OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2014
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACHP</td>
<td>African Charter on Human and People’s Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEDRIZ</td>
<td>Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>SER</td>
<td>Socio-Economic Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZPP</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Peace Project</td>
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</table>
INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe’s Constitution is laudable for the inclusion of socio-economic rights in the Declaration of Rights. Just like civil and political, socio-economic rights are equally important as they are basic standards without which people cannot live in dignity as human beings. Socio-economic and cultural rights are therefore as fundamentally important as civil and political rights. The enjoyment of all human rights is interlinked, civil and political and SER concerns therefore reinforce each other as ingredients for basic human dignity. The importance of economic, social and cultural rights cannot be overstated. Poverty and exclusion lie behind many of the security threats that we continue to face both within and across borders and can thus place at risk the promotion and protection of all human rights. The fulfilment, protection and respect of these rights by any state reflect the state’s commitment to its citizens especially the poor and marginalized communities. By their nature human rights are indivisible, inalienable and interdependent thus there is a strong link between socio economic and civil and political rights. For example the socio-cultural analysis done during the development of the ZPP Strategic Plan 2014-2018 reflected that the non performing economy had increased social strife in the country, with increased cases of sexual abuse, increased vulnerability of youths, women and girl child.

Since its inception Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) continues to work for sustainable peace in Zimbabwe through monitoring and documenting violations of civil and political rights. The recognition of intertwining of these rights led to a strategic decision by ZPP to extend the monitoring of human rights from civil and political rights to cover socio-economic rights as well. ZPP also recognizes and reaffirms that the state has the obligation to respect, fulfil and respect socio economic rights. That realisation has influenced ZPP to monitor socio-economic rights violations in an effort to ensure respect for human rights as constitutionally guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, also known as the Declaration of Rights.

It is against this background that ZPP has conducted a pilot project monitoring violations of socio-economic rights in Masvingo and Matebeleland North provinces since October 2014. The socio-economic rights under review are: right to adequate food, right to water, right to education and right to health care. This report outlines the findings for the first quarter (October-December 2014) of the project.

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1 Zimbabwe Constitution: Chapter 4
2 Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva, 14 January 2005) quoted in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Fact Sheet Number 33
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The monitoring is part of an effort to measure the protection, respect and fulfilment of the SER as enshrined in the Declaration of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution. According to Section 77 of the Constitution, every person has the right to safe, clean and potable water. In all the Wards monitored, water is not easily accessible as residents travel distances of up to 5-6km to access water. In the monitored areas most of the boreholes dry up during the dry season. One of the sector key result areas under Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) is the construction of rural water supply and sanitation schemes. ZPP therefore calls upon the government to fulfil its Constitutional obligation to take reasonable legislative and other measures within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realization of the right to water.

Every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has a right to a basic State-funded education, including adult basic education. It was noted that in Masvingo and Matebeleland North school fees charged in primary schools though minimal are prohibitive since many families struggle to afford the fees. Physical accessibility to education facilities is a challenge as children walk distances of up to 20km to school. ZPP is concerned that state resources are not being prioritized to support education. The thin line between government and the ruling party is so blurred to the extent that some government resources are being diverted from building support for education to fund political party activities. ZPP has observed that school buses for which most parents and School Development sweat to acquire are commandeered to ferry political party activists to party functions yet the priority should be on ensuring that the buses and other education facilities contribute to the proper functioning of the schools.

The right to health care is guaranteed in the Constitution under Section 76. The numbers of health facilities in the monitored areas are insufficient to service the populations. For instance, the population in Ward 7 of Tsholotsho is 4190 and there is only one health facility to service the entire ward. In six of the wards in the two provinces none of them had a resident doctor and all of them had an average of 3 nurses per ward. Accessibility of health facilities is also a big challenge with residents in the selected wards having to travel distances of up to 10 km to the nearest healthcare facility. State support for health in Zimbabwe is very low. In the 2015 budget the Ministry of Health and Child Care was only allocated 6.6% of the budget which is a clear violation of the Abuja Declaration and an indication of misplaced priorities given that the Ministry of Defense was allocated 8.3%.

