



**2024 NATIONAL GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGET
STATEMENT**

1. Introduction

Financing for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

As part of its obligation to account for its commitments towards achieving gender equality and women empowerment through the budgetary process, Treasury takes this opportunity to present the gender perspective of the 2024 budgetary process for appreciation by its citizens. This requirement is in line with the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as NDS1's policy thrust of not leaving anyone and no place behind.

The analysis is necessary, given the historical proof that gender budgeting presents huge opportunities for increased contribution towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development, strengthening collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data for closing gender gaps, as well as increasing both accountability and transparency in the utilisation of public resources.

In this regard, inclusive participation in the budget process, budget allocations and actual expenditures, as well as availability of gender disaggregated data for beneficiaries of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes are used as key indicators to measure budget performance from a gender perspective.

- Guided by the framework mentioned above, the following is the analysis of the 2023 and 2024 budgetary processes from a gender perspective.
- To facilitate integration of gender equality and women empowerment issues in the 2023 and 2024 Budgetary process, Treasury issued two gender sensitive Budget Call Circulars directing MDAs to mainstream gender and women empowerment issues in their strategic plans and budget proposal for integration into the macro-economic framework.
- The First Budget Call Circular directed MDAs to ensure inclusive participation of all key stakeholders in their 2024 strategic planning processes focusing on identification of the gender issues for consideration in the budget formulation and development of a costed gender mainstreaming strategy paper for incorporation into the budget framework.
- The Second Budget Call Circular directed MDAs to develop and submit their Gender Responsive Budget Statement (GBS) proposals covering the gender budget performance for the year 2022, 2023 and provisional allocations for the year 2024 for consolidation into the National Gender Responsive Budget Statement for presentation to Parliament.
- A total of 31 MDAs out of 39 submitted their GBS proposals for consolidation into the 2024 National Gender Budget Statement, representing 79% of all MDAs. It is, therefore,

important to note that MDAs' compliance with the Budget Call Circulars is still a challenge and requires intensive training in gender budgeting.

2. Overview of the National Gender Sensitive Expenditures.

Following the submission and discussion of the MDAs' Gender Budget Statements in November 2023, Treasury consolidated them into a National Gender Budget Statement guided by the Gender Budgeting Guidelines issued in 2021. The process involved mapping of the Estimates of Expenditure into three categories of gender sensitive expenditures as outlined below:

i. Equal Opportunity Gender Sensitive Expenditures/ Programmes

This refers to budget expenditures for which men and women, boys and girls, 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.

ii. Gender Specific Expenditures

Refers to expenditures that are unique to a specific gender group such as breast, cervical and prostate cancers, maternal

health care services, construction of female hostels, affirmative action for the girl child or women.

iii. Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures

These expenditures refer to programmes/projects for which 60–95% of the expenditures benefit women, girls and persons living with disability who have historically been disadvantaged for a long time. Such expenditures include, among others, agriculture inputs support programmes targeting the rural farmers, social, health and education service delivery programmes, rural infrastructure development and financial inclusion programmes as well as economic empowerment programmes.

iv. Gender Sensitive Expenditure Developments for 2023 and Allocations for 2024

The 2023 National Budget recorded gender sensitive expenditures amounting to Z\$3.5 trillion, against a revised budget provision of Z\$2.4 trillion, representing 28% of the total budget outturn of Z\$12.4 trillion, with the 2024 National Budget providing resources for gender sensitive programmes amounting to Z\$27 trillion, representing 45% of the total budget of Z\$59.5 trillion. The low expenditure outturn for gender sensitive expenditures is on account of competing demands

on the fiscus such as harmonised elections and pressure from civil servants for improved conditions of service.

Table 1 below provides the distribution of the actual gender sensitive expenditures for 2023 and the 2024 provisional allocations by category of expenditure.

