

Zimbabwe Country Report



CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING



Country Team

Country: Zimbabwe

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Background

FEMPRIST is an organization working with female prisoners in Zimbabwe. Its main target group is inmates who are due for release. One of FEMPRIST's major interventions is linking prisoners with their families during their jail terms to keep social ties alive. FEMPRIST works closely with prison officers as well as Civil Society partners working in such areas as health, legal advice and education. The services offered to female inmates include counselling to all types of inmates including new prisoners, pregnant women, those who are jailed together with their children and the sick.

Objectives:

- To build the capacity of female prisoners in areas of economic empowerment through training in lifetime skills
- To promote health and reproductive health rights including HIV/AIDS
- To create platforms where female prisoners independently meet and share pertinent issues affecting them.
- To mobilise resources for use by female prisoners.
- Research and documentation
- Lobby and advocate for better living conditions for female prisoners.

To create alternative work through environmental management clubs

Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

The levels of corruption have been on the rise of late, which has hindered national development. This is so because some government entities are involved in corrupt allocation of tenders for instance, the ministry of Energy and Power Development was reported to have allocated tender to a businessman who does not meet the tender's criteria.

Over the past year, the Zimbabwe government has failed to pay civil servants salaries on time and it has openly admitted bankruptcy. By sop being bankrupt the finance Ministry has re-engaged the financial institutions such as the International Monetary Organization whom they already owe

Since the beginning of the year, citizens have been holding protests over the never ending economic crisis exacerbated by corruption, the disregard of the rule of law, failure by the government to account for the missing \$15 billion in diamond revenue, the promulgation of the Statutory Instrument 64 of 2016 which bans the importation of certain good and basic products, the alarming number of police roadblocks in all roads in Zimbabwe, lack of public confidence in the consultative structures designed to resolve citizens grievances and concerns and the failure by the government to pay civil servants and pensioners on time among other issues.

In April, this year the Governor of the Reserve Bank announced that the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe will introduce the Zimbabwe Bond Notes to curb the cash crisis that is currently being experienced in the country. Economists have speculated that is a further blow to the already ailing economy.

The level of unemployment is at an alarming rate with a rise from 80% to 90% between the period June 2015 to June 2016 resulting in the growth of the informal sector

Security

The government had appointed members of National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC). The National Peace and Reconciliation Bill failed to sail through parliament because it had failed to adopt the issues and concerns raised during the consultative meetings pre-and post-independence violence. The Gukurahundi 2008 and 2013 election violence where not addressed.

At the moment, there is rioting by the public transport operators in some major towns calling for the government to intervene between them and the traffic police whom they accuse of corruption. They have cited that the ease of doing their business have systematically fallen/dropped down through the corruption, bureaucracy and alarming numbers of road blocks which have become spots of robbery. This move has seen citizens being attacked by police and disturbing peace and leaving them with no sense of security in the police.

Legitimate Politics

There have been so much frictions between the major political party and the minor political parties. One of the minor Political Parties' leader is the former vice president of Zimbabwe, this development has seen party supporters being victimized by the ruling party supporters.

The rioting perpetrated by public transport operates yesterday 05\07\16 has threatened the security of opposition political parties' activists who are now facing victimization with the police claiming that, the rioting is politically motivated.

Revenue and services

With the economic quagmire that Zimbabwe is in, the service delivery by local government has been very poor i.e. poor water and sanitation and no development of roads and infrastructure development.

Interference by some government ministries on basis of political alliance have witnessed the disruption of the day to day running of local government operations which are led by opposition political leaders.

Fragility Assessment

80% of the population of 13 million plus lives are impoverished and their existence is insecure, in a country plagued by economic, social and political decline. The fragility of the State of Zimbabwe and Civil Society hinders sustainable development, and the constructive state and Civil Society relations and the empowerment of women, youth and marginalized communities are imperative in new attempts to shape post MDGs scenarios. The state of affairs makes it hard to implement national development plans.

SDG implementation through the New Deal Principles

To a lesser extent, Zimbabwe has managed to implement the SDGs. However, SDG6 have seen women participating in all the sectors of the economy and a rise in the women enrolling in the tertiary education and technical colleges.

It is however not clear that as we move towards the implementation of the SDGs, if there is the need for commitment from Zimbabwe like in any other developing countries, to look back at the unfinished business relating to the SDGS.

There is the need for leaders to work together with key stakeholders (the private sector, legislators, local authorities and rural communities) at the highest level as it is critical to ensure total inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs.

There is as well the need to develop a sense of commitment and accountability by the government, Non-Governmental organizations, CSOs, donors and other development Partners, Service Providers, the private Sector and individuals in implementing peace building initiatives. The lack of commitment has resulted in committees like the Organ for National Healing and Reconciliation (ONHRI), which was established after the 2008 elections to help and facilitate to bring peace and sanity which after, resulted to violence that brought sufferings and natural deaths. ONHRI did consultative meetings with Civil Society and communities even set up infrastructures for national peace building program but failed to implement them because of the 2013 elections. The failure by ONRI to bring the anticipated peace has resulted in citizens resisting the NPRC.



Youth and Gender in Peacebuilding

There has been a rise of youth and women participation in Zimbabwean politics recently. The major political parties have adopted the quota system which encourages that the highest level of leadership within every political party must also include a woman. This has seen high increase of women's inclusion and participation in National Parliament (Lower and Upper Houses combined) rising by 35 percent in 2013, up from 9 percent in 2000.

The government has been empowering youth through economic empowerment projects in line with its economic blueprint Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET). ZIMASSET have also benefited women under the gender equality drive.

Civil Society in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States

The committee is lobbying Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Civil Society, through engaging them in dialogue, inviting them to community meetings and participating in government public consultative meetings, for instance the presentation of NPR Bill in parliament.



CSPPS Secretariat and discuss with Country Team (CT) members.

The committee is working with various stakeholders in the Civil Society. The coalition consists of residents' associations, women's groups, youth groups, grassroots and rural communities, students' movements, Faith based Organizations and Community based Organizations. The Focal Point have been lobbying and coordinating Civil Society Organizations to mainstream/integrate the New Deal in their programming and activities. The Focal Point has been disseminating/sharing information and communication from the

Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism

To set proper Early Warning mechanisms, there is the need to: Intensify community dialogues and engagements with relevant Government Agencies; build on existing peacebuilding committees which were set up during the 2008 election political violence, identify some hot spots, other players and new organizations that are working on peacebuilding and other peacebuilding related issues and programmes.

Challenges for Civil Society

- Political interference;
- Civil Society has always been viewed as anti-state Movement with an imperialist agenda;
- Financial resources and human resources. (Zimbabwe has been faced by a lot of brain drain and the political environment has seen many funding Partners withdrawing funding after projects evaluations).



This report was published by the CSPPS Secretariat in collaboration with Dr. Rita Nyampinga, CSPPS Focal in Zimbabwe

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