



UNDP Zimbabwe | Annual Report

2023 in
Review

Double Down



UNDP Zimbabwe | Annual Report
2023 in Review

Double Down





Sustainable Water Management Boosts Masholomoshe Irrigation Scheme

In 2023, we completed installation of two new centre pivot systems powered by a clean, 66.6 kW solar micro-grid, bringing precision irrigation to over 16 hectares of the 40-hectare scheme.

This upgrade cuts water use by 60% compared to traditional canal and flood methods, conserving precious water for the community while boosting agricultural productivity.

CONTENTS

In this Report

06

In this Report

08

Foreword

10

Our Impact in Numbers

12

Stats & Stories

14 | Building Strong Health Systems

22 | Powering Progress

30 | Economic Impact: Local and Beyond

38 | Smart Spending. Big Impact.

42 | Adapting to a Changing Climate

50 | Wildlife Comeback

58 | Strengthening Justice Institutions

64

Partnerships

68

Operational Efficiency

Foreword

2023 marked a significant milestone – the halfway point towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Zimbabwe, like many countries, faces challenges on this path. The 2023 Sustainable Development Report shows progress in three SDG areas, with stagnation in seven and significant work needed in five. Data is still unavailable for two.

However, as an African proverb wisely says, “If you are building a house and a nail breaks, do you stop building or do you change the nail?” Zimbabwe has embraced this spirit, adapting, and innovating to overcome obstacles.

At UNDP, we remain a steadfast partner, connecting people, ideas, and resources.

In 2023, we **doubled down** on efforts with a ripple effect on SDGs. Our strategic interventions drove progress on all aspects of the SDGs – **People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace**.

For **People**, we supported the health system, ensuring over 1 million people continue Anti-Retroviral Treatment, and that a robust medical supply chain is ensured through the completion of the Mutare NatPharm warehouse. We helped over 20,000 vulnerable young girls with fees and uniform subsidies as a strategy to

preventing HIV infections. We are proud of facilitating investments in food security with the development of 9 irrigation schemes – the first of 24 planned.

For a healthy **Planet**, we focused on renewables and biodiversity. 150 households switched from firewood to clean biogas, while 19 health facilities and 2 warehouses joined the 1,044 already using solar power. We are encouraged by the reduction in poaching in the Zambezi Valley, with only one elephant victim. Additionally, over 270,000 trees were planted. With the El Nino phenomenon in mind, climate action took centre stage. Together with the Government of Zimbabwe, we reached over 540,000 smallholder farmers with climate-smart agriculture practices, impacting over 2.3 million people.

On achieving shared **Prosperity**, our interventions drove growth at both the local and national levels. On the ground, we catalysed Savings and Lending Groups to foster self-reliance. In 2023, the groups collectively saved over US\$260,000 for their members. These savings have been reinvested as capital for agricultural inputs, tools, and launching small enterprises that strengthen local livelihoods.

At policy level, our advocacy resulted in two key

recommendations on domestic resource mobilization being adopted in the 2024 budget. We were also proud to support Zimbabwe's flagship Economic Development Conference, contributing valuable insights that informed the national budget.

For **Peace**, we are pleased to note that our investments in strengthening justice institutions are paying off. The virtual court system, supported by UNDP, helped reduce case loads of remand hearings and improved timely access to justice. We are also proud to have contributed to the national voter education efforts which reached 5.9 million people.

These are just a few highlights from 2023. This report goes beyond statistics. We share the stories of the remarkable people and communities driving these changes.

This progress would not be possible without our dedicated partners:

- The Government of Zimbabwe at all levels.
- Our development partners whose generous support we channel towards the country's development.

- The implementing agencies who support us to go beyond our reach.
- And mostly importantly, the men, women, and young people in the communities we serve.

As we move forward, our commitment to Zimbabwe remains steadfast. We are dedicated to aiding the nation in overcoming obstacles on its path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Particularly, we stand ready to assist in the recovery from the devastating effects of the El Niño drought, as well as in bolstering efforts towards re-engagement and clearing debts and arrears. Internally, we are streamlining our programmes to ensure optimal delivery, maximum impact, and broader reach within the limited time frame for SDG attainment. A strong focus will also be on expanding initiatives aimed at fostering prosperity, ultimately benefiting all Zimbabweans.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We invite you to explore the stories within.

Enjoy!

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

Dr. Ayodele Odusola
Resident Representative

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Our Impact in Numbers



12,000

Girls have an opportunity to pursue their education and break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability to HIV, thanks to vital education subsidies.



33,000

Health workers supported with remuneration incentives to mitigate rapid loss of health workforce and cushion essential/critical staff.



447

Solar-powered boreholes installed at health facilities to provide safe water access at for staff and patients.



150

Households that have switched to using clean cooking energy after biogas digesters were installed.



1.2 million

People continuing with their Anti-Retro Viral therapy.



64

Small businesses generating income & creating employment from 8 solar powered kiosks, generating 220 kW of power.



2

Number of UNDP recommendations integrated into the 2024 National Fiscal Budget by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.



302,000

Small holder farmers received regular tailored weather information.



270,000

Tree seedlings nurtured and planted in the 2023/24 tree planting season.



1.1 million

People supported with climate-smart agriculture inputs and technical capacity to help improve agricultural productivity.



5,000

Households reached through 386 Village Saving and Lending groups as part of women's economic empowerment.



10 MW

Cumulative power generated by solar systems installed in over 1,050 health facilities to power critical medical processes.



1

Elephant lost to poaching - down from 6 in the previous year - due to increased investments in wildlife protection efforts by partners.

Stats & Stories

Collaboration: Unlocking the Potential of Smallholder Farmers

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) proved impactful in 2023, championing **climate-smart agriculture practices across 55,000 hectares**.

In addition, they served as hubs for various interventions like Savings and Lending schemes, weather information dissemination, and Gender-Based Violence awareness.

