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ZIMBABWE

2021 Social Protection
Budget Brief



2021 Social Protection Budget Brief

Key Messages and Recommendations

- ❖ **Poverty is widespread in Zimbabwe. The extremely poor population increased from 30% in 2017 to 38% in 2019. However, Zimbabwe spends only 0.4% of GDP on social protection, which is far less than 1.5% of GDP regional average for Sub-Saharan Africa.** *Increasing social protection spending to at least the level of its regional comparators is critical to reduce the vulnerability and deprivation among the poorest.*
- ❖ **While the proportion of the population that benefits from at least one social assistance programme increased from 16% in 2017 to 37% in 2019, coverage remains low. More than half of the extremely poor people does not receive any support.** *Enhancing coverage of social protection programmes is critical in reducing poverty and deprivation, and in bolstering equity, social inclusion, and access to basic social services.*
- ❖ **The MoPSE was allocated more than 50% of the US\$115.1 million 2021 total non-contributory social protection budget.** *Strengthening implementation capacity of the MoPSE is critical to boost overall social protection budget execution, particularly considering that only 30% of the non-contributory social protection resources allocated to the education sector was utilised in 2020.*
- ❖ **The administrative budget (employment costs and operations) for social protection under the MoPSLSW is only 5% which is inadequate to ensure effective coordination and smooth implementation of social assistance programmes.** *Government needs to consider putting more resources towards coordination and administration of programmes to support social assistance delivery.*
- ❖ **With only 2% of total social protection spending going towards supporting Persons with Disabilities, implementing provisions of the recently launched National Disability Policy will be negatively affected. Without adequate resources, it is highly unlikely that the country will achieve the intended goals of the Policy which includes, among others, addressing marginalization and discrimination of Persons with Disabilities.** *Government must increase public financing on social protection from 2% to the percentage required to adequately provide for the Persons with Disabilities.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The budget brief gives a snapshot of 2021 budget allocations to non-contributory social protection programmes. Specifically, it analyzes the size and composition of the approved budget and provides some insights on issues related to efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and adequacy of current and past spending. In summary the brief seeks to provide answers to the following key questions: How much does Zimbabwe spend on social protection, in absolute and relative terms? How does this compare to regional comparator countries? How has social protection spending changed over time? What is the composition of social protection spending in terms of the main spending categories indicated in the budget? The brief also gives an analysis on budget execution and how the budget is financed. In terms of scope, the budget brief looks at non-contributory social assistance programmes.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE SECTOR

2.1 Legislative and Institutional Framework

Section 30 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe obligates the State to take all practical measures, within the limits of the resources available, to provide social security and social care to those in need. In addition, there is a broad array of statutes, policies, and guidelines which further give effect to this constitutional provision. These include, but are not limited to, Social Welfare Assistance Act (Chapter 17:06), Disabled Persons Act (Chapter 17:10), Older Persons Act, Children's Act and the Education Amendment Act.

The National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) of 2016 defines social protection as a set of interventions purposed to reduce social and economic risk and vulnerability, and alleviate poverty and deprivation. These interventions range from social assistance, social insurance, labour market interventions, and programmes aimed at supporting livelihoods and building resilience. Zimbabwe's social assistance programmes include: the Harmonised Social Cash Transfer (HSCT), Cash for Food and Public Assistance Programmes that provide cash transfers to households; Food Deficit Mitigation (FDM) and School Feeding Programmes providing in-kind food rations to households and children at school respectively; Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), Tuition Grants, and Assisted Medical Treatment Order (AMTO) that provided fee waivers for accessing education and health services. These interventions aim to support individuals and households to cope with chronic poverty, destitution, and vulnerability, as well as to enhance their resilience and create equal life-long opportunities. In addition, the Zimbabwe also has a crop input support programme to support vulnerable households¹ and the national social security assistance which is a contributory programme.

¹ This programme has not been considered in this analysis due to challenges in its targeting framework.



Institutionally, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) is in charge of coordinating and implementing most of the social assistance programmes and as such is traditionally allocated the bulk of the social protection budget. However, there are other sector ministries involved in social protection that include Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE) for school feeding, tuition grants (under the Free Basic Education) and provision of sanitary wear, the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) for AMTO and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Settlement for FDM. For some of the programmes the responsibility for implementation falls across multiple stakeholders, providing further challenges in effective delivery. For instance, BEAM lies within the MoPSLSW, but practically implementation is within the remit of the MoPSE.



Guided by the NSPPF, the National Development Strategy (NDS1) places social protection as one of the integral cross-cutting pillars for reducing poverty and vulnerability. As such, Zimbabwe aims to increase the reach of its social protection interventions to cover 85% of the population by 2025.² Furthermore, under the NDS1 period, the country seeks to strengthen the social protection delivery systems, paying particular attention to harmonization of existing social assistance programmes, development of a robust Management Information Systems (MIS) and programme wide grievance mechanism, and enhanced coordination through the re-establishment of the National Social Protection Steering Committee and its underlying technical working groups.