SUMMARY OF GENDER SENSITIVE EXPENDITURES/PROGRAMMES FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2023 and 2024				
	2022 Actual Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Expenditure to September	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Equal Opportunities Expenditure	915.196	2.288.713	3.520.625	26.086.787
Gender Specific Expenditures	3.370	9.645	8.193	45.594
Mainstream Expenditures with 60-95% of the expenditures benefit women, girls and other disadvantaged groups.	31.425	96.074	49.989	771.975
Total	949.991	2.394.432	3.578.807	26.904.355

From the table above, the mainstream gender sensitive expenditures received in 2023 disbursements amounting to Z\$50 billion, with equal opportunities expenditures getting Z\$3.5 trillion, whilst gender specific expenditure recorded the lowest outturn of Z\$8.2 billion. It, therefore, means that the gender budget programmes performed below expectation on account of other competing demands highlighted above.

For the year 2024 equal opportunities expenditures were allocated Z\$26 trillion, followed by mainstream expenditures which received Z\$772 billion and the gender specific

expenditures received Z\$46 billion. All in all, the gender sensitive expenditures were allocated Z\$26 trillion, representing 43% of the 2024 total Budget.

The following is an analysis of each category of expenditures;

v. *Equal Opportunity Gender Sensitive Expenditures/ Programmes*

Table 2 below shows the distribution of equal opportunities expenditures incurred in 2023 and allocations for 2024 by programme.

Equal Opportunities on Gender Sensitive Expenditures by Programme				
Type of Programme	2022 Actual expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual Expenditure to Sept	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Employment costs	863.678	2.199.663	3.343.175	24.720.839
Training	8.400	3.700	3.500	443.000
Institutional provisions	39.000	79.100	168.700	913.000
Housing loan scheme	2.500	4.500	3.000	4.000
Government Employees Mutual Service Fund	1.370	1.500	1.125	4.107
Solar project support scheme	248	250	1.125	1.841
Total	915.196	2.288.713	3.520.625	26.086.787

From the table above, employment costs received the highest share of the equal opportunities' expenditures benefiting 283 824 civil servants, of which, 161 311 of them are women, representing 57% of the total number of people in post.

Table 3 below shows the gender profile of civil servants by grade for the period 2021 to 2023

Gender Profile by category of Employee for the period 2021–2023									
Category	2021			2022			2023		
	Total people in Post	Number of men	Number of women	Total people in Post	Number of men	Number of women	Total people in Post	Number of men	Number of women
Top management	1.840	1.355	485	1.510	1.355	155	1.758	1.493	265
Middle management	1.258	898	360	2.012	1.316	696	2.438	1.590	848
Technical staff	211.800	169.177	42.623	198.400	85.877	112.523	233.390	90.719	142.671
Support staff	34.014	16.811	17.203	37.484	19.811	17.673	46.238	28.711	17.527
Total	248.912	188.241	60.671	239.406	108.359	131.047	283.824	122.513	161.311

It is important to note that, out of 4196 public sector employees in decision making positions in 2023, about 1 113 were women, showing an increase of female managers from 851 in 2022. This demonstrates Government’s commitment to achieve gender balance in decision making positions by 2030.

As at 31 September, the gender gap in decision making positions stood at 23% in favour of men and this calls for MDAs to capacitate female employees to qualify for appointment in decision making positions.

However, the gender gap between female and male employees at technical level, is in favour of women, whilst at all the other grades the gender gap is in favour of male counterparts. Overall, the civil service is dominated by female employees giving a gender gap of 7% in favour of women. This may be on account of brain drain at technical level by male employees looking for greener pastures.

vi. Gender Specific Expenditures

The 2023 National Budget recorded an outturn of Z\$8.2 billion for gender specific expenditures, against a budget allocation of Z\$9.6 billion. Of the amount availed in 2023, the Women Empowerment Bank recorded expenditures of Z\$5.3 billion against budget allocation of Z\$3 billion. With maternal health recording expenditures of Z\$1.2 billion, benefitting about 452 705 expecting mothers. This also shows Government's commitment towards empowerment of women to reduce gender-based violence and early child marriages.

For the year 2024, Government targets to scale up support towards gender specific expenditures from Z\$9 billion to Z\$46 billion, with the objective to achieve SDGs and NDS1 objectives.

Details regarding gender specific expenditures are presented in the **Table 4** below.

