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 9:** Building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, where all people, including the old and the young, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and indigenous people, build societies where they feel valued and are able to shape their own destiny and contribute to the prosperity of their societies

### Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

#### 9.1 Promote human rights including of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations (older persons, people with disabilities, children, the poor, and victims of natural disasters)

There is a continued commitment by the government to uphold, protect, and promote human rights.

Government, through the alignment process, passed into law the Marriages Act, a law which has an important focus to deal with the challenge of child marriages which adversely impacts children's access to basic rights including education and SRHR.

The National Disability Policy, which aligns with ICPD commitments, was launched in 2021. The policy covers various aspects, including health, education, and accessibility. The government invested in strong advocacy and awareness raising for disability rights in advancing the

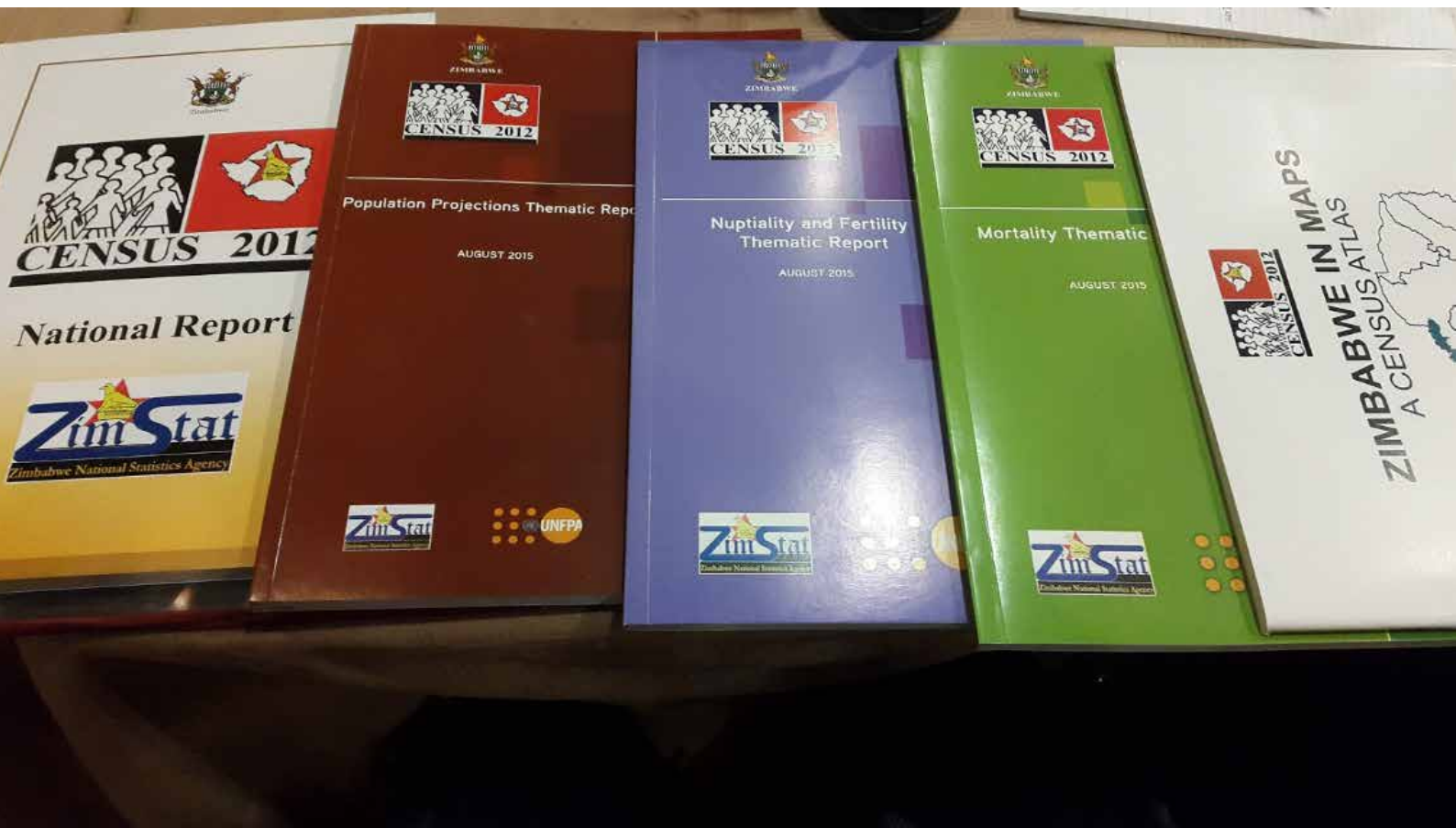
National Development Agenda, in line with the national vision 2030 and NDS1.