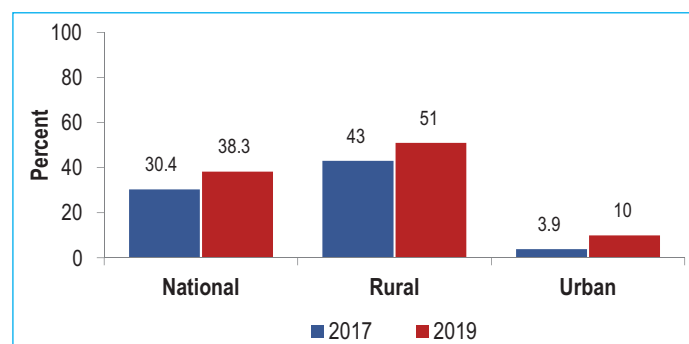
2.2 Performance of the Social Protection Sector

Social protection plays a pivotal role in reducing social and economic vulnerabilities, poverty, and deprivation, and is key in bolstering equity, social inclusion, and access to basic social services. In recent years, social protection has become more relevant with the heightened socio-economic vulnerabilities emanating from a difficult macroeconomic environment, elevated exogenous shocks from natural disasters (droughts and floods), and disease outbreaks such as typhoid and cholera. The scourge of COVID-19 which initially was a health crisis has morphed into a broader socio-economic problem and is worsening vulnerabilities across all social and economic sectors.

In the last couple of years, the food security situation has been dire, nonetheless it is expected to improve in the 2021 agricultural season. Persistent droughts, cyclones and flooding have in recent years resulted in poor agricultural yields and death of livestock which are a source of livelihoods for most of the rural population. High food prices have had a negative impact on access to food, with annual food inflation reaching 980% in April 2020,³ an all-time high outside the hyperinflationary period of 2008. Private consumption dropped sharply as food prices reached hyperinflationary levels, formal employment fell, and food insecurity rose to affect nearly half of the population.⁴ This resulted in some households cutting down consumption on other essential non-food items. The 2019 Poverty Report estimates that consumption expenditure declined by 25% for the poorest 10% of the population between 2017 and 2019.⁵ This was further exacerbated by a series of COVID-19 lockdown measures which restricted movement of people, goods, and services, with a knock-on effect on food supply chains.

Poverty remains widespread in Zimbabwe; extreme poverty rose from 30% in 2017 to 38% in 2019.⁶ The number of extremely poor people based on the Food Poverty Line of US\$29.80 per person per month increased sharply from 4.5 million in 2017 to 6 million in 2019.⁷ Extreme poverty is prevalent in rural areas, affecting more than 90% of the rural population, and has also been on the increase in urban areas lately due to job and income losses as a result of macroeconomic downturn, which was further complicated by the COVID-19 crisis. Figure 1 shows poverty levels for rural and urban areas as well as national averages for 2017 and 2019. The Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) estimates that 90.1% of all the children experienced at least one deprivation, while 59.6% faces at least two simultaneous deprivations. The geographical deprivation distribution analysis shows that 68.7% of children in rural areas had at least two deprivations compared to 30% in urban areas.⁸

Figure 1: Extreme Poverty based on the food poverty line of US\$29.80 per person per month



Source: World Bank and ZIMSTAT Poverty Report, 2019

³ ZIMSTAT, 2020

⁴ World Bank, Zimbabwe Economic Update, June 2021

⁵ World Bank and ZIMSTAT, Zimbabwe Poverty Update, 2017-19

⁶ World Bank and ZIMSTAT, Zimbabwe Poverty Update, 2017-19

⁷ World Bank and ZIMSTAT, Zimbabwe Poverty Update, 2017-19

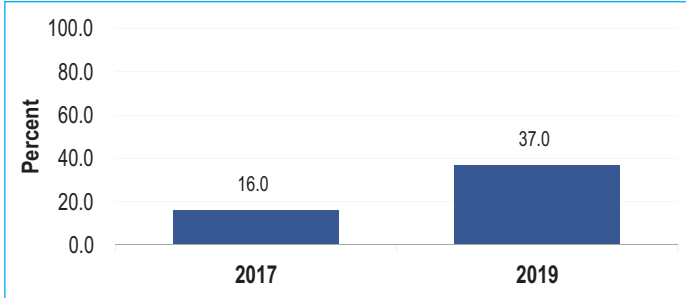
⁸ ZIMSTAT and UNICEF, Child Poverty in Zimbabwe: A Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis, 2016

² National Development Strategy, 2021 - 2025



The proportion of population receiving at least one social assistance programme increased from 16% in 2017 to 37% (Figure 2). Despite an increase in coverage, 51% of the extreme poor received no benefits from any of the social assistance programmes.⁹ While extending coverage and enhancing adequacy of social benefits are the primary objectives of the NSPPF, investment in the sector remains inadequate to reduce vulnerabilities. Recent macroeconomic and other structural challenges have eroded the quality, adequacy, and reach of social protection systems, making the expansion of coverage more critical.