Gender Specific Expenditures benefiting specific sex groups				
Type of Programme	2022 Actual Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual Expenditure to September	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Women Development Bank	1.700	3.000	5.305	10.000
Maternal health care fees	1.001	4.191	1.250	11.018
Cancer Treatment	-	255	65	676
Male Hostels (Bindura University)	135	700	500	8.400
Sanitary wear for primary school children.	535	1.500	1.073	15.500
Total	3.370	9.645	8.193	45.594
Source: Budget Estimates for 2023				

From table above the maternal health care services was allocated Z\$11 billion for the benefit of disadvantaged expecting mothers and the sanitary wear for primary school children received an allocation of Z\$15.5 billion, whilst women economic empowerment programmes received an allocation of Z\$10 billion, as part of the capitalisation of the Women Development Bank.

It is important to note that economic empowerment of women contributes towards reduction in gender-based violence and the allocations towards economic empowerment component demonstrates Government's commitment to reduce gender-based violence among its citizens.

vii. Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures

The mainstream gender expenditures recorded an outturn of Z\$1.8 trillion, against the revised budget of Z\$1.1trillion, representing 15% of overall budget outturn. The resources were directed towards health, social protection and education service delivery programmes as well as capacitation of smallholder farmers comprising A1 and communal farmers with irrigation and inputs support services to ensure food security at household level.

Table 5 below provides an overview of level of support for each specific programme.

SUMMARY OF MAINSTREAM EXPENDITURES WITH EXPENDITURES OF 60-95% BENEFITING WOMEN				
	2022 Actual Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Expenditure to September	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Agriculture Programmes	330.193	139.987	293.263	877.175
Social welfare programmes	136.890	408.534	774.381	4,340.152
Health Service Delivery Programmes	95.604	432.777	363.092	3,937.642
Educational programmes	31.425	96.074	49.989	771.975
Economic Empowerment programmes	14.344	49.607	294.803	1,077.049
Total	608.455	1,126.979	1,775.528	11,003.992

From the table above, the social protection component received 39% of the total support under the category, followed by health service delivery programme which received 36% of the resource envelop and the education service delivery component receiving only 7%, with economic empowerment component is getting 10% of the total resources allocated.

This demonstrates Government commitment towards ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in support of the NDS1 policy of “Living no one and no place behind” mantra.

The following is a profile of mainstream gender sensitive expenditures by specific programme:

viii. Agriculture Gender Sensitive Expenditures

Table 6 below provides an overview of agriculture gender sensitive expenditures for the period 2022 to 2024.

Mainstream Gender Expenditures under Agriculture for which 60-95% of the Expenditures benefit women.				
Type of Programme	2022 actual Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual Expenditure to September	2024 Appropriation budget
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Agriculture Programmes				
Agriculture education	2.212	7.074	8.241	44.976
Provision of training and extension services	17	108	48	400
Small holder Irrigation development	2.765	8.000	12.569	17.850
Subtotal	4.994	15.182	20.857	63.226
Vulnerable Agriculture Inputs support programmes.				
o/w Grain production	164.431	104.455	238.600	600.000
Cotton production	3.415	1.000	-	1.500
Animal disease control programme	162.347	34.532	54.663	275.675
Subtotal	330.193	139.987	293.263	877.175
Total	330.193	139.987	293.263	877.175

From the table above, the grain and oil seeds production programme received 69% of the resources allocated, with the objective to ensure food security at household level, whilst the animal disease control component received 31% in order to contain disease outbreaks such as January disease for the benefit of rural livestock farmers.

The smallholder irrigation development programme received support amounting to Z\$18 billion for rehabilitation of smallholder irrigation schemes with the objective to mitigate against the negative impact of the envisaged El- Nino induced weather phenomenon in 2024.

ix. ***Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Social Welfare Service Delivery***

The social welfare service delivery programme incurred expenditures amounting to Z\$839 billion, against revised budget of Z\$445 billion, representing 7% of total outturn.