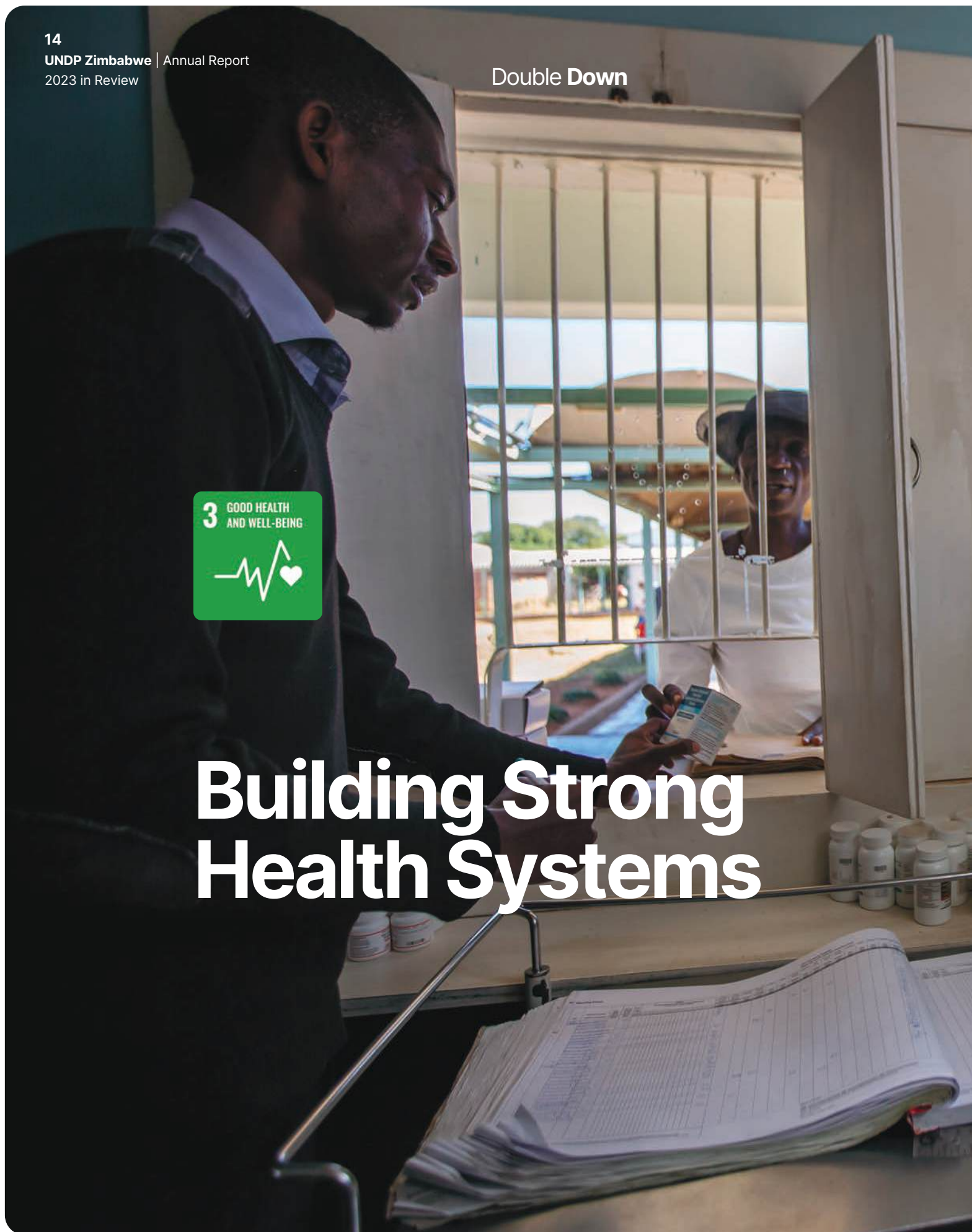
A powerful example comes from the “Zvinoda Shungu” FFS group in Mwenezi District. By pooling their savings, **each member was able to acquire a goat** in 2023, marking the start of their own herd for many. This not only fosters financial independence but also serves as a symbol of growing prosperity within the community.

Farmer Field Schools

Typically ranging from 8 to 15 members, they are a unique way for farmers to learn by doing. Each group learns from a lead, under guidance and support from an agriculture extension worker

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

Building Strong Health Systems



Bolstering healthcare infrastructure

In 2023, we completed **construction of 178 pharmacies** equipped with modern amenities like air conditioning and suitable storage.

Communities now have improved access to essential medicines, paving the way for healthier futures.

TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

As the steward of the Global Fund grant, we are proud to be working alongside the Government of Zimbabwe and our partners to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Thanks to the combined efforts of partners, led by the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe achieved the 95-95-95 targets in 2023.

This translates to fewer infections, healthier lives, and a brighter future for Zimbabwe.

Together, we are on track to end AIDS in Zimbabwe by 2030.

**95-95-95
targets**

*UNAIDS set targets
to diagnose 95% of all
HIV+ individuals, treat
95% of those diagnosed,
& achieve viral
suppression in 95%
of those treated*



GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE



Our contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 3 achievements is made possible by **Global Fund** grants.



Little Victories - A Path to Protecting HIV-Exposed Children

Despite the success, the well-being of HIV-exposed children remains an area of concern as the 95-95-95 targets have yet to be realised in this demographic.

In the past year, approximately **33,000 HIV-positive pregnant women received crucial Anti Retro-viral Therapy (ART)** during pregnancy. This intervention not only safeguards the health of the mothers but also significantly reduces the risk of mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

Moreover, an equivalent number of HIV-exposed infants underwent virological testing for HIV within the pivotal time frame of two months post-birth.

Over
1 million

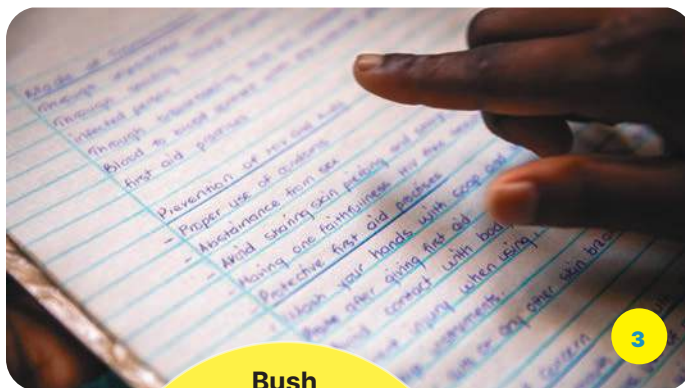
People enabled by the Global Fund programme to continue with Anti Retro-viral Treatment.



Double **Down****Safe Haven for Education: Empowering Girls to Learn**

In 2023, a new chapter began for girls' education in our community. These temporary boarding facilities **(1 & 2)** provide a safe alternative to "bush boardings" – unsafe rooms often exposing girls to exploitation.

With this worry lifted, they can now focus on their education **(3)** and reach their full potential.

**Bush Boardings**
Weekly

accommodation, often behind shops or in other people's homes, where students who live far from schools occupy to avoid travelling long distances

12,000

Girls supported to pursue their education and break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability to HIV, thanks to vital education subsidies.



For 3 years, I lived in a small room near school (bush boarding) to avoid a long commute. We often had just one meal a day. I had only one torn uniform. I would always face pressure from older men who offered money or rides in exchange for sex, but I worried about getting sick.

Then, I received help with my school fees, uniforms, and a place to safe place to stay. It changed everything! Now, I'm in high school and want to be a doctor or manager. These are big jobs, especially for girls in my village. I want to show them that girls can lead too!

- Lily Girl*

(*Not her real name)



Clean Water, Healthy Lives: Solar Power Fuels Healthcare

The solar-powered boreholes UNDP Zimbabwe installed provide a reliable source of clean water (1) for health facilities – hospitals, staff, and patients alike. This sustainable solution ensures access to safe water, a critical element for quality healthcare and a healthier community.