Figure 2: Coverage of social protection and labor programs (% of total population)



Source: World Bank and ZIMSTAT, 2019

The provision of social protection services in Zimbabwe has been negatively impacted by the economy’s decade-long weak performance. The Social Protection sector is facing significant challenges, ranging from limited fiscal space to fund programmes, fragmentation, and weak coordination capacity by the MoPSSLW, weak delivery systems, poor monitoring and accountability systems for resources allocated towards social protection, and inadequate capacities to fully implement the existing programmes.¹⁰

Key Messages

- **Enhancing coverage of social protection programmes will be critical in reducing poverty, deprivation, and in bolstering equity, social inclusion, and access to basic social services.**

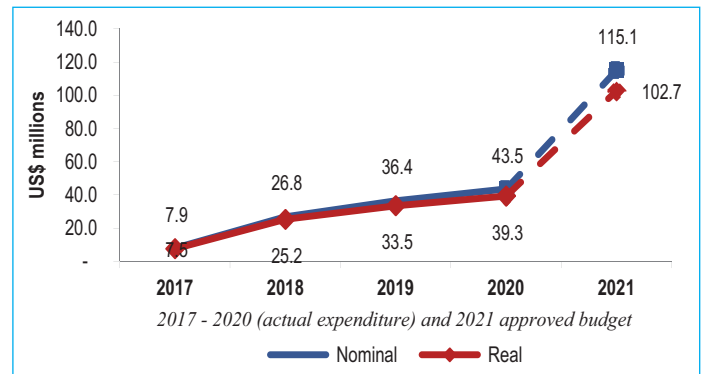
⁹ World Bank and ZIMSTAT, Zimbabwe Poverty Update, 2017-19

¹⁰ Social Protection Sector Review Report and National Development Strategy 2021 – 25

3. SOCIAL PROTECTION SPENDING TRENDS

Overall, actual non-contributory¹¹ Social Protection sector spending has increased considerably from US\$7.9 million (ZW\$8.7 million) in 2017 to US\$43.5 million (ZW\$2.5 billion) in 2020.¹² In real terms this is equivalent to US\$7.5 million (ZW\$8.3 million) in 2017 to US\$39.3 million (ZW\$2.3 billion) in 2020. Figure 3 shows actual social protection spending for the period 2017- 2020 and the approved budget for 2021.

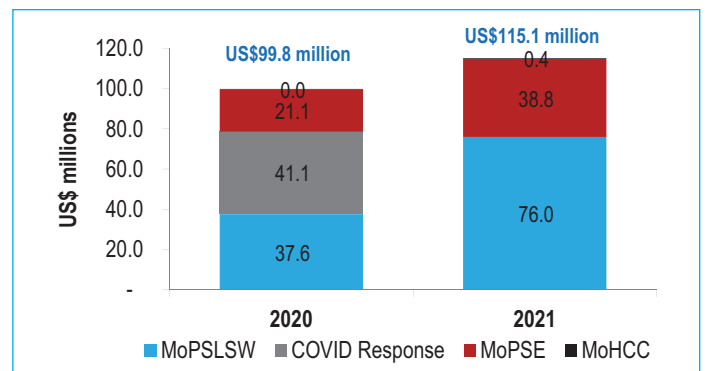
Figure 3: Trends in nominal and real social protection spending for 2017 - 2021



Source: MoFED budget statements and outturns and Author calculations

Social Protection spending has substantially increased, however, it is still inadequate as the number of extremely poor people increased by 33% from 4.5 million in 2017 to 6 million in 2019, which has also been worsened by COVID-19 crisis (Figure 4). The increase in social protection spending is in response to the elevated social and economic vulnerabilities in recent years, resulting from the recurrent droughts, Cyclone Idai and deteriorating macroeconomic environment, as well as the impact of COVID-19. In addition, the promulgation of the Education

Figure 4: Social Protection 2020 and 2021 approved budgets by institution responsible



Source: MoFED, 2020 and 2021 budget statements

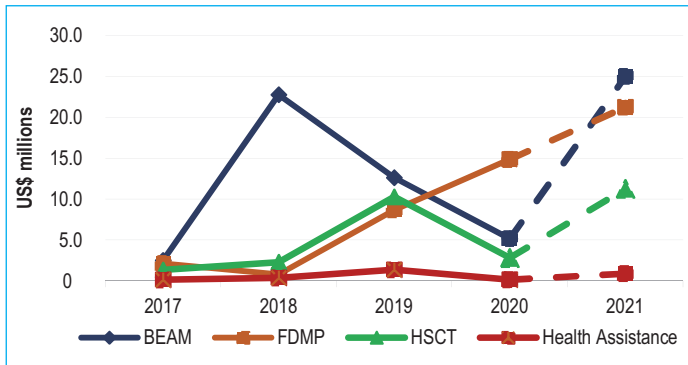
¹¹ This excludes spending on Vulnerable Crop Input Support Programme

¹² To convert to US\$ equivalent, exchange rates used are those in the 2021 national budget statement, p6. The exchange rate may shift significantly and reduce the value of social protection budget in US\$ terms as was witnessed in 2020. USD inflation rates were then applied to calculate real expenditure numbers.

