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**2023 NATIONAL GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGET  
STATEMENT**

# Gender Responsive Budgeting

## 1.0 Introduction

Gender is an important consideration in the socio-economic development process of any country as it looks at how social norms and power structures impact on the lives and opportunities available to different groups of men and women that constitute its citizens. Globally, more women live in poverty compared to men on account of socially constructed norms and ideologies which treat women as passive beneficiaries of development.

Understanding these gender relations and the power dynamics behind them is critical for policy makers and implementing agencies to appreciate the impact of political and socio-economic developmental interventions on the different groups including people with disabilities. Compared with men, women control fewer political and economic resources, including land, employment and traditional positions of authority. It is also noted that men and women, boys and girls experience poverty differently, and face different barriers in accessing services, economic resources and political opportunities.

It is, therefore, critical for policy makers and implementing agencies to acknowledge and incorporate these gender inequalities in their planning processes in order to come up with appropriate interventions such as developing gender sensitive policies, designing and implementing gender sensitive programmes/projects and gender sensitive budget programming.

According to the World Development Report (WDR) 2012, it is advisable for Governments to directly target the persistent constraints and obstacles to women's equality (especially in areas of economic empowerment, educational and health gaps, household/societal voice, and violence against women) in order to enhance productivity, and achieve gender equality, sustainable peace as well as inclusive, sustainable socio-economic development.

It was against this background that various Governments including the Government of Zimbabwe adopted Gender Budgeting as a strategy to accelerate mainstreaming of gender through the budgetary process.

A Gender Responsive Budget is a budget that responds to the needs, problems, aspirations and experiences of men and women including people with disabilities, whose goal is to realize gender justice and equality. The process involves undertaking a gender analysis in order to identify the existing gender gaps and the impact of public expenditures and revenue-raising on gender particularly on women and girls as well as incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality.

In addition to promotion of gender equality, the approach also promotes accountability and transparency, sustainable and inclusive growth, when fiscal policies and administrative procedures are structured to address gender inequality.

It is also important to note that it is now a requirement for International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank member countries to report on the extent to which they have embraced gender budget as an approach to promote gender equality and women empowerment. For instance, this current financial year both IMF and World Bank requested the Government to include Gender Budget performance in the Annual Economic Performance Report.

## **2.0 Strategies to Mainstream Gender into the Budgetary Process**

The following are some of the strategies adopted by Governments to facilitate gender mainstreaming through the budget process:

- Mainstreaming gender perspectives into the Public Finance Management process;
- Integrating gender perspectives into budget performance information under Programme Based Budgeting structure, whereby beneficiaries are categorised into gender disaggregated information;
- Categorising budget expenditures and revenue measures/ programmes and projects from a gender perspective;
- Linking gender budgeting and participatory budgeting;
- Tracking financial allocations and expenditures to promote women's rights and gender equality;
- Applying standard gender budgeting tools such as gender aware policy and budget appraisal, gender disaggregated public expenditure and revenue incidence analysis, and gender responsive beneficiary needs assessments; and
- Combining gender budgeting with impact assessments.

Guided by the gender budget framework mentioned above, the following is a profile of the 2022 Budget Performance information and the 2023 budget proposals from a gender perspective

## **3.0 Review of the 2022 National Budget from a Gender Perspective and Proposals for 2023**

The 2022 National Budget provided for **ZWL\$1.7 trillion** towards promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, with **ZWL\$966 billion** disbursed by end of September 2022, representing **56.3 %** of the Revised National Budget.

**Table 1** below provides an overview of the performance of the Gender Budget by category of expenditures and the proposals for 2023.