Section 77 of the Constitution stipulates that every person has the right to sufficient food. The monitored areas are in Natural Regions 4 and 5 of Zimbabwe which are prone to seasonal droughts. The residents have inadequate farming inputs such as seed, draught power and fertilizers. Food is therefore not available at a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals. The availability of food for some residents is also affected by the use of food as a political tool which discriminates against those perceived to belong to different political orientations. Under ZimAsset the Zimbabwean government has committed itself to invest in sustainable solutions to address the challenges of food

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3 Section 75 of the Zimbabwe Constitution
4 Abuja Declaration 2001
5 ZPP Monthly Monitoring Report December 2014
insecurity and undernourishment. One of the plans under the ZimAsset food security cluster includes the provision of food relief to vulnerable social groups from GMB stocks and the denial of food and agricultural inputs to political opponents means this plan is failing in its tracks.

SER are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, a violation of one right results in the violation of a battery of other rights. ZPP therefore calls upon the Zimbabwean government to commit resources and demonstrate commitment to the realization of socio economic rights as stipulated in the Constitution.
METHODOLOGY

Selection of sites for monitoring SER

ZPP selected the following constituencies for the pilot project; Chiredzi South focusing specifically on Chingwizi, Chiredzi East, Tsholotsho and Binga. The selection of the monitoring sites was based on the situational analysis carried out by ZPP management and programme staff. Chingwizi and Tsholotsho experienced food disasters early in 2014. ZPP visited Chingwizi Transit Camp on a fact finding mission on 7 June 2014. Prior to the fact finding visit to Chingwizi transit camp, ZPP had received reports from its monitors and the media had also extensively covered the deteriorating social and economic rights situation in the transit camp.

The flood victims continue to face inadequate food, limited health care and poor education facilities that inhibit children from attaining basic education. Similar reports were in the media about the Tsholotsho flood disaster although there was an outcry as citizens felt that there had been too much attention on Chingwizi.

Chiredzi district houses the administration that oversees the provision of social services to Chingwizi and for this reason ZPP considered Chiredzi East as part of the project site. Binga was selected based on the reports of lack of development in the province and general poverty experienced by communities in that district.

Specific areas covered by the project include Binga North ward 9, Binga South ward 17 Tsholotsho North ward 4, Tsholotsho South ward 7, Chiredzi South in Chingwizi and Chiredzi East ward 3.

Project monitors/data gatherers

ZPP selected monitors who over the years exhibited high levels of commitment and ability to monitor and document violations of civil and political rights. Twenty one monitors (16 from Masvingo and 15 from Matebeleland North) were selected and extensively trained on SER and how to use the tool to monitor and document the violations of SER.

Data Collection

When considering socio-economic rights, the obligations for the fulfilment and protection of those rights largely rests with the State, which has the obligation to fulfil, respect, promote and protect the rights contained in the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution. It then follows that the State has the responsibility of ensuring that every person in Zimbabwe enjoys their fundamental rights, and any failure in realising or enjoying any right, by any person in Zimbabwe, is a violation on the part of the State.

ZPP designed a data collection tool that monitored the fulfilment and protection of SER. The data gathered was both quantitative and qualitative in nature. However, it should be noted that there was a deliberate bias to get more quantitative data than qualitative because of the kind of information being sought during the monitoring exercise. Quantitative data was obtained from questions which sought to investigate issues of affordability, accessibility, acceptability and adequacy and in some instances adaptability. Qualitative information was derived from indicators seeking clarity and more information on issues of quality of
resources, challenges faced in accessing resources and related contextual analysis. ZPP monitors used observation, existing documents, formal and informal meetings to gather information.