Amendment Act in 2019, has led to an increase in social protection spending for children under the MoPSE to support the Free Basic Education, SanitaryWear programme, and examination fee waivers. In 2021, Social assistance to the education sector including BEAM and tuition grants under Free Basic Education constitutes 55% of the total non-contributory social protection budget.

Considering recurring droughts in the past couple of years, expenditure on the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme (FDMP) has been increasing, from US\$0.8 million in 2018, to US\$21.3 million in 2021. On the other hand, government funding for the HSCT programme has also been gradually increasing from US\$2.3 million in 2018 to US\$11.3 million in 2021. The HSCT is an unconditional cash transfer (UCT) program channeling cash to labor-constrained households. Figure 5 shows trends in spending of the four main Social Protection programmes.

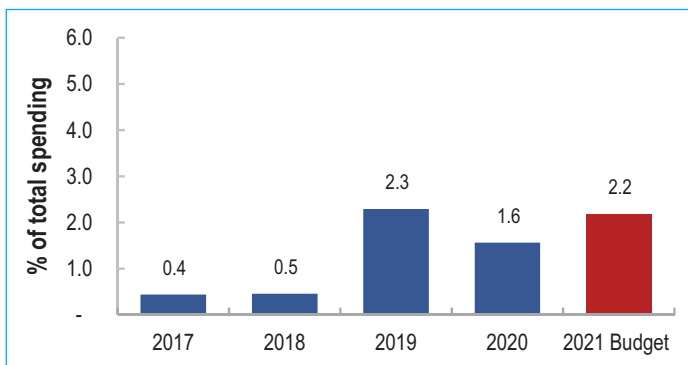
Figure 5: Spending Trends in main Social Protection Programmes, (actual 2016 - 2020 and approved budget 2021)



Source: MoFED, Budget Statements and outturns

As a share of the total national budget, non-contributory social protection budget has averaged 2% over the period 2019 - 2021 compared to 0.4% in 2017 and 2018 (Figure 6).

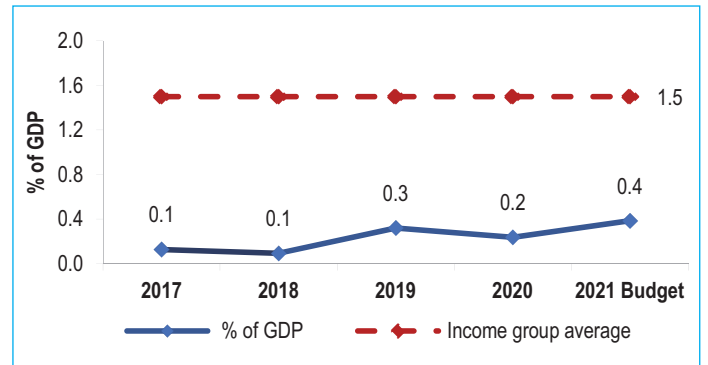
Figure 6: Actual non-contributory social protection spending as a share of total spending



Source: MoFED, Budget Statements and outturns

As a proportion GDP, the social protection budget has averaged 0.4% for the period 2019- 2021 (Figure 7). This is far much less than the 1.5% of GDP average in Sub-Saharan African countries.¹³

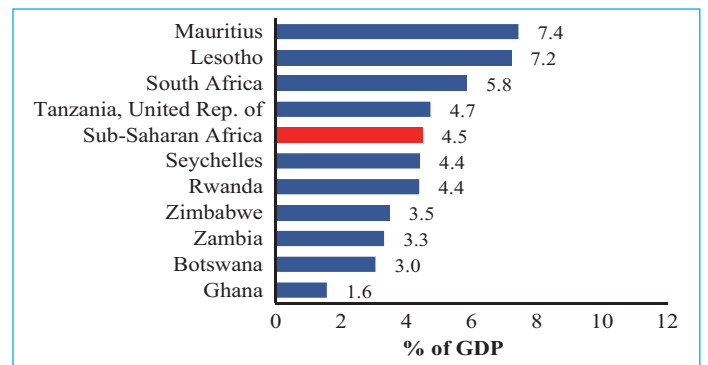
Figure 7: Non-contributory social protection spending trends and income group average, 2017 - 2021



Source: MoFED, World Bank, and Author Calculations

Zimbabwe continues to spend less on social protection than most of the countries in the region. Zimbabwe spends 3.5% on both contributory and non-contributory social protection, which is less than the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 4.5% (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Public Social Protection Expenditure in Africa, latest available data (% of GDP)



Source:

Key Messages

- *The Government of Zimbabwe should strive to increase social protection spending (both contributory and non-contributory) to at least reach the levels of regional comparator countries.*
- *There is a strong need to further rationalize existing social assistance programmes to better integrate them and reduce duplication of efforts.*



¹³ World Bank, 2018, The State of Social Safety Nets.