SUMMARY OF GENDER SENSITIVE EXPENDITURES/PROGRAMMES FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2023			
Type of Programme	2022		2023
	Revised Estimates	Expenditure to September	Appropriation
	ZWL\$	ZWL\$	ZWL\$
Equal Opportunities Expenditure	853.548.270.254	479.124.600.580	2.395.395.542.640
Gender Specific Expenditures	4.780.636.791	2.117.661.705	5.901.104.000
Mainstream Expenditures with 60-95% of the expenditures benefit women, girls and other disadvantaged groups.	857.995.052.702	485.724.151.454	1.520.165.840.003
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.716.323.959.747</b>	<b>966.966.413.739</b>	<b>3.921.462.486.643</b>
<b>National Budget</b>	<b>1.925.805.000.000</b>	<b>1.249.915.077.942</b>	<b>4.188.776.000.000</b>
<b>As a % of National Budget</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>94%</b>

*Source: Budget Estimates Book for 2022 and Treasury Expenditure Outturn Reports*

From the table above gender sensitive programmes under Equal Opportunities expenditures recorded expenditures amounting to **ZWL\$479 billion** against a budgetary provision of **ZWL\$853.5 billion**, representing **56.1%** of the revised budget. The mainstream expenditures recorded an outturn of **ZWL\$474.8 billion** against the original budget of **ZWL\$839.2 billion**, representing **56.6%** of original budget.

The gender specific expenditures recorded an outturn of about **ZWL\$2.1 billion** against a budgetary allocation of **ZWL\$4.78 billion** representing **44.3%** of original budget. The low outturn was on account of capacity constraints within some of implementing agencies.

The 2023 Budget Estimates provides for **ZWL\$3.9 trillion** towards financing of gender sensitive programmes and projects across all sectors, representing **94%** of the total budget. The resources will cover equal opportunity, gender specific and mainstream expenditures that largely benefits women and girls as well as the other disadvantaged groups.

To facilitate effective mainstreaming of gender issues in the budget cycle, Treasury will prioritise disbursement of resources in support of gender sensitive programmes and will institute monitoring mechanisms to track gender budget expenditures on a quarterly basis.

## 4.0 Review of Gender Sensitive Expenditures/Programmes and 2023 Proposals

### 4.1 Equal Opportunity Gender Sensitive Expenditures/Programmes

This refers to budget expenditures for which men and women, boys and girls, able are given equal opportunity to benefit fairly/equally at each level. These expenditures include among others employment costs, institutional provisions, housing development loans, staff development programmes, tools of trade and any other condition of service expenditures.

**Table 2** below provides a summary of expenditures under Equal Opportunities Expenditures by programmes for the period up to September 2022 and proposals for 2023.

Equal Opportunities on Gender Sensitive Expenditures by Programme				
Type of Programme	2022 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure to sept	As % of revised budget	2023 estimates
	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL
Employment costs	832,794,000,000	464,073,437,373	56%	2,022,038,630,000
Training	2,719,394,887	1,117,811,897	43%	10,588,183,964
Institutional provisions	13,153,875,368	10,976,395,863	84%	359,487,728,676
Housing loan scheme	3,350,000,000	2,200,800,000	66%	1,750,000,000
Government Employees Mutual Service Fund	1,281,000,000	508,333,333	40%	1,281,000,000
Solar project support scheme	250,000,000	247,822,114	99%	250,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>853,548,270,254</b>	<b>479,124,600,580</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>2,395,395,542,640</b>

*Source: Budget Estimates Book for 2022 and Treasury Expenditure Outturn Reports*

From the table above the employment costs component received the largest share of the resources availed, with **131 047** female employees (55% of total establishment) benefiting from the resources availed compared to male **108 359** employees. However, **2 671** of the male employees held decision making positions, with only **851** female employees in managerial positions, representing **24 %** of total people in decision making positions.

For the country to achieve gender parity at decision making level in line with Chapter 17 section (i) of the National Constitution, which provides for the State to take all measures, including legislative measures to ensure that both genders are equally represented in all institutions and agencies of

Government at every level, MDAs are encouraged to implement capacity building programmes targeting female employees due for promotion into decision making positions.

