

Gender Links Zimbabwe began operations in 2012. From 2021, the GL Zimbabwe Office has transitioned into the regional hub for country offices. GL Zimbabwe manages and provides support to GL country operations in five countries. In 2021, GL Zimbabwe conducted the following activities:

- Held 89 events with 3533 people, 2122 women and 1431 men.
- Supported the Women in Local Government Forum (WLGf) to successfully lobby for a 30% local government quota which has been passed into law through the Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 2.
- The Zimbabwe Women's Parliamentary Caucus was instrumental in the awarding of the 30% quota at local Government.
- Held follow up meetings in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, ZWPC, WLGf with the Attorney General's Office, and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission unpack legal modalities and operationalisation of the local government quota.
- Participated in the Regional SADC Protocol@Work Summit which coincided with the GL 20th anniversary celebrations. Zimbabwe emerged as the best overall country with 13 awards.
- Conducted gender-responsive meetings in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works with local authorities.
- Enhanced learning and sharing between councils and partners through the hub and spoke, TRACE, Jo Cox, and programmes. These included face to face meetings, study visits, community dia-

logues and youth/junior councillors' mentorship.

- Conducted project closeout meetings with all hub and spoke councils, strengthening ownership of the hub and spoke programme.
- Strengthened and nurtured relationships with existing and new partners including the ZWPC, Silveira House, International Centre for Local Democracy, National Junior Councillors Association of Zimbabwe.
- Conducted capacity building workshops for junior councillors in partnership with the National Junior Councillors Association.

GL has a vibrant Monitoring and Evaluation system that enables the collection of data. The data revealed the following:

- **Women's political representation and participation:** Women constitute 14% of councillors in Zimbabwe. Women also make up 13% of mayors/chairpersons of council and 32% of deputy mayors/chairpersons of councils. Only 85 female councillors chair committees of council.
- **Gender-responsive budgeting:** Zimbabwe's councils allocated 95 million USD to gender programmes in 2020, though Gender Responsive Budgeting is an area where local authorities need to improve.
- **Infrastructure and social development:** 14% of women were allocated housing. Councils are allocating land and housing on a first come, first serve basis. Given the economic barriers that women have in accessing funds to buy stands, there are very few women on the housing waiting lists of councils.



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ZIMBABWE



Women in Local Government Forum at a Women's Dialogue to discuss the legal modalities of the local government quota.

Photo by Tapiwa Zvaraya