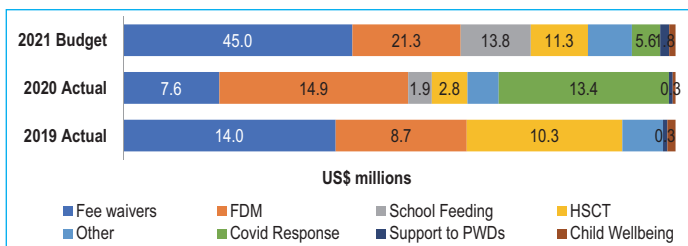
4. COMPOSITION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SPENDING BY PROGRAMME

4.1 Composition by programme of intervention

In 2021, non-contributory social protection was allocated US\$115.1 million (ZW\$9.2 billion)¹⁴, which represents 15% increase from the 2020 allocation of US\$99.8 million. Out of the US\$115.1 million for 2021, US\$76 million will be channeled through the MoPSLSW, US\$38.7 million MoPSE and US\$0.4 million under the MoHCC. Social assistance to the education sector is accounting for over half the total non-contributory social protection budget.

Zimbabwe has a broad range of social assistance programmes. These include Harmonised Social Cash Transfers (HSCT), food assistance, school feeding programs, support to sustainable livelihoods and building resilience, fee waivers. Figure 9 gives highlights of the spending on the main social assistance programmes over the period 2019 – 2021.

Figure 9: Main social protection spending by programme, US\$ millions, 2019 - 2021



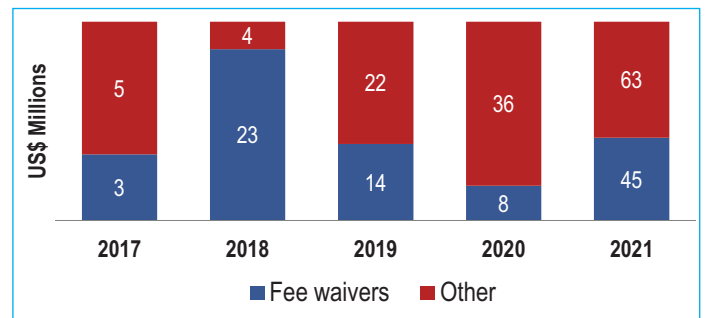
Source: ASPIRE and 2020 Budget Statement and Author Calculations

¹⁴ This exclude approximately US\$50 million (ZWL\$4 billion) allocation for Vulnerable Crop Input Support Scheme

4.2 Fee Waivers

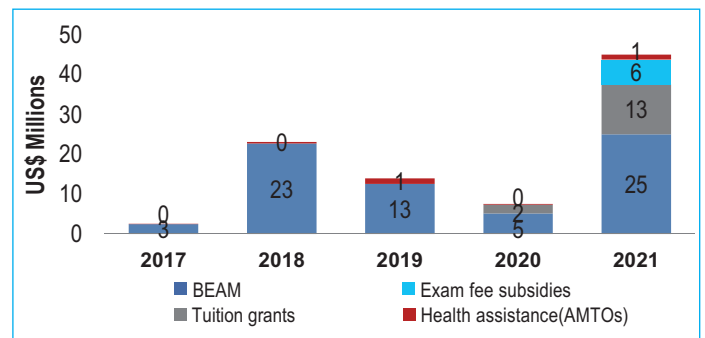
Fee waivers in health and education account for 39% (US\$45 million) of the total non-contributory social protection spending in 2021. The fee waivers, which include BEAM, the Assistance Medical Treatment Orders (AMTOs), tuition grants, and examination fees subsidies, are meant to enhance social inclusion and access to basic social services. With the coming in of the Free Basic Education, spending on school fees waivers has increased from US\$12.6 million in 2019 to US\$44 million in 2021. Education receives 98% of the 2021 total fees waivers and 38% of the 2021 total non-contributory social protection budget. Figures 10 and 11 show the trends in public spending on fees waivers, for health and education sectors.

Figure 10: Share of fee waivers on total Social Protection spending, US\$ millions



Source:

Figure 11: Composition of fee waivers, US\$ millions



Source: MoFED, Budget Statements and Outturns

BEAM was allocated US\$25 million (ZW\$2 billion), which represents 21.7% of the total non-contributory social protection spending or 56% of fee waivers. However, considering the targeted coverage of 1.5 million vulnerable children in 2021, BEAM funding seems inadequate as it only converts to US\$16.7 per child per year. This cannot guarantee access to education services for the vulnerable children targeted to benefit. Compared to 2020, the BEAM budget has increased by 224% from US\$7.7 million (ZWL\$450 million) to US\$25 million in 2021. Actual expenditure on BEAM in 2020 stood at US\$ 5 million against a budget of US\$7.7 million.