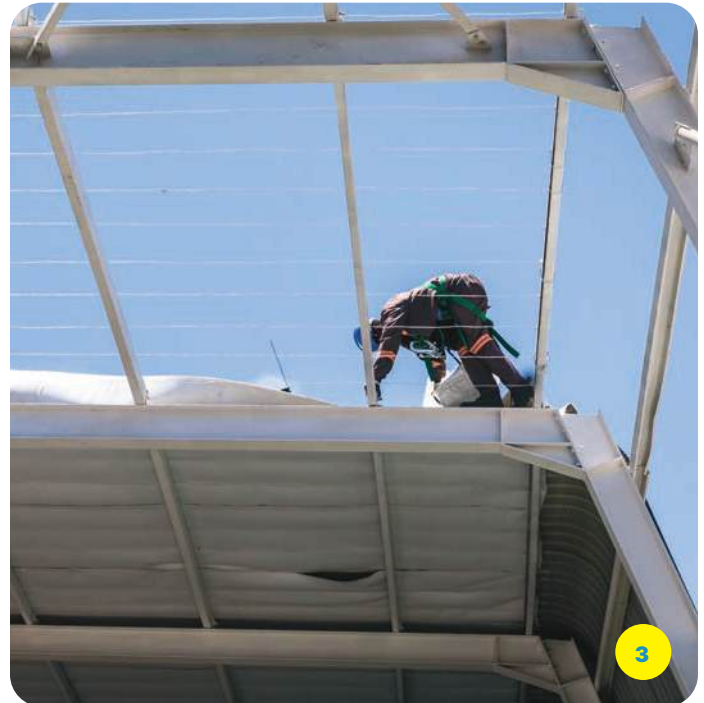
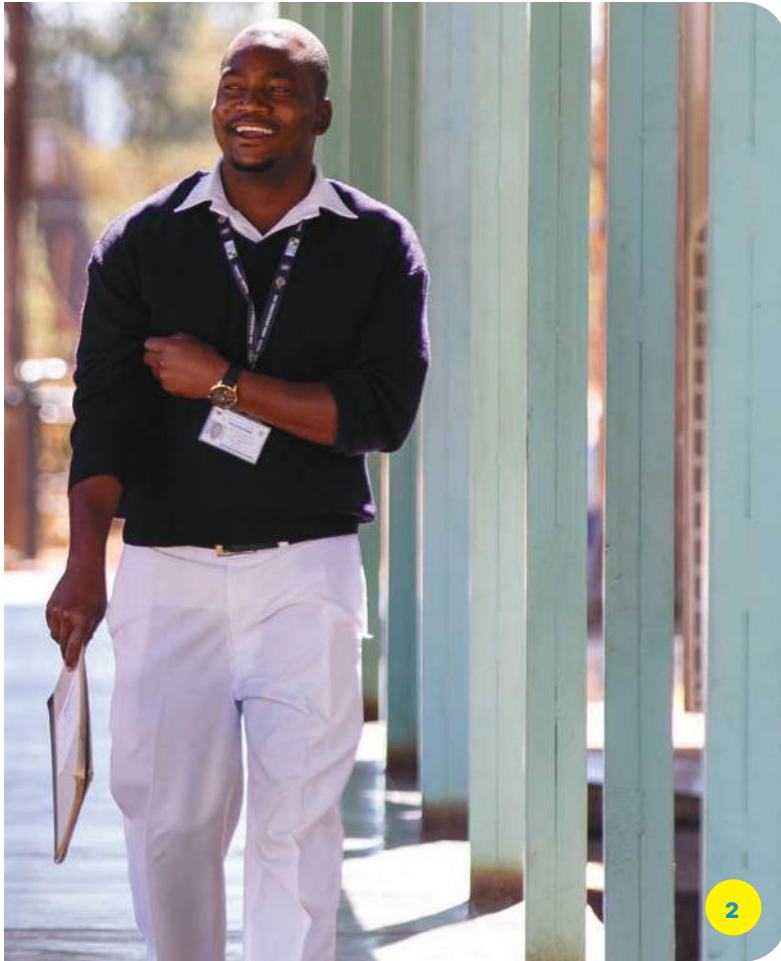


Investing in Our Heroes: Strengthening the Health Workforce

Global Fund grants in 2023 addressed a critical challenge – attracting and retaining skilled health workers. By supporting both salaries (remuneration) and incentives, these grants helped mitigate the rapid loss of personnel and ensure essential staff (2) are well-supported.

447

Boreholes drilled to provide health facilities with clean water.



New Pharmaceutical Warehouse Completed!

In 2023, construction of the new NatPharm pharmaceutical warehouse (3) in Mutare was completed and is scheduled for commissioning in 2024.


By ensuring the timely and efficient distribution of life-saving medications and medical equipment, the warehouse will prevent stock-outs and improve access to critical supplies for patients.

Over
33,000

Health workers supported with supplemental remuneration and incentives.

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

Powering Progress



Beyond the Grid: Extending Sustainable Power and Reducing Inequalities in Remote Zimbabwe

Hakwata village, Chipinge District, near the border with Mozambique – is far removed from the national electricity grid.

This community is on the verge of becoming a prime illustration of a green village, powered entirely by renewable energy sources.

90 households have already reaped the benefits of biogas digesters, which efficiently produce cooking fuel. Furthermore, a 200kW micro-grid is set to illuminate the lives of **12,500 individuals**, granting them access to electricity.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO ENERGY

Despite significant strides, Zimbabwe faces an energy gap, with only 62% of the population having access to either on or off-grid electricity.

We recognise the transformative power of access to clean energy. It's not just about powering homes and businesses; it's about unlocking a pathway towards achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

Our work focuses on two key areas: first, **closing the energy gap** by providing under-served communities with access to renewable energy solutions like solar and biogas systems. Second, we aim to **catalyse private sector investment** in the renewable energy sector, fostering long-term sustainability and wider impact.



Our investments in the energy sector are funded by the **United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)**, by **Global Fund** grants, the **Green Climate Fund** and by **UNDP Core Resources**.



Solar for health

In 2023, we installed additional solar systems at **19 more health facilities** and **two pharmaceutical warehouses**.

In addition, we ensured the maintenance and upgrading of solar installations, which are generating a combined **10.14 MW**, installed at over **1,040+ health facilities** for smooth operation of vital medical operations and equipment.

Solar in agriculture

In support of the Government's initiatives to establish and revitalise irrigation schemes, we are implementing climate-smart irrigation pivots powered by solar energy in various agricultural projects, such as the **66.6kW solar system** powering the revitalised Masholomoshe irrigation scheme.

Solar powered micro-enterprises

We piloted the establishment of off-grid energy kiosks - retrofitted shipping containers that are powered by solar energy.

Generating a combined **220 kW of solar power**, these kiosks power **64 local businesses**, creating employment opportunities and facilitating local economic growth.

1.85MW

Solar power were generated by the solar systems installed at 19 health facilities and two pharmaceutical warehouses in 2023. This brings the total solar power capacity we've installed in the health sector to 10.14 MW.