Table 7 below provides overview of the gender sensitive programmes under social welfare services delivery.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Social Welfare with 60-95% of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
Type of Programme	2022 Actual Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual Expenditure to Sept	2024 Revised budget
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Pension Bill	31.275	277.498	545.978	2.704.592
Transport to the general public (zupco)	17.792	12.000	89.130	244.646
Basic Education Assistance Module(BEAM) Programme	4.413	86.971	23.000	605.088
Children in Difficult Circumstances	14.000	911	1.230	20.000
Harmonised Social Cash Transfer	7.604	4.710	9.280	319.605
Support to Disabled Persons	674	1.340	1.964	45.395
Food Deficit Mitigation	11.970	1.189	12.100	100.000
Child Care services	20	430	430	7.000
Sustainable Livelihoods	393	630	635	10.000
War veterans support	2.653	618	551	64.871
Disability and rehabilitation services, refugees and PVCs	851	4.064	3.297	75.909
Transport subsidy for civil servant	2.132	4.200	67.241	64.871
Judicial service delivery	9.858	34.888	63.136	258.026
Human rights protection	229	1.981	2.313	17.025
National Social Security Scheme	885	13.248	16.789	35.947
Water and Sanitation Programme	42.228	726	2.756	42.228
Total	146.977	445.403	839.830	4.615.203

From the table above, the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) programme recorded expenditures of Z\$23 billion which was equivalent to original budget. The resources availed were directed towards clearance of arrears incurred in 2022. As at 30 September 2023, the allocation was reviewed upwards to Z\$87 billion for clearance of outstanding payments for the year 2023. The intervention in 2023 so far has benefited 1.5 million students, of which 900 000 are female students.

For the year 2024, Government has made a provisional allocation of Z\$605 billion under BEAM in support of disadvantaged children in both rural and urban areas.

To reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women related to water and sanitation programmes, resources amounting to Z\$42 billion have been provided in the budget for 2024 for drilling and installation of boreholes, as well as construction of sanitary facilities.

To mitigate the negative impact of El-Nino induced drought on the availability of food for the disadvantaged groups, Government has set aside resources amounting to Z\$100 billion for procurement of grain for distribution to the vulnerable groups. The intervention is expected to benefit 1.2 million vulnerable households, of which 900 000 households are from rural areas and 300 000 from urban areas.

To ensure social security for retirees from the public service, resources amounting to Z\$2 trillion have been allocated towards the 2024 pension bill.

To allow disadvantaged people particularly women and the girl child to enjoy human rights protection and access to justice, resources amounting to Z\$17 billion and Z\$258 billion were allocated to the Human Rights Commission and the Judicial Service Commission, respectively.

x. Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Health Service Delivery

The programme incurred expenditures of Z\$363 billion in 2023, against Z\$432 billion, representing 84% of the amount allocated in 2023. The resources were mainly utilised for curative and prevention services and in 2024 the programme received financial support amounting to Z\$3.9 trillion.

Table 8 below provides an overview of the Gender specific programmes under Health Service Delivery for the period 2022 to 2024.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Health with 60-95% of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
Type of Programme	2022 actual Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual Expenditure to Sept	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Health Service Delivery Programmes				
Policy and Administration	8.389	51.354	42.191	593.719
Public Service Medical Aid Services	20.859	36.409	44.157	315.785
Public Health Services	8.403	20.613	9.054	98.122
Curative services	57.837	322.204	266.274	2.918.083
Bio-Medical Engineering ,Bio Medical Science ,Phamaceticals and Bio Phamaceutical	115	2.197	1.416	11.933
Total	95.604	432.777	363.092	3.937.642

From the table above, the curative service received 74% of the amount allocated under the programme in 2024.

xi. Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Educational Service Delivery

The gender sensitive expenditures under education service delivery programme recorded expenditures amounting to Z\$50 billion in support of education and training from early childhood to tertiary level, against a revised budget of Z\$96 billion. The low expenditure outturn was on account of capacity constraints to spend resources availed at primary level. The allocations for 2024 stood at Z\$772 billion, of which primary education received an allocation of Z\$107 billion, with infant education receiving Z\$50 billion for procurement of teaching material and infrastructure development.

It is worth noting that support extended under infant education has significant contribution towards reducing the burden of unpaid work on women in terms of looking after the young children and therefore, creates time for women to actively participate in other economic mainstream activities of the economy. In this regard, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education is encouraged to scale up and prioritise investment in infant education.