Zimbabwe conducted a Comprehensive Assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) in 2022-2023. The assessment was aimed at analyzing the current status of CRVS systems with the view to identifying bottlenecks and areas requiring improvement and develop a strategic action plan to promote human rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations (older persons, people with disabilities, children, the poor and victims of natural disasters).

The Government of Zimbabwe in November 2023 ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa. The protocol aims to strengthen regional protection for the rights of older persons.

The Government in partnership with development partners launched the emergency social cash transfer which aims to provide cash transfers to vulnerable households

Zimbabwe is prioritizing the utilization of domestic resources to promote the well-being of citizens and contribute to a peaceful and prosperous future.



# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 10



**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 10:** Provide quality, relevant, timely and disaggregated data; investing in digital health innovations and improvement of data systems to achieve sustainable development

### Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

#### 10.1 Continue strengthening the production of quality, relevant, timely and where possible, fully disaggregated vital country statistics through the decennial population Census programme to inform policy planning, including SDG monitoring and reporting by 2030

Zimbabwe follows a decennial census cycle of which the 2022 Population and Housing Census marked the fifth since Independence and was the first digital census.

A comprehensive module was included in the Census to take stock of the population with functional difficulties in hearing, seeing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication.

Cognisant of the growing diaspora population and its potential to contribute to economic development, the Government of Zimbabwe has taken steps and remains committed to establish the magnitude and locations of its citizens abroad. To this end, the Census included a module on emigration.

#### 10.2 Invest in the statistical lead agency, ZIMSTAT, to offer timely and accurate statistics

The Government launched the National Statistical System Development Plan/Strategy (2021-2025) which aims to develop national statistical system and capacity coordinated by ZIMSTAT





**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 11**



**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 11:** Committing to the notion that nothing about young people’s health and wellbeing can be discussed and decided upon without their meaningful involvement and participation (“nothing about us, without us”)

### **Country Specific Commitments and Achievements**

#### **11.1 Legislate for youth consultation in development processes, including budget consultative processes by 2030**

Zimbabwe has implemented a National Strategic Plan on Youth (2021-2023) which prioritises the need for increased young people’s participation in decision-making and development processes. In the past such engagement has been less inclusive

The Parliament of Zimbabwe launched a new voluntary Youth Caucus to spearhead the inclusion of youth-related issues in the legislative process. The goal is to advocate for youth development, empowerment, participation and representation across all spheres of life in Zimbabwe. Representatives in the Caucus are aged between 15 and 35 years.





# GLOBAL COMMITMENT 12



**GLOBAL COMMITMENT 12:** Ensuring the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, are addressed as critical components of responses to humanitarian and environmental crises.

### Country Specific Commitments and Achievements

#### 12.1 Ensure emergency preparedness across all sectors

Government has put in place legal enabling statutes which include the Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10:06], the Public Health Act [Chapter 15:17], Road Traffic Act [Chapter 13:11], Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27] among others, in order to create a conducive environment for disaster risk reduction initiatives and for a comprehensive and strategic approach to climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology, financing and environmental education.

In order to further strengthen the coordination and management of disasters in the country, the Government of Zimbabwe is in the process of reviewing the Civil Protection Act, [Chapter 10:06] which will be replaced by a new Disaster Risk Management Bill.