1. Good for the Environment

Sustainable energy source without greenhouse gas emissions & eliminates need to cut trees for firewood

**2. Low cost**

The infrastructure cost is relatively low & there are minimal operational costs

**3. Beneficial Bi-product**

Produces bio-slurry, a nutrient-rich organic fertiliser

**4. Expedites Inclusion**

Can be set up anywhere, making them suitable for remote locations, including border communities



INFOGRAPHIC

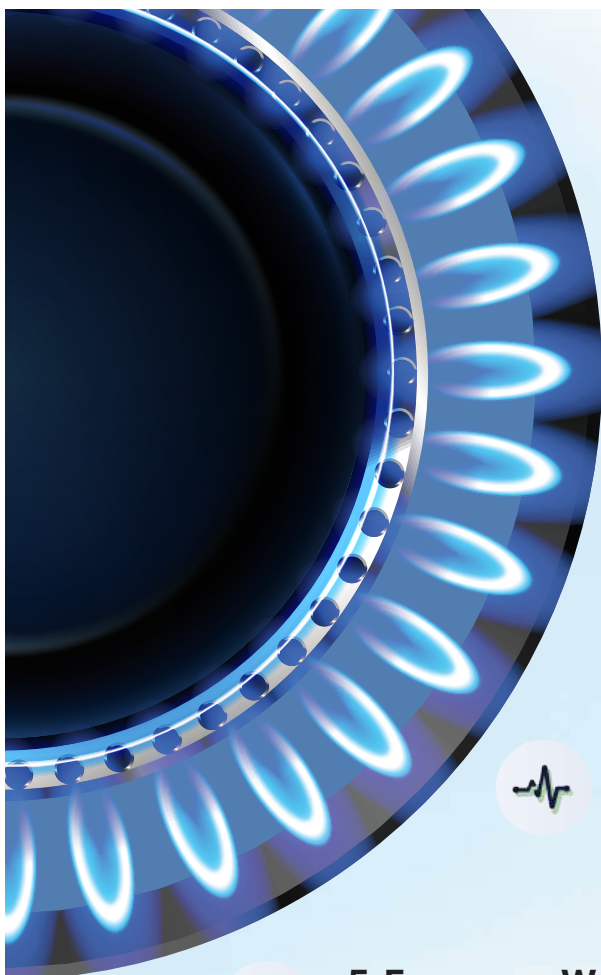
Eight reasons we are betting big on biogas

**What is biogas?**

Biogas is a gaseous, renewable fuel (mostly methane) produced during the breakdown of organic matter, such as food or animal waste.

**What can biogas be used for?**

In our initiatives, biogas is being used as a cooking fuel in rural areas as an alternative to firewood. It has potential to be used for lighting, and to generate electricity in biogas generators.



8. Green Jobs

Creates employment opportunities in construction, maintenance, & operation of biogas systems



7. Waste Management

An ingenious waste management solution that efficiently addresses food & animal waste



6. Safe for Health

Produces clean energy with no smoke emissions, unlike firewood-fueled cooking fires



5. Empowers Women

An alternative to firewood, which is traditionally collected by women & girls, therefore liberating their time and energy



SDGs addressed by using biogas



Read full story





Bringing clean cooking energy to rural homes

In 2023, we started the single largest biogas initiative in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, installing biogas-making digesters at 150 homesteads.

The impact on the communities, especially for women like Maris Dhlwayo, has been immediate.

10km

Length of Maris Dhlwayo's daily trek for firewood. With a biogas digester installed at her home, she now simply gathers cow dung from her backyard to fuel her cooking needs. A flip of a switch is all it takes to prepare meals for her family.





The difference between then and now is...we no longer have to go to the forest to cut trees to use as firewood for cooking.

- Resmas Museyi

Hakwata village



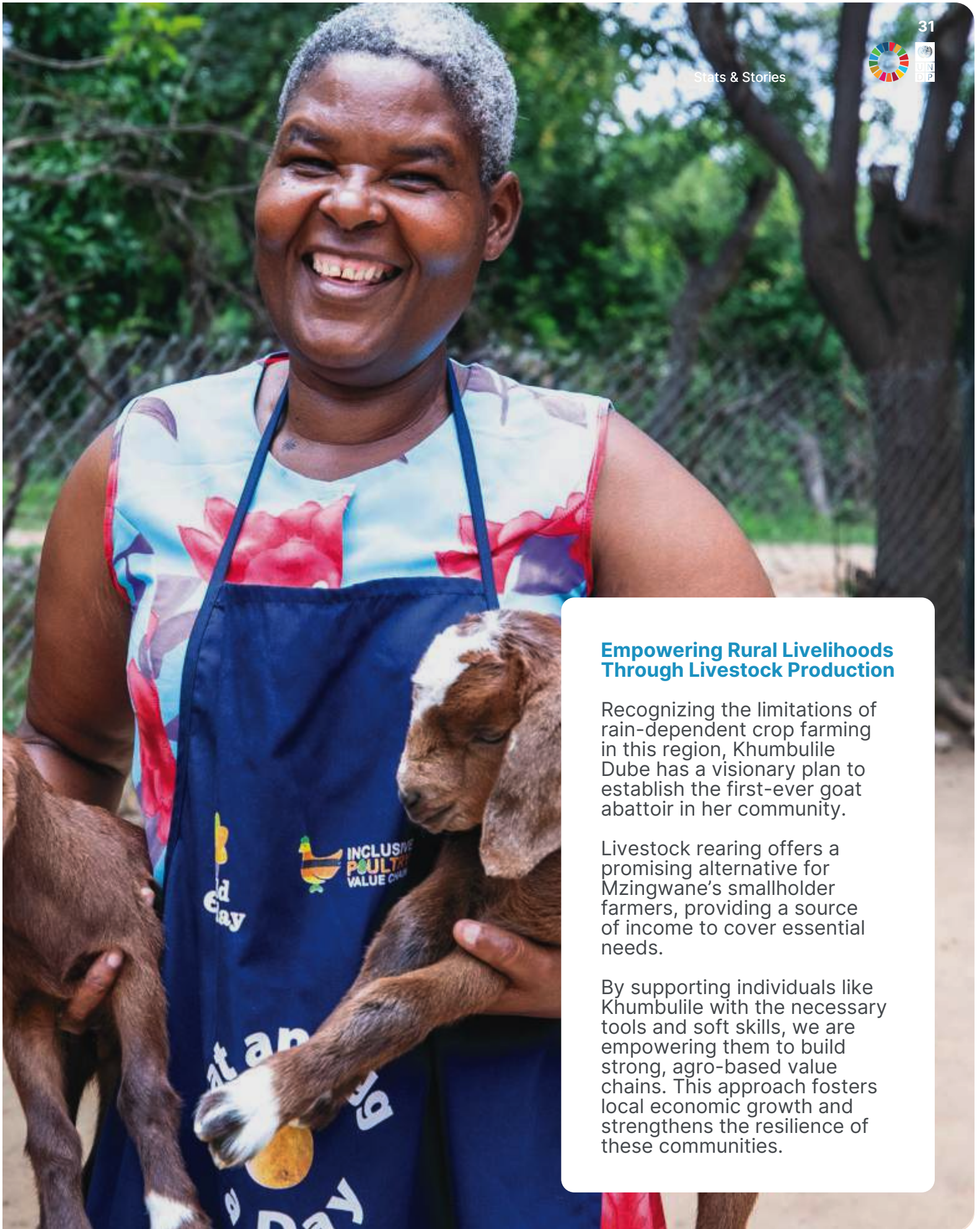
Clean cooking energy (1) has replaced the arduous task of gathering firewood and provides a safer and more sustainable alternative.