As a way of triangulating the information gathered by ZPP monitors in the targeted areas ZPP commissioned a baseline survey. The baseline survey was designed to develop benchmarks in the three districts of Tsholotsho, Binga and Chiredzi. In Tsholotsho the survey was conducted in Ward 7 and Ward 22, while in Binga the survey was conducted in Ward 20 and Ward 17 and in Chiredzi the survey was conducted in Ward 3 and 11. The baseline survey used the simple random sampling to select the wards.

The respondents of the survey comprised of teachers, councillors, health workers and ZPP monitors based in the selected wards. The consultant also interviewed government officials from the Ministries of Health and Child Care, Primary and Secondary Education and Lands and Rural Resettlement.
ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the report presents analysis of findings from the monitoring of the SER violations over the period from October to December 2014. Data from the baseline survey was used as a way of triangulating data from the monitoring exercise therefore the analysis makes reflections on the survey findings.

The data collected from the monitoring of SER and the baseline survey was analysed using Microsoft Access software. Access is Microsoft’s desktop relational database management application which allows users to create storage structures for data, manipulate and analyse that data and format the data for output. Microsoft Access was selected for its flexibility of design and ease of data manipulation, as well as for its ability to store large volumes of data in a fairly simple way and without distortion.

All the rights contained in the Declaration of Rights, Chapter 4 of the Constitution conclude;  
*and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.*

This phrase further emphasizes the responsibility of the State to ensure that all the rights are realised and enjoyed by every person. The analysis done on all the four rights took cognisance of the above statement. The analysis used legal frameworks which include the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (Banjul Charter) of 1986 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 as well as the Zimbabwe Statics of 2014 as points of reference.

Right to Water

The right to water in Section 77(a)⁶; *every person has the right to safe, clean and potable water.* The right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. These entitlements or minimum requirements to the right to water are the benchmark utilised to ascertain whether the State has fulfilled and protected this right.

Table 1: Selected Areas Data Regarding Right to Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Main Sources of Water</th>
<th>Availability of Water Supply</th>
<th>Furthest Distance from Water Source</th>
<th>Quality of Available Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiredzi Ward 3</td>
<td>Open wells, Save river, boreholes at schools</td>
<td>Available throughout year</td>
<td>5km</td>
<td>Open wells water polluted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiredzi Ward 11</td>
<td>Open wells, small dams, streams</td>
<td>Open wells water available throughout year</td>
<td>6km</td>
<td>Water is heavily polluted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binga Ward 17</td>
<td>Open wells, Boreholes</td>
<td>Boreholes run dry Oct-Dec</td>
<td>5km</td>
<td>Contaminated with rust from pipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binga Ward 20</td>
<td>Boreholes</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>5km</td>
<td>Water is salty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁶ Zimbabwe Constitution
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Water Source</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tsholotsho Ward 7</td>
<td>Dam</td>
<td>Available throughout year</td>
<td>5km</td>
<td>Dam water dirty, heavily polluted with animal waste, algae, leaves, grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsholotsho Ward 22</td>
<td>Boreholes, Rivers</td>
<td>Borehole water available throughout the year</td>
<td>6km</td>
<td>Borehole water generally clean and safe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, of which Zimbabwe is a signatory, discusses core obligations of the State with respect to each human right. The core obligations with respect to the right to water, as prescribed in the African Charter, highlights the need for sufficient water, meaning adequate and continuous water supply for each person’s personal and domestic use.⁷

The citizens residing in the wards where ZPP has been monitoring the fulfilment and protection of the right to water are clearly struggling to enjoy adequate and continuous water supply. In Binga, Ward 17 boreholes which are a major source of water run dry during the dry season (October to December). The implications of this are that the residents of Ward 17, Binga are then forced to travel even longer distances than the usual 5km in search of water when the boreholes have run dry. By virtue of their gender roles which include fetching water, women and girls carry the burden of walking long distances to fetch the scarce resource. Therefore the continuous supply of water for the 10530 people who reside in Ward 17 is far from being fulfilled.

