



Civil Society Reports: Countries under review at 2017

High Level Political Forum

This template aims to identify what mechanisms are in place for government engagement with the SDGs, civil society, local governments, and current initiatives from all actors in realizing the SDGs at a national and international level.

- Country : ZIMBABWE
- Organization: POVERTY REDUCTION FORUM TRUST
- Name: JUDITH KAULEM

A. State of national government's preparation for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs – domestic and international

1. Which ministry (or other institution e.g. in the Prime Minister's office) is now leading or in charge of the planning for the domestic implementation of the SDGs in your country?

The Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning & Investment Promotion

2. Does your government have a policy framework on SDG implementation? How does this relate to existing or other policy frameworks as national development plans?

Yes the government has aligned the SDGs to the national development plan the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset). However, the realignment process was very government centric to the extent that to date very few stakeholders outside government are aware of the existence of this policy framework.

3. Is there parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of the framework? If so please list the relevant committee and its activity.

There isn't, if there is one then it has not been publicized.



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4. Are local governments in your countries actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda / SDGs? If so, how

No they are not. To date the government has not officially launched the SDGs and any progress and initiatives on SDGs have been very ad hoc and limited to ministries at the national level.

B. CSO engagement with the government in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs

5. Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? Which language(s)? Who translated it?

No, it is only available in English yet the Constitution recognizes 16 official languages.

6. Was there any invitation to public consultation on the voluntary national review at HLPF? If so, who was invited?

There was none.

7. Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation, monitoring or review, including national reporting at HLPF?

The Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT) spear-headed and is coordinating a CSOs Reference group on SDGs which is constituted by ten CSOs apex bodies each representing a different sector including PWD, children, youth, women, Media, Churches, the Elderly. Through this platform PRFT held CSOs consultations towards making input into the VNR. A position report was produced and shared with the government.

8. Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF 2017 and/or make a presentation at the VNR?

No.

9. In case you say "YES", has your government provided financial support for this participation?

C. CSO national coalition-building for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs

10. Is there any CSO national platform or network focusing on the SDGs?

Yes. The Poverty Reduction Forum Trust has put together a CSOs Reference Group on SDGs which was officially launched in April 2017.



11. Are there national platforms that work on specific goals or targets?

The CSOs Reference Group members represent various sectors including PWD, children, youth, women, Media, Churches, the Elderly and naturally they focus on different goals notwithstanding the cross-cutting ones.

12. Have you had a regular policy dialogue with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda?

PRFT has held ad hoc consultations due to limited funding.

D. CSOs own implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/SDGs

13. How far are CSOs developing their own plans on implementation of the agenda in your country?

Under the CSOs Reference group a consortium approach has been adopted and plans are being developed in relation to the specific mandate and capacities of the members. However, most of the implementation is hampered by unavailability of resources since all CSOs work in Zimbabwe is mostly funded by external donors and resources have been generally dwindling.

14. Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?

PRFT on its part undertook a nine-month project in 2016 on awareness raising through radio programs and working with local journalists and there is evidence on the positive impact and reach of that initiative. Before the launch of the Reference Group on SDGs, CSOs inventions on SDGs has to a large extent been uncoordinated, making it difficult to assess the CSOs contributions. Moving forward, the Reference Group offers a more coordinated platform for CSOs contributions.

15. Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country?

The major challenge is that of funding since 99% of CSOs work is funded by external donors and there is marked donor fatigue at the moment. The political environment is also not very favorable as the country moves into election mood since there will be general elections in 2018.

16. What is the engagement of other stakeholders like the private sector in the national implementation plan? Is there a broader partnership across sectors for implementation? Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships?

There has not been demonstrable political will to engage other stakeholders outside government. To date all SDGs-related processes have been limited to government ministries. CSOs of their own volition have been pro-active, funds permitting, and initiated meetings/workshops where they invited government representation.



17. Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

Despite the existence of a beautifully put together alignment document of the SDGs, to the national development plan, the National Budget is silent on how SDGs will be funded.



Action for Sustainable Development

HLPF 2017 V40

Guiding Questions for a Template for CSO engagement for Voluntary National Review
at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

This template aims to identify what mechanisms are in place for government engagement with the SDGs, civil society, local governments, and current initiatives from all actors in realizing the SDGs at a national and international level.

- Country: Zimbabwe
- Organization: National Association of Non Governmental Organisations (NANGO)
- Name: Leonard Mandishara

A. State of national government's preparation for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs – domestic and international

- 1. Which ministry (or other institution e.g. in the Prime Minister's office) is now leading or in charge of the planning for the domestic implementation of the SDGs in your country?**

The Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion is responsible for coordinating implementation of the SDGs and supervised by the Office of the President and Cabinet.