The 2023 Budget provides for **ZWL\$2.39 trillion** in support of equal opportunities programmes, representing **57%** of the National Budget. The amount includes employment costs relating to grant aided institutions amounting to **ZWL\$898 billion**. A total of **239 406** employees are set to benefit from these interventions of which **131 407** are female employees, representing **54%** of the total employment.

**Table 3** below provides a gender profile of employees in the civil service.

Gender Profile by category of Employee for the period 2021-2022									
Category	2021			2022					2023 Budget Estimate
	Total people in Post	Number of men	Number of women	Total people in Post	Number of men	Number of women	Revised Budget	Unaudited Expenditures to September :ZWL\$	
							ZWL	ZWL	
Top management	1.840	1.355	485	1.510	1.355	155	3.917.791.780	3.327.113.314	48.708.542.152
Middle	1.258	898	360	2.012	1.316	696	6.034.394.960	4.462.755.994	39.777.182.840
Technical staff	211.800	169.177	42.623	198.400	85.877	112.523	162.797.447.586	162.881.804.667	803.884.265.345
Support staff	34.014	16.811	17.203	37.484	19.811	17.673	26.042.869.096	33.248.538.601	231.953.525.039
<b>Total</b>	<b>248.912</b>	<b>188.241</b>	<b>60.671</b>	<b>239.406</b>	<b>108.359</b>	<b>131.047</b>	<b>198.792.503.422</b>	<b>203.920.212.575</b>	<b>1.124.323.515.377</b>

*Source: Estimates book for 2022 and Treasury expenditure outturn reports*

From the table above it is noted that there is high turnover at top management and technical level with improvements at middle management and support staff.

#### **4.2 Gender Specific Expenditures for Empowerment of Specific Groups**

This refers to budget expenditures that targets a specific gender need for a specific group which belong to either sex such as the Women Development Bank to support women projects, maternal health services, sanitary wear support programme for the girl child, construction of female or male hostels, cervical/ breast cancer or prostate cancer treatment programmes/expenditures.

**Table 4** below provides an overview of the performance of gender specific programmes that sought to empower women and girls.

<b>Gender Specific Expenditures benefiting specific sex groups</b>				
<b>2022</b>				<b>2023 Estimates</b>
<b>Type of Programme</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure to September</b>	<b>As % of Revised Budget</b>	
	<b>ZWL</b>	<b>ZWL</b>	<b>ZWL</b>	
Women Development Bank	1,097,773,000	900,000,000	82%	1,000,000,000
Maternal health care fees	1,120,562,571	791,885,501	71%	1,197,783,000
Breast Cancer Treatment	591,800,000	-	-	1,020,606,000
Cervical Cancer Treatment	484,200,000	-	-	835,041,000
Cervical Cancer Vaccination girls - Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	53,915,000	-	-	92,981,000
Prostate Cancer Treatment	6,278,000	-	-	10,827,000
Female Hostels	96,761,442	74,231,890	77%	111,350,000
Male Hostels	54,231,990	49,567,000	91%	74,351,000
Dedicated sporting arena for	45,114,788	38,776,901	86%	58,165,000
Sanitary wear for primary school children.	1,230,000,000	263,200,413	21%	1,500,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,780,636,791</b>	<b>2,117,661,705</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>5,901,104,000</b>

Source: Budget Estimates for 2022

From the table above, the programme recorded total actual expenditures of **ZWL\$2.1 billion** against a revised budget of **ZWL\$4.78 billion**, representing **44%** of the revised allocation. It is understood that the low expenditure was on account of limited procurement capacity within the MDAs implementing the programmes. The maternal health service component recorded expenditures of **71%** of its revised allocation with **374 717** expecting mothers benefiting from antenatal care services and **315 184** benefiting from hospital deliveries.

A total of **9 104** women and **2 112** men as well as **45** people with disability benefitted from issuance of loans in support of income generating projects under the Women's Bank with disbursements of **ZWL\$900 million** against a revised budget of **ZWL\$1.1 billion**.