In all the Wards monitored the residents are forced to travel distances of between 5 and 6km to access water. ZimStat (Zimbabwe Statistics department) on conducting the 2012 census recorded households where a distance of greater than 1km was travelled to a water source, implying that any distance greater than 1km is outside the parameters of minimum requirements for accessing water. According to the World Health Organization (WHO)⁸ a distance greater than 1km to access water is high risk, with the service level pegged at no access as only less than 5 litres/day per person is possible. Some experts have set ‘basic water requirement standards for human needs should be set at 50 litres per person per day.’⁹ Most water experts have set 20-25 litres per person per day as a minimum. Therefore in the Wards under this project, with respect to accessibility, water is not an accessible resource. The Government of Zimbabwe is therefore far from fulfilling the right to water for the people of Binga, Tsholotsho, and Chiredzi.

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⁷ African Charter on Human and People’s Rights Section 87-92
⁸ Domestic Water Quantity, Service Level and Health, 2000
⁹ Peter H. Gleick, M. IWRA (1996), Basic water requirements for human activities: Meeting basic Needs
According to the 2015 National Budget, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate was allocated just less than $40.5 million for water resource management and development, an amount which is less than 1% of the 2015 national budget.\textsuperscript{10} The budget allocation does not seem adequate to increase water sources, where citizens have to walk 5 or 6km in order to access water, or where citizens are utilising water sources that are polluted. The Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) has been allocated just over $39 million for 2015, and the expectation is that more boreholes will be sunk to ensure that every person enjoys the right to water if the allocation eventually is disbursed in full to ZINWA. Since March 2013 Zimbabwe now has a national Water Policy which was crafted by the then Ministry of Water Resources Development and Management.

Is the State respecting, protecting and fulfilling the Right to Water in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho?

1. Accessibility of water - distances of between 5 and 6km travelled
2. Availability of water - boreholes dry up during the dry season (October to December)
3. Quality of water - dams and boreholes contaminated with rust, polluted with animal waste, algae, leaves and water sources that have a high salt content
4. Quantity of water - the long distances travelled to fetch water limit the ability of affected citizens to get water that is adequate for domestic and personal use

The State is struggling to fulfil its obligation in relation to the right to water in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho districts of Zimbabwe. The inability of citizens to fully enjoy the right to water means that they will also put a strain on limited health facilities as they report with water borne diseases.

Recommendations

- ZINWA and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate should be guided by the National Water Policy in providing water sources that enable citizens to enjoy the fundamental right to water.
- The State should allocate more resources to increase water sources in the dry areas of the provinces under review.

\textsuperscript{10}2015 Budget statement
Right to Education

Section 75 in the supreme law reads: **every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has a right to a basic State-funded education, including adult basic education.** Education is a fundamental right that affects the growth, development and welfare of human beings, particularly children and youth. As a human right, education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalised children and adults can experience reduced poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their community. Education has a vital role of empowering women, safeguarding children from exploitative and hazardous labour and sexual exploitation, promoting human rights and democracy, protecting the environment, and controlling population growth.

According to the African Charter, a signatory State has the minimum obligations to ensure that:

a) all children enjoy their right to free and compulsory primary education. No child should be denied this right because of school fees or related costs of education;

b) to implement policies to eliminate or reduce the costs of attending primary school which include the provision of stipends, providing free or subsidised uniforms (or lifting of uniform requirements), provision of free textbooks, provision of free or subsidised transportation or free school meals to encourage the attendance of poor children at school; and

c) to develop a system at all levels that ensures that education is physically and economically accessible to everyone (including the provision of finance, the building of schools and the provision of educational materials).  

The minimum requirements of the right to basic education stipulate that the Government, as the prime duty-bearer has to respect, protect and fulfil the right to education by making education available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable. Education availability speaks to primary education being universal, free and compulsory. Accessibility is with respect to physical accessibility, economic accessibility and non-discrimination of education for all.