Tuition grants and examination fees subsidies under the Free Basic Education have become an integral part of social assistance budget with a combined allocation of US\$19 million (ZW\$1.5 billion) in the 2021. Of this amount, Z\$1 billion is for tuition grants for rural primary (P3) and rural secondary (S3) school children. This allocation marks the second year of a phased approach to implementing the provisions of the Education Amendment Act for state funded Free Basic Education. The balance of ZW\$500 million is earmarked for subsidy on public examination fees for learners in public schools. This a positive development for the many different vulnerable children across the country. However, there is significant room for improving targeting through development and adoption of a guiding formula for the allocation of the grants across schools, and the modality of transfers of the funds. Discussions with the Ministry of Finance and other relevant stakeholders has indicated that targeting and beneficiary selection challenges remain a huge hindrance to the rollout. There is a significant exclusion on tuition fees payment as its currently targeting rural schools despite increased urban poverty. In addition, subsidies on exam fees exclude learners from low income and vulnerable households attending private learning institutions due to unavailability of places at public schools.

Health assistance¹⁵ using the Assisted Medical Treatment Orders (AMTO) modality is essential to ensure increased access to health care services; nonetheless, health assistance is severely underfunded as it constitutes 1% of social assistance budget in 2021.



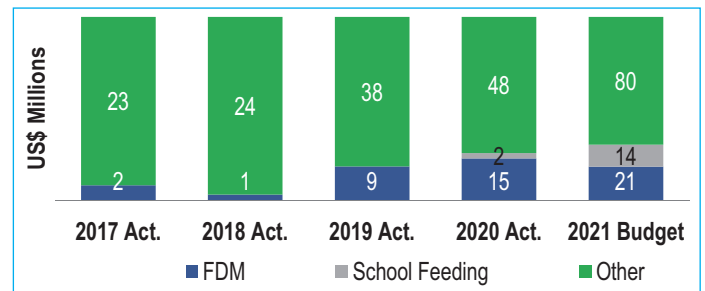
¹⁵ This is inclusive health assistance under the MoHCC and MoPSLSW.

4.3 Food Assistance

In the 2021 budget, a total of US\$35 million was allocated to meeting the needs of the food insecure households through FDM and school feeding. This constitutes 30% of total non-contributory social protection budget. In 2020 a total of US\$16.7 million was spent on food assistance up from US\$8.7 million in 2019.

The Food Deficit Mitigation (FDM) programme was allocated US\$21.3 million (ZW\$1.7 billion), which is 18% of the total social protection budget in 2021 (Figure 12). Expenditure on drought mitigation has increased in the recent years owing to food insecurity emanating from recurrent droughts as well as high food prices as macroeconomic conditions deteriorated.

Figure 12: Spending on Food Assistance against other Social Protection Programmes, US\$ millions



Source: MoFED, Budget Statements and Outturns

Similarly, a substantial amount of resources was allocated for the school feeding programme: US\$18 million (ZW\$1 billion) in 2020 and US\$14 million in 2021 (ZW\$1.1 billion). The School Feeding Programme is targeted at less privileged schools to mitigate the impact of increased vulnerabilities on children emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 drought, that have made it difficult for families to afford enough food which would inevitably affect learners from these families. This intervention is expected to improve school attendance by learners in recipient schools. However, the programme still faces challenges in its implementation due to lack of effective guidance by the MoPSE. Currently, the programme is negatively affected by its centralized procurement framework. There is need for stakeholders to work with the MoPSE to develop an effective implementation process.

4.4 Harmonised Social Cash Transfers

The Harmonised Social Cash Transfers (HSCT) was allocated US\$11.3 million (ZW\$900 million) in the 2021 budget compared to US\$8.6 million (ZW\$500 million) in 2020. In addition, to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 budget set aside US\$5.5 million (ZW\$445 million). As evidenced by the low uptake of the funds earmarked for cash transfers under the Economic Recovery and Stimulus



package, there is need to address structural issues related to targeting if the 2021 budget is to be used. Out of the ZW\$2.4 billion set aside under the Economic Recovery Package for Social Cash Transfers only ZW\$218 million was utilized,¹⁶ and challenges of targeting will continue to negatively impact social cash transfer programmes.

4.5 Other Key Social Protection Interventions

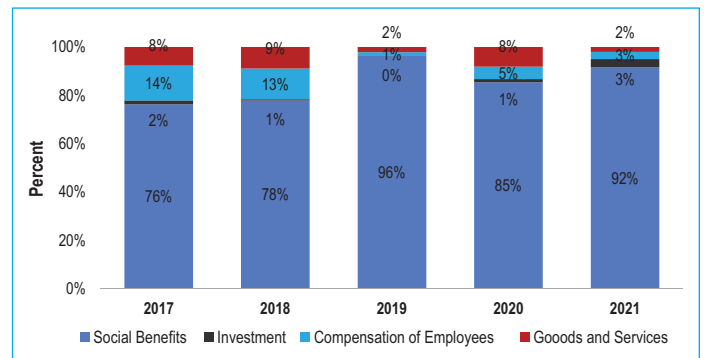
The 2021 National Budget makes a provision for the procurement of sanitary wear for girls in schools, a development that speaks to gender inclusion, with a total of US\$6.3 million (ZW\$500 million) for procurement of sanitary wear. This is expected to go a long way in improving school attendance of female learners as lack of sanitary wear has previously been cited as one of the reasons for non-attendance to classes for girls.