From the table above, the 2023 budget targets to support gender specific programmes to the tune of **ZWL\$5.9 billion**, representing an increment of **23%** from the 2022 revised budget.

### 4.3 Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures to Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Disadvantaged Groups

These expenditures refer to programmes/projects for which 60-95% of the expenditures benefit women, girls and persons with disability who have historically been disadvantaged for a long time.

The expenditures/programmes/projects fall under the following categories:

- Agriculture support programmes
- Social sector service delivery programmes
- Health service delivery programmes/projects
- Education service delivery programmes/projects
- Economic empowerment programmes/projects

The mainstream gender budget for 2022 recorded expenditures of **ZWL\$485.7 billion** against revised budget of **ZWL\$858 billion**, representing **56.6%** of the revised budget.

**Table 5** below provides an overview of the mainstream gender sensitive expenditures for the period 2022 -2023.

SUMMARY OF MAINSTREAM EXPENDITURES WITH EXPENDITURES OF 60-95% BENEFITING WOMEN			
Type of Programme	2022		2023
	Revised Estimates	Expenditure to September	Appropriation
	ZWL\$	ZWL\$	ZWL\$
Agriculture Programmes	139.779.102.183	119.339.523.565	128.058.648.000
Social welfare programmes	170.342.000.704	88.191.533.203	174.081.520.003
Health Service Delivery Programmes	153.254.045.575	71.972.712.596	300.878.093.000
Educational programmes	224.391.687.140	113.982.299.195	581.731.492.000
Economic Empowerment programmes	170.228.217.100	92.238.082.895	335.416.087.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>857.995.052.702</b>	<b>485.724.151.454</b>	<b>1.520.165.840.003</b>

Source: Strategic overviews for MDAs

From the table above the agriculture programmes incurred expenditures amounting to **ZWL\$119 billion**, against the revised budget of **ZWL\$139.8 billion** representing **85.4%** of the revised budget. Health service delivery programmes recorded expenditures of **ZWL\$72 billion** against revised budget of **ZWL\$153 billion** representing **47%** of the revised budget.



It is pleasing to note that Government is prioritising agriculture production programmes in disbursing available resources. This demonstrates Government commitment to ensure food security and reduce poverty among its citizens. It also means the current budget provides/support the needs of women as care givers to ensure food security at household level.

In 2023, the budget targets to provide **ZWL\$1.5 trillion** in support of mainstream gender budget expenditures relating to agriculture, health, social welfare, education and economic empowerment programmes. The allocation constitutes **35.7%** of the national budget.

## 5.0 Profile of Mainstream Gender Expenditures by Specific Programme

### 5.1 Gender Sensitive Programmes under Provision of Agriculture Interventions

**Table 6** below provides an overview of the agricultural gender sensitive expenditures for the period 2022-2023.

Mainstream Gender Expenditures under Agriculture for which 60-95% of the Expenditures benefit women.				
2022				2023
Type of Programme	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	As a% of Revised Budget	
<b>Agriculture Programmes</b>				
Agriculture education	3.229.271.000	1.282.750.120	40%	7.074.402.000
Provision of training and extension services	6.459.282.092	6.137.661.058	95%	10.635.114.000
Small holder Irrigation development	9.140.000.000	3.492.158.909	38%	13.620.000.000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18.828.553.092</b>	<b>10.912.570.087</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>31.329.516.000</b>
<b>Vulnerable Agriculture Inputs support programmes.</b>				
o/w Grain production	86.433.000.000	88.600.000.000	103%	65.000.000.000
Cotton production	5.567.000.000	3.400.000.000	61%	12.000.000.000
Animal disease control programme	10.121.996.000	5.514.383.391	54%	19.729.132.000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>120.950.549.092</b>	<b>108.426.953.478</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>96.729.132.000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>139.779.102.183</b>	<b>119.339.523.565</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>128.058.648.000</b>

From the table above, the programmes recorded expenditures of **51%** of the revised budget, with the vulnerable agricultural inputs support programme recording **91%** of the total expenditures.