**Availability**

According to the African Charter on Human and People’s rights, primary school education must be free and compulsory. In Zimbabwe in general and the study areas in particular children are forced to pay primary school fees. The school fees may be thought to be minimal, however in communities where families struggle to put food on the table, that ‘minimal’ amount is more than the communities can afford. The charging of school fees is a policy violation of the Government of Zimbabwe, as the Education Act [Chapter 25:04] has as one of its obligations that tuition in schools in Zimbabwe should be provided for the lowest possible fees. This policy is in direct violation of the African Charter (of which Zimbabwe is a signatory). The 2005 Dakar Declaration compels all governments to allocate 20% of the national budget to education.  

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11 Zimbabwe Constitution  
12 African Charter on Human and People’s Rights Section 68-71  
13 Dakar Declaration 2005
When discussing the accessibility of education, economic and physical accessibility needs to be considered. The charging of fees for primary schools makes primary education inaccessible financially for many families in Zimbabwe and also negates the gains of compulsory primary school education. The Zimbabwe Constitution speaks about every citizen having the right to a basic State-funded education, a principle that the charging of school fees also violates. The primary schools in the wards selected for the pilot project charge school fees of $20 per pupil per term. The ZimStat poverty datum figure for a family of 5 for the third quarter of 2014 was $613 in Matebeleland North and $477 for Masvingo province. These figures are very high, especially in Matebeleland North, where the most common means of accessing food is subsistence farming since the province is nested in natural regions 4 and 5 and experiences periodic seasonal droughts and severe rainy season dry spells, thereby significantly reducing the production capability of the area.

In Matebeleland North and Masvingo, particularly the Wards under study, education is not physically accessible. The furthest distances of either primary or secondary schools are so high that once the child has spent an hour or more travelling to school, they are so tired that their concentration levels are very low and their performance in school deteriorates. Figure 3 below shows the furthest distances children are forced to travel to the nearest school. In Binga which is a remote area, the distances are as high as 20 kilometres to a secondary school. These extremely high walking distances are a barrier to education.
The availability and accessibility challenges that students in Matebeleland North and Masvingo could be ameliorated if the Government of Zimbabwe would honour continental agreements signed for the improvement of education. Zimbabwe is signatory to the Dakar Declaration of 2005. This declaration compels the Government to allocate 20% of the national budget to education. Figure 4 below illustrates the national budget allocations for 2015.

As the above figure shows, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education has been given an allocation of 19.4% of the total budget. This is almost in fulfilment of the Dakar Declaration for the State, however the bulk of the US$890, 137,000 goes to salaries.
Most under privileged children in Zimbabwe have struggled to access basic education. The government provides assistance under the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) but the assistance is riddled with obstacles including discriminating children whose parents are perceived to belong to opposition political parties. In 2013 the Comptroller and Auditor General discovered that the bundling in relation to this fund resulted in $2million not being used and yet thousands of children needed this assistance.\(^4\)

**Is the State respecting, protecting and fulfilling the Right to Education in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho?**

1. Availability of a basic state funded education, including adult basic education- school fees are charged
2. Accessibility of education - prohibitive fees charged by government schools in the current economic environment and the long distances walked by children to school
3. Acceptability - children should not experience discrimination and the education should be relevant and culturally appropriate for all students

**Recommendations**

- In order for the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to be well resourced to offer basic education, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury should honour the commitments made in the National Budget. Without financial resources to increase the number of schools in areas where children walk long distances to school the State will continue to fail to fulfil its obligation. Furthermore, sufficient resources both financial and human are a pre-requisite for basic education.

\(^4\)The Herald February 9, 2015
Right to Health Care

The right to health simply means that the Government must generate conditions in which everyone can be as healthy as possible. The right to health care in Section 76 reads:

‘(1) every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has the right to have access to basic health-care services, including reproductive health-care services;

(2) every person living with a chronic illness has the right to have access to basic health care services for the illness;

(3) No person may be refused emergency medical treatment in any health-care institution.’