In addition to the numerous environmental benefits, the project empowered over 80 local builders (2), equipping them with the skills to construct and maintain biogas digesters as a business.



Economic Impact: Local and Beyond





Empowering Rural Livelihoods Through Livestock Production

Recognizing the limitations of rain-dependent crop farming in this region, Khumbulile Dube has a visionary plan to establish the first-ever goat abattoir in her community.

Livestock rearing offers a promising alternative for Mzingwane's smallholder farmers, providing a source of income to cover essential needs.

By supporting individuals like Khumbulile with the necessary tools and soft skills, we are empowering them to build strong, agro-based value chains. This approach fosters local economic growth and strengthens the resilience of these communities.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS, NATIONAL IMPACT

In our ongoing commitment to Zimbabwe's economic revitalisation, we focus on fostering both localised and national economic growth.

Drawing insights from data and prior achievements, we are integrating the concept of Village Savings and Lending groups into our community-based initiatives to **bridge the financial inclusion divide**, particularly among those overlooked by traditional financial institutions.

At the national level, our efforts are dedicated to bolstering the Government's initiatives in **domestic resource mobilisation** to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Development Strategy.



Initiatives to stimulate local economic growth with Village Savings groups are implemented with thanks to the **Green Climate Fund**. Support to women empowerment initiatives were made possible through the **European Union** funded Spotlight Initiative. Our work on the Tax4SDGs is supported by **UNDP Core Resources**.



Sewing her future: How empowering women boosts local economies

Dorothy Godza [\(1\)](#), a skilled tailor, could not turn her talent into financial security. Many women face this barrier.

That is why UNDP Zimbabwe focuses on equipping women like Dorothy with the skills, tools and resources they need to thrive.

Thanks to grants from the **Spotlight Initiative** which concluded in 2023, Dorothy's equipment enables her to run her sewing business beyond UNDP's support, empowering her to pay for her son's education to put food on the table.

Dorothy's success story is proof: empowering women economically is key to reducing their vulnerability and building stronger communities.



**Village
Savings &
Lending Groups**

*Self-managed
associations who come
together to save money &
lend to each other. The
savings are shared out
after an agreed
period*

**Handouts to Handshakes:
Building Self-Reliant
Communities with Savings &
Lending**

To empower financial inclusion and long-term programme success, we integrate Savings & Lending groups into our initiatives.

By pooling resources, group members **(1)** can access capital to purchase agricultural supplies and equipment, fostering self-reliance and continued resilience beyond UNDP's support.

INFOGRAPHIC

Bridging the Financial Inclusion Gap with Group Savings

386

Village Savings and Lending groups formed.

5,000

Households participating and benefiting from groups.

US\$ 260,000

Cumulative savings made in 2023 by 160 monitored groups.

US\$ 200

Average annual savings made by each member across the groups.

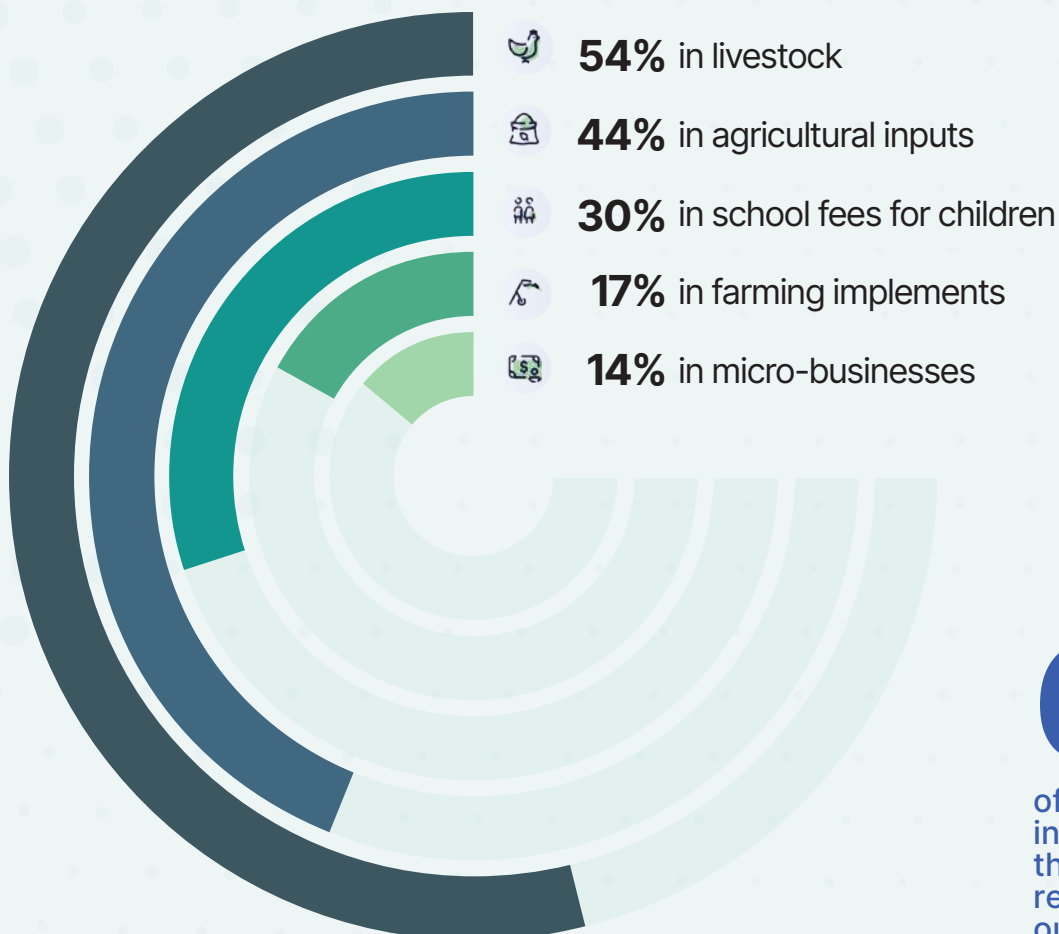
1:3

Men to women ratio of members in the Village Savings and Lending groups.

140+

Extension workers trained in management of the groups, and in turn mobilised the members.

What group members invested in following payouts:

**60%**

of the members invested in at least two activities that are agriculture related after their share outs.

Double Down

INFOGRAPHIC

Growing the economy from domestic resources and ideas

Zimbabwe aims to boost domestic resources for SDGs and the National Development Strategy.

Our Taxes for SDGs initiative yielded the **SDG Taxation Framework Assessment**, from which two key recommendations were embraced by the Government.