Regardless of the challenges affecting persons living with disabilities, budgetary allocation for support to persons living with disabilities is very low, only constituting 2% (US\$1.75 million) of total social protection spending in 2021. Support to elderly persons was allocated ZW\$50 million (US\$625,000), which is critically low.

5. Composition of Social Protection Spending by Economic Classification

Out of the US\$76 million (ZW\$6 billion) under the MoPSSLW, social benefits account for 92%, leaving only 8% for salary of staff, operational costs, and capital expenditures. The social benefits budget as a share of the total MoPSSLW social assistance budget has increased from 85% in 2020 to 92% in 2021. Figure 13 below shows the trend in the composition of non-contributory social protection budget for the period 2017 – 2021.¹⁷ The total operations budget, (i.e. employment and goods & services) for delivering the social assistance is low and insufficient for effective delivery of social assistance programmes. At 2% of the total non-contributory social protection budget under the MoPSSLW, the operational budget seems very low to ensure the smooth running of the various social assistance programmes.

Figure 13: Composition of Social Welfare Budget by Economic Classification



Source: MoFED, Budget Statements and Outturns

Employment costs are unrealistically low, at 3% of the total budget, and cannot guarantee smooth implementation of programmes. As a share of the total social assistance budget, employment costs have declined from 14% of the total in 2017 to 3% in 2021. This has a huge bearing on the implementation of programmes as workers may likely be disgruntled, and as a result, execution of the other budget line items will be compromised. There is need to re-look at the efficacy of the current operations budget to ensure smooth implementation of social assistance programmes.

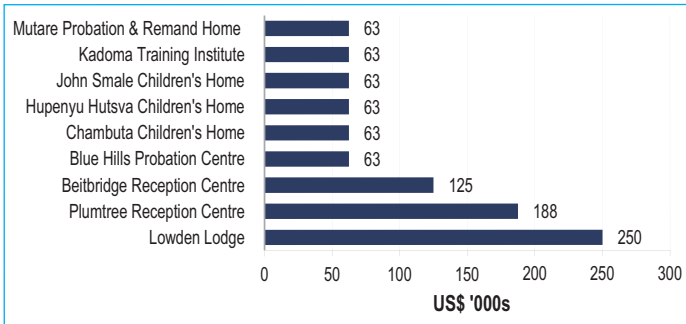
The proportion of capital expenditure budget has increased slightly from 1% in 2020 to 3% in 2021. Though social protection programmes are recurrent in nature, at 3% the capital budget is very low. This is inadequate to address the infrastructure needs of the various rehabilitation and care homes throughout the country. As a result, construction works for several rehabilitation of care centres, such as Lowden lodge in Mutare, have gone for years

¹⁶ MoFED, 2020 Annual Budget Review

¹⁷ This only looks at the Social Welfare Programme budget under the MoPSSLW.

without completion due to lack of funding. As indicated in Figure 14, the majority of the rehabilitation centres will operate with a capital budget of less than US\$70,000 in 2021. This will not be enough to cover the infrastructure rehabilitation and development programmes to ensure service provision.

Figure 14: Capital budget allocation to government rehabilitation centres



Source: 2020 Budget Statement

Key Messages

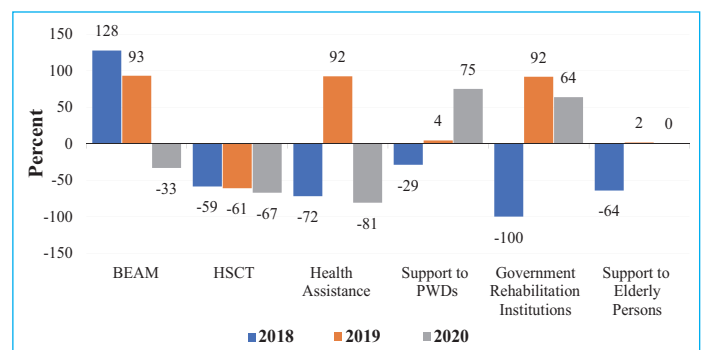
- The operations budget for the Social Welfare Programme under the MPSSLW is very low. Although there has been a considerable increase in the social assistance budget in the last 2 years, without a commensurate administrative budget, implementation of programmes will be constrained. Government should consider putting more resources for operations to support social assistance delivery.
- With only 2% of total non-contributory social protection spending going towards supporting Persons with Disabilities, implementing provisions of the recently launched National Disability Policy will be negatively affected. Without adequate resources it is highly unlikely that the country will fully achieve the intended goals of the Policy which include, among others, addressing marginalization and discrimination of Persons with Disabilities. Government should consider increasing total non-contributory social protection spending in order to support Persons with Disabilities.



6. BUDGET EXECUTION AND CREDIBILITY

Huge variations between approved programme budgets and outturns is evidence that budget planning and execution is a challenge. Figure 15 gives highlights of programme budget performance by for the period 2018 – 2020. In 2020 BEAM budget underperformed by 33%, having exceeded budget by 128% in 2018 and by 93% in 2019. HSCT underperformed by an average of 62% over the period 2018-2020. The Health assistance programme underperformed by 29%. Although the Support to People living with Disabilities and Support to Government Rehabilitation Institutions overperformed by 75% and 64%, respectively, in absolute terms their budgets are small and cannot adequately cater for the needs of the intended beneficiaries.