Table 9 below provides an overview of gender sensitive educational expenditures covering period 2022-2024

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Education with 60-95% of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
Type of Programme	2022 Actual expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual expenditure to Sept	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Support towards infant education	2.214	4.589	3.032	49.877
Support towards Junior education	990	6.707	5.619	77.082
School feeding programme	72	2.800	1.778	30.000
Support towards secondary education	1.246	6.001	2.929	72.548
Psychological services	13	20.000	1.230	24.510
Special needs education	37	435	837	11.800
National Scholarship Programme	0	2.700	9.079	25.000
Higher education	1.206	3.067	3.908	78.748
Tertiary education	943	16.409	16.409	132.411
ICT Lab per school	2.542	1.455	3.938	50.000
ZIMSEC	20.762	31.000	0	200.000
Children in Difficult Circumstances	1.400	911	1.230	20.000
Total	31.425	96.074	49.989	771.975

Source: Strategic Overviews from Ministries, Departments and Agencies

From the table above, resources in support of students' access to education stood at Z\$255 billion covering provision of grade seven examination fees, scholarship and food assistance to vulnerable households. The proposed interventions demonstrate Government commitment to provide universal education to all school going ages.

xii. Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Economic Empowerment Programmes

Table 10 below provides a summary of gender sensitive economic empowerment expenditures, with expenditures totalling Z\$298 billion incurred up to September 2023 showing commitment by Government to promote inclusive participation

of women, men, boys and girls in the economic development process.

The intervention has benefited 1 694 people, out of which, 1 423 were women and 271 men in 2023.

Mainstream Gender Sensitive Expenditures under Economic Empowerment, with 60-95 % of the Expenditures benefiting Women and Girls				
Type of Programme	2022 Expenditure to December	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actual Expenditure to Sept	2024 Appropriation
	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million	Z\$million
Economic Empowerment programmes				
Constituency Development Fund – rural infrastructure development	2.564	16.513	2.011	50.000
RIDA(Water and sanitation support)	650	3.250	641	29.338
RIDA(Road infrastructure support)	3.591	4.450	71.377	50.000
Road Infrastructure Development	4.241	7.700	71.377	441.937
Devolution programme	754	8.050	14.182	16.000
Small Medium Enterprise and Cooperative Development Programme	24	951	1.269	8.996
Consumer Protection commission	233	2.203	2.062	10.000
Community development fund	160	330	1.330	3.901
Youth empower bank	1.700	3.200	3.200	13.100
Mining Industry Loan Fund	50	0	0	700
Women empowerment, Gender mainstreaming and Community Development	171	789	2.693	11.572
Rural Electrification Programme	0	0	120.551	409.125
SMEDCO	1.700	3.000	1.500	10.000
National handcraft centre	3	0	2.305	5.000
Women development fund	203	370	1.384	10.000
Support to Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority	0	2.000	2.122	20.480
Subtotal	16.044	52.807	298.003	1.090.149

The table above shows that the rural development component received support amounting to Z\$491 billion, with SMEs getting an allocation of Z\$9 billion, women empowerment receiving Z\$10 billion.

In addition, the rural electrification programme received an allocation of Z\$409 billion in order to promote smart energy

supplies to rural communities and to create opportunities for women to establish their own business enterprises.

To achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth, Government has availed Z\$5 billion in support of people living with disability to establish the national handcraft centre in order to create decent and modern space for them to market their products.

3. Policy Measures to Strengthen Gender Budget Mainstreaming

To facilitate effective integration of gender in both the planning and budgetary processes, MDAs are urged to institutionalise gender mainstreaming throughout the budget cycle and build capacity in analysing and implement gender sensitive programmes.

To promote accountability on gender equality and women empowerment commitments, arrangements are underway to integrate the gender perspective into the PFM Act or the budget law.

In addition, to promote effective mainstreaming of gender into economic policy and budgetary processes, MDAs are now required to submit mid-term progress gender budget monitoring reports to Treasury for appreciation and presentation

to Parliament as part of the Mid Term Fiscal Policy Review Statement.

4. Conclusion

In order for Government to achieve gender equality and economic empowerment in line with the agreed national, regional and international gender equality and women empowerment performance targets, MDAs in consultation with their stakeholders are required to develop gender mainstream strategies which are costed, as well as prioritise implementation of the budgeted programmes. They are also required to collect gender disaggregated data regarding the beneficiaries of their programmes in order to assist in identifying the gender gaps.