We also supported the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to host the 2024 Zimbabwe Economic Development Conference from which economic experts facilitated **strategy discussions and recommendations** for domestic resource mobilisation.

Tax4SDGs Initiative

Seeks to improve tax systems, support private sector with SDG policies, conducts economic research, and engage citizens in national development plans

SDG Taxation Framework

Two recommendations on expanding the tax base & creating a real-time platform for tracking domestic excisable goods

2024 Zimbabwe Economic Development Conference

Collective intelligence harnessed from 10 research & analytical papers



2024 Zimbabwe National Budget

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Smart Spending. Big Impact.

Every Dollar Counts: Driving Impact Through Procurement

Sustainable and strategic procurement is the cornerstone of our impact.

It is the strategic lever we use to ensure every dollar we spend drives progress towards a greener, more equitable future, not just today but for generations to come.

For example, using our established relationships and global networks, we were able to create significant savings from our procurement efforts. These savings were key in establishing the innovative Solar for Health initiative.

In 2023, this commitment to sustainable procurement for development was reflected in our increased investment in renewable energy solutions.

DELIVERING GOODS AND SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT

More than 80% of the development assistance provided by UNDP in Zimbabwe is delivered in the form of goods and services. In 2023, we handled **procurement transactions that totalled US\$140 million**, of which US\$97 million was primarily directed towards acquiring essential goods and services.

As a result, we have used our procurement efforts as a gateway to pursue and implement a sustainable agenda, balance the gender scales, and ensure value for money.

In addition, our procurement processes have transitioned to being fully electronic, an experience we were privileged to **share with the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe** and other stakeholders in 2023.

Our procurement efforts prioritise the **acquisition of sustainable products and services**, not only for our own use but also for our partners.

INFOGRAPHIC

Top 6 procurement categories in 2023

Lifesaving
Medication
34%

Retention of Health
Care Professionals
18%

Irrigation
Development
8%

Solar Systems
6%

Medical Equipment
2%

Construction &
Infrastructure
Development
4%

US\$97 million

Value of development assistance
delivered through the procurement of
essential goods and services in 2023.

13 CLIMATE
ACTION

Adapting to a Changing Climate



Cultivating Climate Resilience in Southern Zimbabwe

To ensure over **1 million small-holder farmers** are equipped to adapt with the changing climate, we are implementing a three-pronged strategy: expanding access to irrigation by establishing or renovating **24 climate-smart irrigation schemes** over the next three years, increasing the area under sustainable irrigation by **over 1800 hectares**.

Additionally, we're upgrading agricultural practices to be more climate-resilient and increasing access to real-time weather and climate data to farmers, such as those at Masholomoshe Irrigation Scheme, empowering them to make informed decisions.

In 2023, we commenced construction on **nine of the irrigation schemes** and completed two, putting us on track to achieve our ambitious goals.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Our efforts to **bolster vulnerable communities' resilience** to climate change continued, especially in anticipation of the El Niño phenomenon's potential to decrease rainfall during the 2023/2024 season.

We partnered with the Government to establish or revitalise **climate-smart irrigation schemes**, providing a crucial safety net.

Irrigation Schemes

Farming areas where water systems are set up & managed to help grow crops. People in the community work together to manage & benefit from these schemes

Additionally, a key focus was improving **access to localized weather information**, empowering communities to make informed planting decisions amidst shifting weather patterns.

We are also encouraged by the positive results from ongoing training initiatives in **climate-smart agricultural practices**.



Training and implementing of climate smart agriculture methods with thanks to the **Green Climate Fund** and the **UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**.



Beating the Drought: Climate-Smart Practices Save the Harvest

While El Niño's drought grips the region, Shadreck Chakwakukwa's **(1)** field thrives.

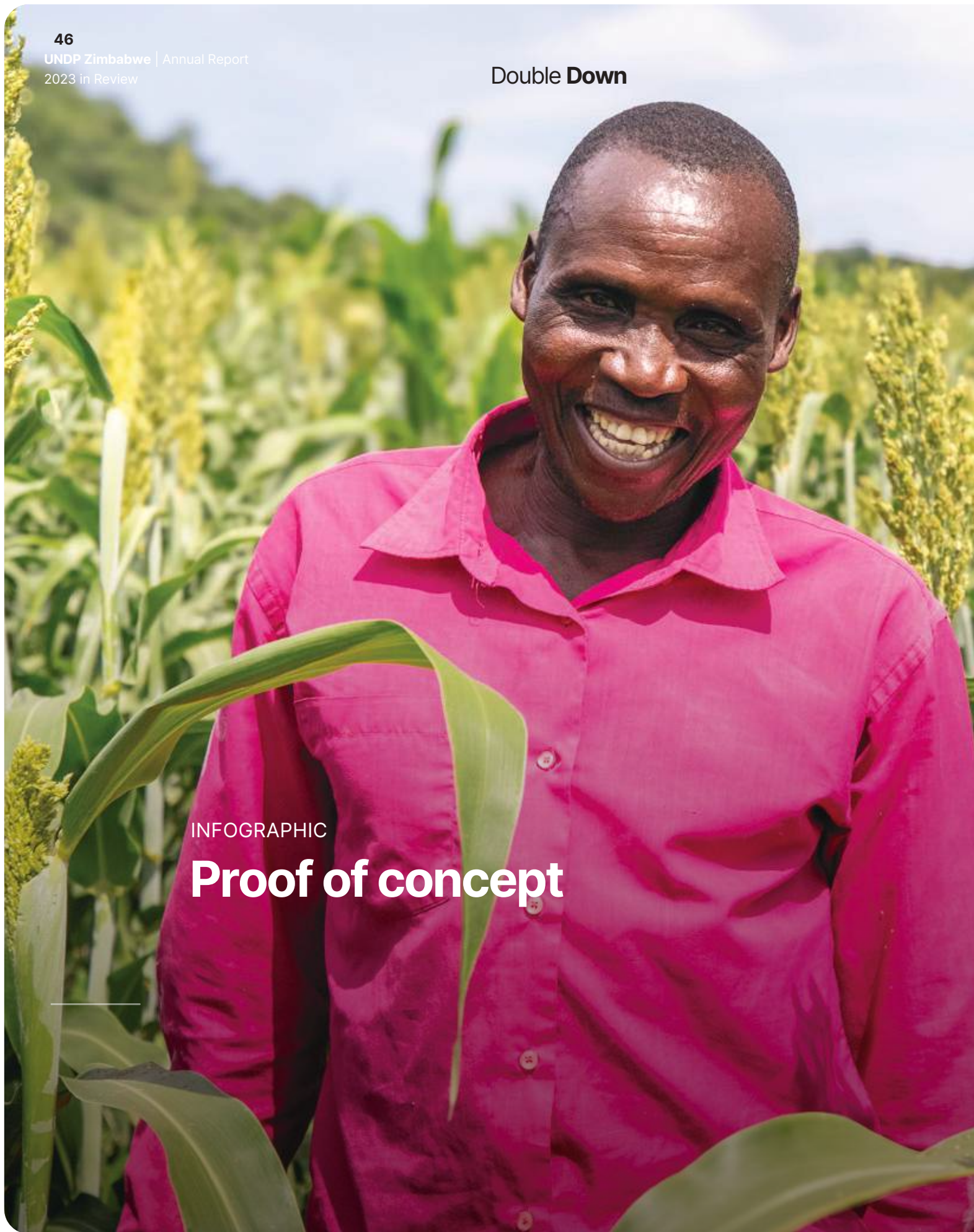
By adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, the soil retains precious moisture, ensuring his crop of small grains will carry through to a successful harvest - powerful proof of the resilience and sustainability of these innovative methods.