The right to health care is also reinforced in Chapter 2 (National Objectives) of the Constitution, Section 29 on health services, which states:

(1) The State must take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic, accessible and adequate health services throughout Zimbabwe;

(2) The State must take appropriate, fair and reasonable measures to ensure that no person is refused emergency medical treatment at any health institution’

(3) The State must take all preventive measures within the limits of the resources available to it, including education and public awareness programmes, against the spread of disease.\(^\text{15}\)

Under the Dakar Declaration the State has core obligations with respect to the right to health care. These core obligations include ensuring the right of access to health facilities, goods and services on non-discriminatory basis, especially for vulnerable or marginalised groups; ensuring the provision of essential drugs to all those who need them, as periodically defined under the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs, and particularly anti-retroviral drugs; the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive national public health strategy and plan of action; and setting a target of allocating at least 15% of the annual budget to the improvement of the health sector.

On monitoring the fulfilment and protection of the right to health care in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho the indicators considered included the furthest distance between a household in the ward and the nearest health care institution, average consultation fees, average doctor/patient ratio, average nurse/patient ratio, the availability of basic drugs and medication, and the furthest distance between a household and an institution equipped for emergency medical treatment.

The right to health care contains four elements: availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality.

\(^{15} \) Zimbabwe Constitution
**Availability**

Availability is with respect to a sufficient quantity of functioning public health care facilities and, goods and services, as well as programmes.

Monitoring of the fulfilment of the availability of public health care facilities in the above mentioned districts highlighted firstly that all the wards monitored had at least one health facility. Figure 5 below shows the number of health facilities for each ward monitored.

![Figure 5: Number of Health Facilities](image)

Tsholotsho Ward 22 has 2 health facilities, while all the other wards have one health facility. The two health facilities in Tsholotsho Ward 22 are a rural hospital and a district hospital. Ward 7 in Tsholotsho has a rural hospital called Pumula Mission hospital. The population in Ward 7 of Tsholotsho is 4190. Ward 22 has a population of 8682 with 2 health facilities available.

In Binga district the health facilities are sparsely located, Ward 17 and 20 each having one rural health centre. Ward 17 has a population of 10530. Ward 20 on the other hand has a population of 2629 according to the 2012 census. Provision of health services may be available by way of there being a health facility, but in practicality the services are not available due to the large population. Compared to the population the health facilities are inadequate to provide health services to every individual.

Chiredzi Ward 11 has a mission hospital, Chikombedzi Mission Hospital, while Ward 3 has a rural health centre. According to the 2012 Census Ward 3, Chiredzi has a population of 3668, and Ward 11 has a population of 11603 meaning that the rural health centre is supposed to provide health facilities and treatment for the entire ward population.

Another aspect of availability of health services in an area is the number of skilled health personnel or the nurse/patient ratio and the doctor/patient ratio in each health institution. According to the monitoring over the period under review, the medical personnel levels are very low. **Table 2** below illustrating the situation in each ward. In all the wards what is glaring is the absence of Medical Doctors in the listed medical institutions.
Table 2: Number of Doctors and Nurses per Ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. Doctors</th>
<th>No. Nurses</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiredzi Ward 3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiredzi Ward 11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binga Ward 17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binga Ward 20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsholotsho Ward 7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsholotsho Ward 22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessibility

The minimum requirement of accessibility by definition is concerned with health facilities, goods and services being accessible to everyone. Accessibility has overlapping dimensions which include physical and economic accessibility.

Aspects of physical accessibility have already been discussed with respect to the number of health facilities in each ward. However, the monitoring also looked at the furthest distance communities have to travel to the nearest, or only health facility. Figure 6 shows the furthest distances communities travel to the nearest health facility in their area.