Figure 15: Execution of selected social assistance programmes (% deviation of actual spending to approved budget)



Source: Budget outturns and Author calculations

Social assistance to the education sector budget for 2020 amounted to US\$36 million (ZW\$2.1 billion) and of that amount only 30% was utilized. Out of a total US\$7 million (ZW\$400 million) earmarked for tuition grants only 33% was utilized.

In addition to tuition grants, MoPSE had an increase in social assistance for school feeding and sanitary wear which also continue to limp due to poor execution, mainly emanating from capacity challenges. In 2020, the sanitary wear and school feeding programmes underperformed by 61% and 89% respectively. Table 1 shows actual expenditure against the approved programme budget for 2020 social protection programmes under the MoPSE. Although the lockdown measures contributed to the low utilisation of the tuition grants, the MoPSE has some capacity challenges related to targeting and beneficiary selection which remain a huge hindrance to the rollout. For 2020 and 2021, tuition grants are targeting poor rural schools across the country, with eligibility criteria yet to be clearly defined by MOPSE.

Table 1: Performance of 2020 Social Assistance Programmes to the Education Sector, US\$ Millions

Programme	Responsible Ministry	Approved Budget	Actual Expenditure	Variation
Tuition grants	MoPSE	7	2	-67%
Sanitary wear	MoPSE	3	1	-61%
School feeding	MoPSE	18	2	-89%
BEAM	MoP/SLSW	8	5	-33%
Total		36	11	-70%

Source: MoFED, 2020 Annual Budget Review

Key Messages

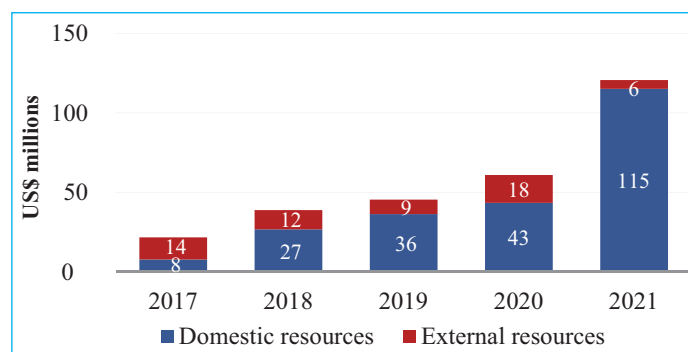
- **Strengthening budget execution of social assistance to the education sector by the MoPSE is critical, as it will overallly determine social protection budget performance considering that it is getting over 50% the total social protection budget.**

7. FINANCING OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR

A total of US\$120 million will go towards financing social protection interventions in 2021. Out of the available total financing, domestic resources from the budget will account for 95% (US\$115.1 million) and external financing from Development Partners 5% (US\$6 million)¹⁸. Public sector financing has increased four-fold from US\$25 million in 2017 to US\$115 million in 2021. Although budget financing is still inadequate against

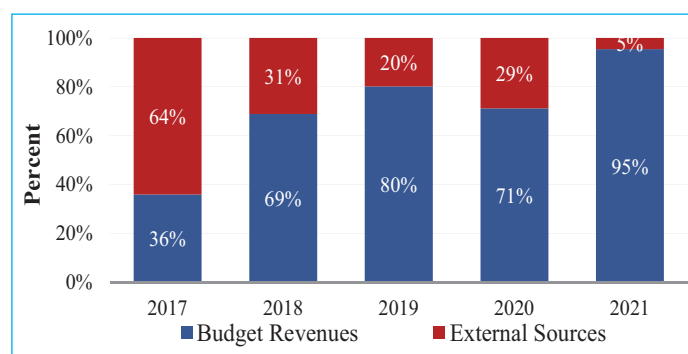
growing social protection needs, government is commended on the effort to gradually increase funding over the past few years. Figure 16 and 17 shows the trend in social protection financing.

Figure 16: Social Protection Financing, 2017 - 2021 (US\$ millions)



Source: MoFED, Budget statements

Figure 17: Social Protection Sector Financing, 2017 - 2021 (percent of total)



Source: MoFED, Budget Statements and outturns

Considering that external financing is declining, domestic resource mobilisation efforts should be enhanced. Despite the decline, Development Partner financing remains a crucial part of the sector financing. Addressing the concerns of the Development Partners, which include strengthening the Public Financial Management, and increasing the government counterpart financing is key to be able to keep harnessing the external financing potential for the sector.

Key Messages

- **Considering that external financing has declined significantly from US\$18 million in 2020 to US\$6 million in 2021, domestic resource mobilisation efforts should be enhanced.**

¹⁸ This only includes the development partner financing included in the 2021 budget as off-budget support. However, there could be more assistance which is also not reported by development partners.



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