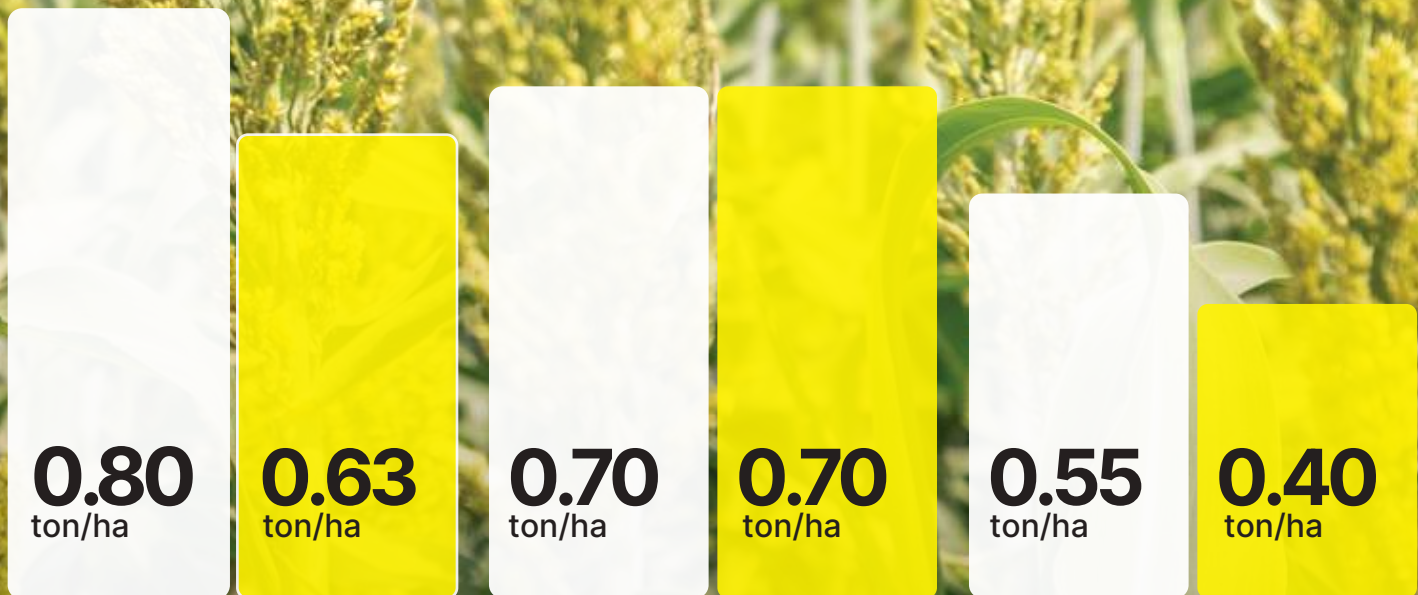
54,000+

Number of hectares that 70,000 small holder farmers put under climate smart agriculture practises.

INFOGRAPHIC

Proof of concept





White Sorghum

Maize

Pearl Millet



Project yield average



National yield average



Climate-Smart Success

Smallholder farmers are exceeding the national average yield for sorghum and millet, and matching the previously lagging national average for maize, thanks to climate-smart practices.

Double **Down****Weather Wisdom at Your Fingertips: Empowering Farmers with Local Forecasts**

UNDP partnered with the Meteorological Services Department to bring vital weather information directly to farmers. Seasonal forecasts, now available at the district level with the help of agricultural extension officers (1), help farmers plan their planting and manage resources effectively.



Our region receives little rainfall. We need to use every little drop of rain optimally. That is why these (weather forecast & advice) messages are very important to us.

- Vuma Nyama

Mwenezi District

About

302,600

Received regular, tailored weather information through various media.

**Participatory
Integrated Climate
Services for Agriculture
(PICSA)**

UNDP & WFP are using the PICSA approach to help smallholder farmers make informed decisions on climate and weather conditions



Additionally, timely 10-day forecasts are disseminated through WhatsApp groups and four radio channels, ensuring critical updates reach even the most remote communities.

Vuma Nyama (2), a seed farmer in Mwenezi District uses the forecasts to determine the variety of seed to plant, depending on the rainfall information he receives.

15 LIFE
ON LAND

Wildlife Comeback

From the Ground Up: New Legislation Strengthens Biodiversity Efforts

Our work on biodiversity goes beyond on-the-ground efforts.

In 2023, the Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Act which we supported together with other partners, was approved. The Act will promote sustainable resource use, community involvement, and benefit sharing.

This landmark legislation strengthens our legal framework to protect ecosystems and ensure communities can coexist with wildlife.

PROTECTING LIFE ON LAND, ONE CHALLENGE AT A TIME

We are committed to achieving SDG 15 (Life on Land) by conserving the rich biodiversity of the middle-lower Zambezi Valley. Here, we address critical challenges like poaching, human-wildlife conflict, deforestation, and the impacts of climate change such as droughts and frequent wildfires.

In collaboration with partners, we are implementing an **integrated approach to wildlife and ecosystem management** in this vital region.

Additionally, our Accelerator Lab is pioneering research and development of **sustainable methods to control swarming Quelea birds**, a significant threat to crops that are key to food security.



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Our contribution to protecting Zimbabwe's rich biodiversity is made possible by the **Global Environment Facility**.



Our Accelerator Labs R&D efforts into the sustainable control of quelea birds is made possible by the **Japan SDG Innovation Challenge**.



Guardians of the Wild

Our concerted efforts across various strategies within a region encompassing one national park and seven protected areas are proving fruitful.

Notably, there's a decline in wildlife poaching, and a marked reduction in the extent of veld fires.

These positive outcomes can be predominantly attributed to increased patrols **(1)** due to new outposts and technology like drones and camera traps, along with stronger collaboration with law enforcement and community outreach.