Figure 6: Furthest Distance from Nearest Health Facility

As shown in Figure 6, residents in the selected wards have to travel very long distances in order to access health care treatment. It does not seem feasible that any citizen of Zimbabwe would have to walk more than 10km in search of medical attention, especially considering that the citizen would actually be unwell or in pain.

Another aspect of accessibility is economic accessibility, basically looking at the affordability of health services and facilities for the citizens. The monitoring exercise produced actual
figures for consultation fees in the different wards. **Table 3** below shows the consultation fees in the respective wards.

**Table 3: Health Services Consultation Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Average Consultation fee (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiredzi Ward 3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiredzi Ward 11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binga Ward 17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binga Ward 20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsholotsho Ward 7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsholotsho Ward 22</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table shows that there are no consultation fees charged in Chiredzi and Binga. In Tsholotsho the consultation fees may appear to be minimal, but most of the local residents cannot afford these fees.

**The Abuja Declaration**

In April 2001, Heads of State of the African Union met in Abuja and pledged to set a target of allocating at least 15% of their annual budget to improve the health sector. Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Abuja Declaration, and therefore should set 15% of the budget to health care. However, in 2015 the Ministry of Health and Child Care was only allocated 6.6% of the budget (**Figure 4**) a far cry from the stipulations of the Abuja Declaration. The budget allocation is less than half the target set by the Abuja Declaration. The situations prevailing in the wards monitored show that there is urgent need for the Government to comply with the Abuja Declaration in order for the health delivery system to improve and enable every citizen access to basic health care.

**Is the State respecting, protecting and fulfilling the Right to Education in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho?**

1. Availability of health care: the populations of the various wards under review are hardly being catered for in terms of health facilities and adequate personnel
2. Accessibility (physical) of basic health care including reproductive health care services: some citizens have to walk 35km to access a health care facility
3. Affordability: in Tsholotsho a large number of citizens might fail to access basic health care services because the minimal charge is out of their reach
Recommendations

- The Minister of Finance and Treasury should seriously consider increasing budget allocations to the Ministry of Health and Child Care in order to improve accessibility and affordability of health care by citizens.
- The Ministry of Health and Child Care should employ policies and strategies that ensure efficient management of resources in order to improve the quality of services rendered by health institutions.
- The Ministry of Health and Child Care should take stern steps to stop the politicisation of the distribution of food and other aid\(^\text{16}\) (which includes medication for chronic illnesses). Such practices if allowed to take root would see a strain on health facilities.

\(^\text{16}\) ZPP Monthly Reports
The Right to Food

Section 77\(^{17}\) states, ‘every person has the right to sufficient food.’ The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman, boy and girl child, alone or in community with others, has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.\(^{18}\) The right to sufficient food guarantees all people the ability to feed themselves. The African Charter speaks about the right to food as an individual right that is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person.

In interpreting the meaning of the right to food as stated in the Zimbabwe Constitution, the African Charter was utilised. It lays out the core obligations of the State with respect to the right to food:

a) Take the necessary action to guarantee the right of everyone to be free from hunger and to mitigate and alleviate hunger even in times of natural or other disasters;
b) Refrain from and protect against destruction and/or contamination of food sources; and
c) Refrain from using access to food as a political tool to reward supporters, punish opponents or recruit militias.

The minimum requirements which need to be considered when discussing the right to food include dietary needs, cultural or consumer acceptability, free from adverse substances, availability and accessibility. This report shall look at availability and accessibility.

**Availability**

Food should be available in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals. Availability refers to the possibilities either of feeding oneself directly from productive land or other natural resources, or for well-functioning distribution, processing and market systems that can move food from the site of production to where it is needed.

With respect to availability of food, the wards in the districts monitored all practice subsistence farming as their main source of food production and income. The Tsholotsho wards are in natural region 4 and 5, which is a semi-extensive farming region characterised by periodic seasonal drought and severe rainy season dry spells. Natural region 4 is best suited for livestock production, drought resistant crops, forestry and wildlife/tourism. The wards in Chiredzi and Binga are located in natural region 5, an extensive farming region. This region is characterised by too low and erratic rains for even drought resistant fodder and grain crops. Natural region 5 is better suited for extensive cattle ranching, forestry, wildlife or tourism.