- 2. Does your government have a policy framework on SDG implementation? How does this relate to existing or other policy frameworks as national development plans?**

The Government has developed a SDGs Position paper, which is aimed at setting up the institutional framework to aid the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the government last year launched the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy paper IPRSP inspired by the SDGs. The IPRSP is a two-year strategy developed as a vehicle to achieve the SDGs. We also have the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development, which has clusters around SDGs as well.

- 3. Is there parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of the framework? If so please list the relevant committee and its activity.**

All the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees have a mandate to oversee the SDGs in their



respective line ministries. Over and above this there is a separate SDGs Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, which was set up to provide oversight on SDGs.

4. *Are local governments in your countries actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda / SDGs? If so, how*

The Government has given a commitment to the effect that the SDGs are cascaded down to local level. Through support from the UNDP local government structures were sensitised on the SDGs to assist them in developing policies, which can assist in the attainment of the SDGs.

B. CSO engagement with the government in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs

5. *Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? Which language(s)? Who translated it?*

The Full text of SDGs is not yet available in local language. However, NANGO has plans to translate this and also in Braille, Large Print and Audio.

6. *Was there any invitation to public consultation on the voluntary national review at HLPF? If so, who was invited?*

Yes there was invitation to participate. In fact the consultant for the VNR visited CSOs, which include NANGO, National Association of Youth Organisations and Poverty Reduction Forum Trust amongst others. NANGO facilitated the participation of NGOs during the validation of the VNR report as well. The Ministry of Macroeconomics Planning and Investment Promotion invited NANGO to invite our members to participate in the meeting. However, the participation was not effective as the process was rushed and there was no ample time for CSOs to effectively organise themselves to make meaningful input the process.

7. *Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation, monitoring or review, including national reporting at HLPF?*

There are platforms, which have been set, which have assisted CSOs in this regard. Initially through the support from CIVICUS, we set up a team working around the Leave No One Behind and thereafter using NANGO ten sectors the SDGs meeting have been taking place. This assisted in developing a clear framework for monitoring the progress of the SDGs right to local government level. There is also the CSO-SDGs Reference Group at national level, which provides a meeting place for CSOs to meet and discuss SDGs issues in a bid to influence national processes to address the SDGs.

8. *Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF 2017 and/or make a presentation at the VNR?*

We approached the Government, as CSOs to be part of the delegation to attend the



HLPF and CSOs attending have been included in the Government Delegation.

9. *In case you say “YES”, has your government provided financial support for this participation?*

The Government has not provided financial support for this as the CSOs who are participating looked for funding elsewhere to support their participation.

C. CSO national coalition-building for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs

10. *Is there any CSO national platform or network focusing on the SDGs?*

There are two national platforms the NANGO SDGS Sector Platform and the CSO-SDGS Reference Group.

11. *Are there national platforms that work on specific goals or targets?*

The NANGO SDGs Sector Platform works on all the SDGs. Each sector focuses on the SDGs, which relate to their issues for instance children sector focuses on SDGs, which are child related.

12. *Have you had a regular policy dialogue with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adaption of the 2030 Agenda?*

We had several national policy dialogue meetings with government where the government basically was presenting the framework which it has put in place to work around SDGs.

D. CSOs own implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/SDGs

13. *How far are CSOs developing their own plans on implementation of the agenda in your country?*

CSOs are proactive in this agenda, as NANGO we have developed a robust strategy to ensure that no one is left behind and the actions reach the local communities. Within the strategy is embedded the monitoring and evaluation aspect and data capturing. This will assist in documenting the work which CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, Government and other players are doing to aid SDGs progress. However, financial support to roll out this process is the stumbling block.

14. *Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?*

NANGO is a case study, which can be replicated elsewhere. Using our sectors we have



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assigned SDGs to each and every sector and these sectors are in all the provinces. Thus the initiative is being implemented at national and local government level using the NGOs, and CBOs.

CSOs-SDGs Reference Group is another case study. Which is providing a platform for CSOs to dialogue at national level for CSOs.

15. Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country?

There are no challenges if resources are available CSO work on SDGs can be enhanced.

16. What is the engagement of other stakeholders like the private sector in the national implementation plan? Is there a broader partnership across sectors for implementation? Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships?

Only last year at the national dialogue platform did we meet as broader stakeholders including private sector. However, after that there was no other attempt to continue with the broader stakeholders only when organised by government for workshop that when we have the other stakeholders.

17. Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

There is no national plan to fund the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. UN supports more of the government processes and this incapacitates other stakeholders who have a key role in the implementation of the actions for the Agenda 2030. Fiscal resources are limited given that currently Zimbabwe has a tight fiscal space constraint.