For 2023 the budget targets to avail **ZWL\$128 billion** towards the agriculture programmes, of which **ZWL\$96,7 billion** is earmarked for climate proof agriculture production programme code named Pfumvudza/Intwasa with the objective to reduce poverty among the vulnerable households and achieving sustainable food security at household level. A total of **900 000** vulnerable households will be targeted, of which **300 000** households are from urban areas.

The programme involves provision of agriculture input seeds, fertilizers and army worm chemicals to vulnerable households to produce cereal and oil seeds crops as well as provision of animal disease control services

The other components supported through the budget includes capacitation of institutions responsible for provision of extension, advisory and training services as well as supporting livestock production programme. The components are set to receive a 2023 budget support of **ZWL\$31,3 billion**.

To ensure the inputs reach out to targeted beneficiaries, the Government will institute measures to track distribution of inputs and collect gender disaggregated performance information under each programme.

## 5.2 Gender Sensitive Programmes under Provision of Social Welfare Services

The 2022 gender sensitive programmes under social service incurred expenditures amounting to **ZWL\$40.3 billion** against the revised budget of **ZWL\$83.6 billion** representing **48%** of the revised allocation. **Table 7** below provides an overview of the gender sensitive programmes under social welfare services.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Social Welfare with 60-95% of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
2022				
Type of Programme	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure to Sept	As % of Revised Budget	2023 Estimate
	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL
Pension Bill	15.210.723.000	11.900.989.274	78%	29.475.603.000
Transport to the general public (zupco)	16.489.220.000	11.775.883.346	71%	3.727.610.000
Basic Education Assistance Module(BEAM) Programme	5.600.000.000	3.113.000.000	56%	23.000.000.000
Children in Difficult Circumstances	300.000.000	300.000.000	100%	1.230.000.000
Harmonised Social Cash Transfer	2.200.000.000	1.600.000.000	73%	9.280.000.000
Support to Disabled Persons	320.000.000	320.000.000	100%	1.214.000.000
Food Deficit Mitigation	2.800.000.000	2.506.000.000	90%	11.300.000.000
Child Care services	14.900.884.000	1.050.000.000	7%	635.000.000
Sustainable Livelihoods	160.000.000	160.000.000	100%	635.000.000
War veterans support	3.380.420.000	1.908.565.508	56%	3.060.648.000
Disability and rehabilitation services, refugees and PVCs	1.461.494.000	320.000.000	22%	3.564.302.000
Transport subsidy for civil servant	1.600.000.000	1.549.606.690	97%	300.000.000
National Social Security Scheme	19.169.769.000	3.826.213.091	20%	2.883.500.000
Victim Friend Court services	89.970.104	61.588.400	68%	184.765.000
Judicial Justice Delivery	4.727.417.000	4.514.403.307	95%	24.909.100.000
Legal Aid Services	155.131.000	49.806.725	32%	517.197.000
Gender Commission operational Budget	464.332.000	197.768.191	43%	1.933.821.000
National documentation registration programme	19.539.842.000	14.815.520.858	76%	11.048.000.000
Human Rights Promotion and Protection	323.065.300	120.304.034	37%	1.923.032.000
Peace and reconciliation services	214.912.000	75.712.960	35%	617.193.000
National Housing Delivery Programme	16.956.191.000	1.538.969.869	9%	12.755.442.003
Water and Sanitation Programme	44.278.630.300	26.487.200.950	60%	29.887.307.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>170.342.000.704</b>	<b>88.191.533.203</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>174.081.520.003</b>

From the table above, the water and sanitation programme recorded expenditures of **60%** against the revised budget of **ZWL\$44.3 billion**. On the other hand, national documentation registration programme recorded expenditures of **ZWL\$14.8 billion** representing **76%** of the revised allocation. However, the national housing delivery programme incurred expenditures of **9%** on account of capacity constraints owing to shortage of critical skilled manpower.