In 2022, a cumulative 344,601 individuals were supported by Government and Partners with cash transfers. During the course of the year 2023,

the Government together with its implementing partners reached out to 353,080 individuals with cash transfers in over thirty-three districts.

#### 12.2 Strengthen coordination structures for preparedness and response

The Ministry of Health and Child Care, working together with UNFPA, is implementing the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). The MISP consists of a series of crucial, life-saving activities that are required at the onset of a humanitarian crisis to meet the health needs of affected populations. In many cases, these needs are overlooked with potentially life-threatening consequences.

The Government of Zimbabwe established the National Disaster Management Centre that incorporated the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in 2021. The EOC will be operationalized in order to come up with an integrated and coordinated early warning system

The establishment of community radio stations has improved public education and awareness on SRHR.

In 2023, the Government completed the construction of a composite warehouse for stockpiling lifesaving equipment and/or supplies such as fire engines, ambulances, drugs and chemicals to contain biological vectors.

The introduction of the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS)/Drought Relief in 2021 targeted food insecure households/persons guided by the annual Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC) Report.

A total of 3,895,652 people received food assistance during the peak hunger period, with Government accounting for 3,193,425 whilst WFP assisted 702,227 people in 2023.

### **12.3 Support strengthening of Civil Protection Unit to coordinate humanitarian actor to prioritize Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender Based Violence in humanitarian situations**

In 2021, the Government of Zimbabwe committed itself to ending GBV by officially launching the first ever High-Level Political Compact (HLPC) on Ending Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices (2021-2030) which was launched by the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa in partnership with donors, development partners, CSOs, traditional leaders and religious institutions.

A new National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender Based Violence has been developed to run from 2023-2030. The Strategy is aligned to the HLPC on Ending GBV and Harmful Practices launched in March 2022.

## **CHALLENGES**

Despite efforts of the Government of Zimbabwe, development partners, CSOs and communities, a lot remains to be done in order to meet the ICPD Commitments. The economic performance remains a challenge; and critical social sectors such as education and health remain underfunded with the health sector facing skills flight to the diaspora; all impacting the social and economic development of the country.

The Zimbabwean economy has not performed to its full potential during the period under review, which has adversely affected budget allocations to key sectors. As a result, there was not sufficient fiscal space to meet the 15% health budget allocation as set out in the Abuja Declaration. Government

allocations to the education sector also fall short of the 20% Dakar Education benchmark. In addition, the budget allocations were exposed to exchange rate distortions and inflation which the country's economy is experiencing. This eroded the value of the budgetary allocations on disbursement affecting implementation and impact.

Moreover, the global crisis due to ongoing wars and the health pandemics have led to a significant reduction in ODA, steadily reversing the gains that had been made with partner support in Zimbabwe. It is imperative for the Government of Zimbabwe to increase its domestic investment to all social sectors if the sectors are to rebuild better.

The emergence of global Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on Zimbabwe's progress with ICPD Commitments implementation as it disrupted provision of basic public services in health, education and social protection among others which were strained prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result of this disruption, gains made were reversed: the education gap widened, healthcare inequality and poverty rates increased perpetuating the cycle of poverty, teenage pregnancies are on the rise; all these inhibiting the country's overall development.





Zimbabwe has increasingly been experiencing climate change related disasters such as cyclones, droughts and flooding. At the point of this progress review (April 2024), the Government of Zimbabwe had declared a state of disaster following El Nino induced drought. Zimbabwe has also been battling with a cholera outbreak since February 2023. The country is steadily strengthening its systems and structures for improved response to humanitarian situations including having early warning systems in place as well as working with partners to incorporate resilience at all levels.

## **Conclusion**

Zimbabwe remains committed to the ICPD agenda and has thus far made significant progress in implementing the 12 ICPD commitments made in 2019. A lot more needs to be done, and the Government of Zimbabwe believes in the continued and strengthened partnerships to accelerate progress towards meeting its international commitments on the unfinished ICPD agenda.



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