Taking into consideration the climate of the wards monitored and the major source of food production in the wards, it becomes clear that the local residents are not able to harvest much from their labours in the fields. According to Fewsnet only 11\% of the total national land area is arable, and the wards under discussion are not included in the arable zone. The local residents of these wards however, continue to rely on subsistence farming for their

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\(^{17}\) Zimbabwe Constitution
\(^{18}\) General Comment 12, CESCR, 1999
livelihoods and food requirements. The following challenges have been cited in food production in the selected wards:

Table 4: Challenges Faced in Subsistence Farming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Binga Ward 17</th>
<th>Binga Ward 20</th>
<th>Chiredzi Ward 3</th>
<th>Chiredzi Ward 11</th>
<th>Tsholotsho Ward 7</th>
<th>Tsholotsho Ward 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erratic rains reduce agriculture productivity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate farming inputs such as seed, draught power and fertilizers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate technical knowledge on farming in regions that often experience erratic rains</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants from Hwange National Park destroy plants in the fields</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants in Gonarezhou</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of the residents of the selected wards in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho are only able to have one meal per day, with some able to have two meals a day. Food is available in the markets; however the means to purchase the food are not there.

**Accessibility**

Accessibility encompasses both economic and physical accessibility. Economic accessibility implies that personal or household financial costs associated with the acquisition of food for an adequate diet should be at a level such that the attainment and satisfaction of other basic needs are not threatened or compromised. As previously discussed under the section on right to education, the poverty datum figures for these districts are high, figures that the ordinary local resident is not able to obtain in any given month, thus making the purchase of food to supplement the food produced economically inaccessible.

In 2014, the prevalence of poverty in Zimbabwe was estimated at 63% with 16% estimated to be in extreme poverty. Poverty is more widespread in rural households (76%) compared to the 38% in the urban areas.  

The UN Human Development Index ranks Zimbabwe very low at 172/186, showing the extent of poverty, which is more notable in rural areas. The Rural Poverty Portal reports that Matebeleland North province has the highest rate of poverty (2010). In addition the UNDP/Oxford Poverty Human Development Initiative rates the worst incidences of poverty in Matebeleland North province (63.5%).

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With respect to physical access the most deficit producing parts of the country in southern and western Zimbabwe are relatively more remote and linked transport infrastructure can be more of a challenge for physical market access.

Is the State respecting, protecting and fulfilling the Right to Education in Binga, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho?

1. Protection of food production systems – elephants in Gonarezhou and Hwange national parks destroying crops in the fields
2. Availability of food to all those in need – the use of food as a political tool to reward supporters
3. Availability in the case of communities facing natural disasters like those affected by the flooding of the Tokwe Mukosi dam as well as in Tsholotsho government has the responsibility to ensure that food is not in short supply
4. Accessibility – food must be accessible both economically affordable and physically available to all citizens

Recommendations

- The State should re-strategize and reconsider its priorities in ensuring food security throughout the regions of Zimbabwe.
- The State should increase citizen participation in planning and implementation of food production
- Government should promote non-partisan distribution of food and agricultural inputs to farmers in order to increase accessibility and affordability by all citizens.

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20ZPP December 2014 report
CONCLUSION

From the above analysis and discussion it is evident that the Government of Zimbabwe is lagging behind in respecting, protecting and fulfilling socio-economic rights: right to water, right to education, right to health care and right to food of the residents of Chiredzi, Tsholotsho and Binga.

The overall recommendation is that the Government of Zimbabwe takes seriously the provisions of the Constitution in Chapter 4 Declaration of Rights in respect of its obligations and responsibilities towards its citizens.