The above programmes are set to receive budget support amounting to **ZWL\$174.1 billion** representing **4%** of the 2023 National Budget.

### 5.3 Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Health Service Delivery

This refers to gender sensitive expenditures under Health Service Delivery programmes with 60-95% of the expenditures for which the majority of the beneficiaries are either women, girls or men and boys as well as persons living with disability.

**Table 8** below provides an overview of the specific programmes under health service delivery for the period 2022-2023.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Health with 60-95% of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
Type of Programme	2022			2023 Estimates
	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure to Sept	As % of Revised Budget	
	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL
<b>Health Service Delivery Programmes</b>				
Policy and Administration	10,009,964,000	1,836,061,588	18%	23,287,516,000
Public Service Medical Aid Services	23,819,313,000	8,147,281,767	34%	6,566,000,000
Public Health Services	20,440,654,890	11,081,248,716	54%	32,956,433,000
Health Assistance	220,000,000	214,800,000	98%	1,100,000,000
Curative services	98,754,766,672	50,686,086,471	51%	236,957,294,000
Beautician clinics in Higher and Tertiary Institutions	9,347,013	7,234,054	77%	10,850,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,254,045,575</b>	<b>71,972,712,596</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>300,878,093,000</b>

From the table above, gender sensitive health expenditures recorded expenditures around **ZWL\$72 billion** against the Revised Budget of **ZWL\$153.3 billion**, with curatives recording expenditures of **ZWL\$50.7 billion** against revised allocation of **ZWL\$98.8 billion**, representing **51%** of the revised allocation. It is noted that low expenditures were on account of the need to conduct value for money assessments before payment.

It is however important to note that the Government is complying with the Abuja Declaration requirement to allocate at least **15%** of budgetary resources towards health though poor performance has been observed in relation to expenditures incurred. In view of the need to increase the public health expenditure per capita from **US\$30** to **US\$86** by 2025 in line with the NDS1 target, Treasury will institute measures to track health expenditures on a regular/monthly basis as well as capacitate the Ministry to utilise budget resources allocated.

#### 5.4 Gender Sensitive Educational Expenditures in Support of Gender Equality

**Table 9** below provides a summary of gender sensitive educational expenditures, with expenditures totalling **ZWL\$114 billion** incurred up to September 2022 against a revised allocation of **ZWL\$224.4 billion**, representing **51%** of the revised allocation.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Education with 60-95% of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
Type of Programme	2022			2023 Estimates
	Revised Budget	Actual expenditure to Sept	As % of Revised budget	
	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL	ZWL
Support towards infant education	32,891,529,000	18,881,586,102	57%	98,199,968,000
Support towards Junior education	100,656,033,000	51,312,648,851	51%	242,327,562,000
School feeding programme	2,224,000,000	81,663,838	4%	2,800,000,000
Support towards secondary education	69,526,344,000	36,055,777,813	52%	185,350,377,000
Support towards learner support services for disadvantaged children	4,565,907,000	1,688,790,435	37%	24,165,333,000
National Scholarship Programme	1,194,758,150	1,170,211,150	98%	2,500,000,000
ICT Lab per school	2,623,000,000	1,590,668,185	61%	1,455,400,000
ZIMSEC Examination support	9,362,000,000	2,861,557,065	31%	21,000,000,000
Children in Difficult Circumstances	300,000,000	300,000,000	100%	1,230,000,000
Teacher training services	1,026,551,000	24,161,082	2%	2,680,000,000
ECD teacher training	21,564,990	15,234,674	71%	22,852,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,391,687,140</b>	<b>113,982,299,195</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>581,731,492,000</b>

**Source: Strategic Overviews from Ministries, Departments and Agencies**

The low expenditures recorded are on account of procurement capacity constraints within the Ministry following the introduction of the value for money exercise on any purchases. The 2023 National Budget provides for **ZWL\$581.7 billion** in support of gender sensitive educational programmes up from **ZWL\$224.4 billion**, representing an increment of **159%** from the previous allocation. Of importance to note is that **ZWL\$45.2 billion** is directed towards supporting disadvantaged children with school fees under BEAM and ZIMSEC Examination fees support.

The proposed interventions demonstrate Government's commitment towards provision of free education for all school going ages.

## 5.5 Gender Sensitive Mainstream Expenditures under Economic Empowerment Programmes

Table 10 below provides a summary of gender sensitive economic empowerment expenditures, with expenditures totalling **ZWL\$92.2 billion** incurred up to September 2022 against a revised allocation of **ZWL\$170.2 billion**, representing **54%** of the revised allocation.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Economic Empowerment, with 60-95 % of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
2022				2023 Budget Estimate
Type of Programme	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure to Sept	As % of Revised budget	
<b>Economic Empowerment programmes</b>				
Constituency Development Fund – rural infrastructure development	4.700.000.000	1.600.000.000	34%	2.400.000.000
Road Infrastructure Development	89.578.606.000	62.294.560.484	70%	107.253.276.000
Devolution programme	52.539.000.100	17.202.839.856	33%	193.122.540.000
Youth development support programme	3.232.620.000	2.373.031.656	73%	5.455.404.000
Support to the Gender machinery i.e the Minis	178.198.000	38.070.218	21%	538.677.000
Upgrading of rural roads and bridges, borehole drilling and small dam construction and irrigation development.	4.866.000.000	3.774.838.000	78%	2.485.333.000
Small Medium Enterprise and Cooperative Development Programme	1.529.402.000	1.184.026.590	77%	4.757.131.000
Trade promotion and development	710.061.000	196.282.130	28%	906.520.000
Consumer Protection services	612.557.000	159.736.030	26%	4.696.611.000
Community development fund	196.883.000	85.000.000	43%	125.000.000
Community Information Centres	60.000.000	39.926.082	67%	174.648.000
Youth empower bank	1.700.000.000	1.100.000.000	65%	250.000.000
Mining Industry Loan Fund	248.632.000	198.632.000	80%	520.000.000
Women empowerment, Gender mainstreaming and Community Development	3.212.445.000	1.332.039.849	41%	6.730.947.000
Rural Electrification Programme	2.700.000.000	219.700.000	8%	1.000.000.000
Zambezi River Authority	1.450.000.000	219.700.000	15%	2.000.000.000
Support to Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority	1.450.000.000	219.700.000	15%	3.000.000.000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>170.228.217.100</b>	<b>92.238.082.895</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>335.416.087.000</b>

Programmes under the Economic Empowerment category recorded expenditures around **54%** of the revised allocation, with the programme such as the upgrading of rural roads and bridges, borehole drilling and small dam construction and irrigation development receiving **78%** of the revised allocation.

Most of the programme cited above significantly contribute towards rural development, where the majority of the women reside. It is recommended that MDAs prioritise disbursement of resources towards these programmes as they have huge potential to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

## **6.0 Policy Measures to Strengthen Gender Budget Mainstreaming**

To facilitate effective mainstreaming of gender through the budgetary process, Treasury with the support of UN Women, capacitated six pilot Ministries in gender responsive budgeting. In 2023, Treasury targets to extend capacity building programme to the remaining MDAs.

MDAs on their part, plan to embark on both gender awareness and capacity building in gender mainstreaming.

To promote effective mainstreaming of gender into economic policy and budgetary process, it is proposed that gender mainstreaming be part of the performance contract for Accounting Officers.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

It is noted with great appreciation that MDAs are embracing the need to be gender sensitive in their expenditure programming as the interventions will enable the country to achieve its gender equality commitments as enshrined in the National Constitution and the SDGs.

It is also worth noting that Government's decision to embrace gender budgeting in terms of the production of the Gender Budget Statement has significantly contributed to the rating of the country under the Open Budget Survey. The improvement in the rating also contributed to the credibility of the National Budget.