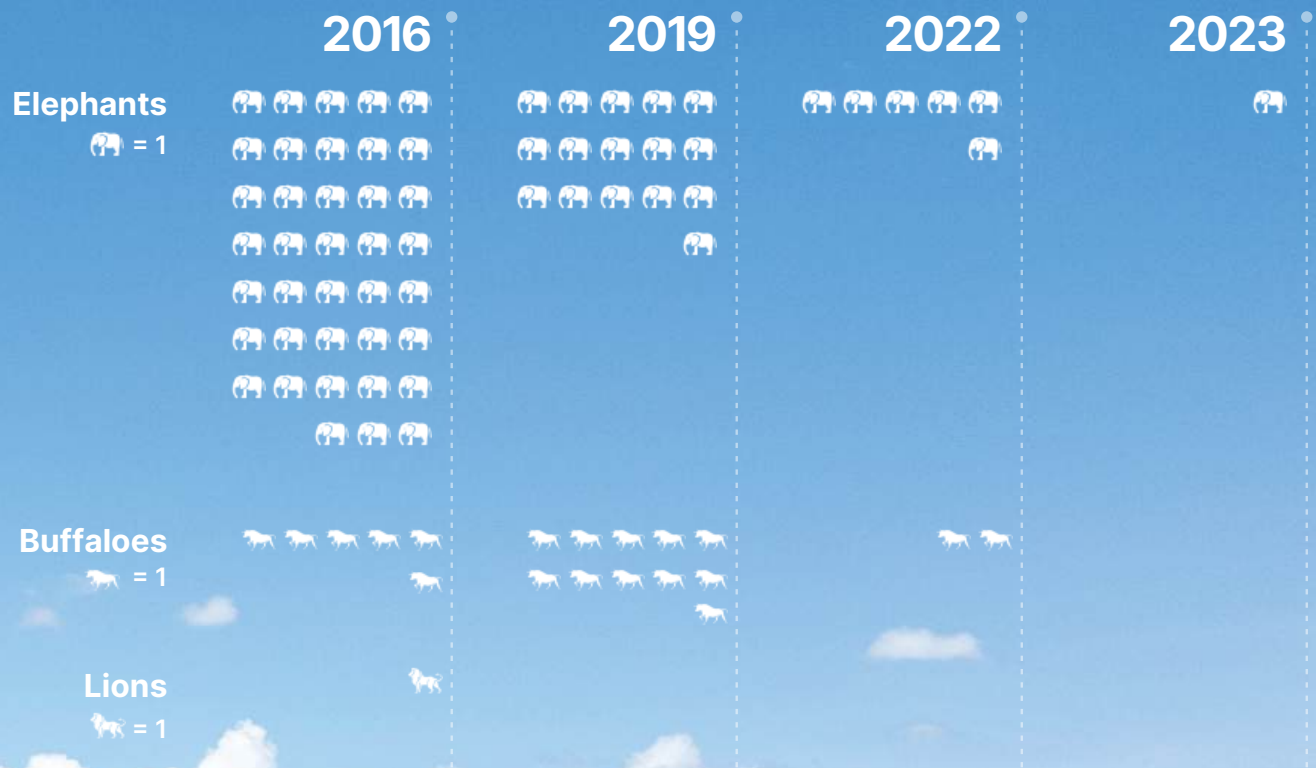
60+ Poacher camps destroyed.
1,000+ Snares destroyed.
14 Tusks recovered.
5 Rounds of ammunition seized.

INFOGRAPHIC

Poaching Plummetts



Trend of animals poached in the Zambezi Valley



How Tech Saves Animals

With tools like SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) improving real-time reporting alongside drones, camera traps, and GPS collars, technology is proving a powerful weapon against wildlife poaching.

Double **Down****Trees Triumph: Reforestation and Reduced Fires Fuel a Sustainable Future**

In 2023, we cultivated a greener future, fostering the growth of over 270,000 trees! Through collaborative efforts, we managed nurseries (1), distributed seedlings to communities (2), and oversaw planting initiatives (3).

This comprehensive approach, coupled with increased fire awareness, is restoring forests and safeguarding wildlife areas. Together, we're restoring forests and safeguarding wildlife.

270,000

Tree seedlings nurtured and planted in the 2023/2024 tree planting season, 70% of which were indigenous varieties which maintain the balance of the ecosystem and sequester more carbon.

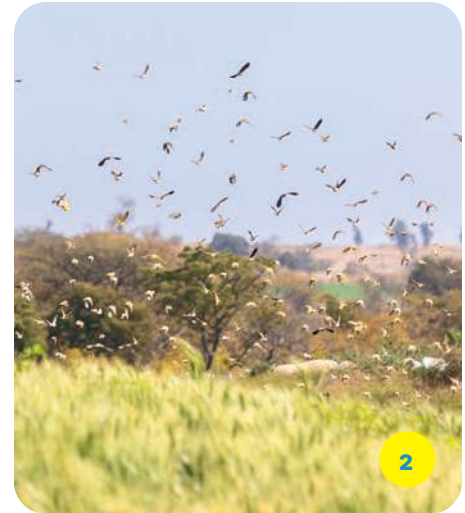


Combating Food Security Threats Through Research & Development (R&D) and Collaboration

Our Accelerator Lab made significant strides in addressing a critical threat to Zimbabwe's food security: the devastating impact of swarming quelea birds which can consume up to 10% of yields (2).

R&D for Sustainable Solutions: The Lab leveraged funding from the Japan SDG Challenge to partner with Pegara, an AI and automation specialist, to explore utilising drone and AI technologies to detect and deter these destructive birds. This collaboration also aimed to integrate learnings from local knowledge systems for a more comprehensive approach. (1).

Collaboration Breeds Insights: In 2023, the Lab co-hosted a symposium with the University of Zimbabwe to broaden awareness and connect partners with domain that is key to tackling the quelea bird challenge.



Threat to Climate Action

The threat of quelea birds is double-fold as they feed on the small grain crops that are encouraged to grow as a strategy to adapt to climate action



Strengthening Justice Institutions



Steadfast Support for Justice Beyond a Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we played a pivotal role in supporting the Judicial Services Commission's initiative to establish virtual courts.

Our contribution enabled all 10 provinces to set up virtual court systems that connect remand prisons with courtrooms.

The year 2023 marked a pivotal turning point as the fruits of our investment began to manifest.

BUILDING A STRONGER JUSTICE SYSTEM

In 2023, our collaboration with the Justice Services Commission led to notable advancements in **rectifying disparities in the application of the law**, thereby enhancing equitable access to justice.

The country held general elections and we supported the Electoral Commission with **educating the electorate**. In addition, we were proud to partner with UNESCO and UN Women whose expertise proved invaluable in **strengthening media capacity** and **monitoring gender issues** throughout the polling period.

Our earlier investments in **mainstreaming technology** in legal and justice institutions are starting to yield results and make an impact.



Investments towards establishing virtual courts were made possible by **UNDP's Partners at Core**. Support to the Electoral Commission was made possible by funding from the **European Union, Japan, France** and **UNDP's Core Resources**.



Empowering Participation

Our support to the Electoral Commission was primarily focused on voter education for the 2023 elections. UNDP supported development of essential education materials to empower voter educators (2).

We also supported development and production of educational materials to facilitate outreach initiatives, including weekly radio broadcasts, nationwide road shows, impactful billboards (1), and informative Public Service Announcements.

Media Empowerment

We partnered with UNESCO who engaged media practitioners across print, broadcast, and online platforms, fostering informed dialogue and inclusive coverage.

Gender Watch

We also collaborated with UN Women and the Gender Commission who established a Gender Observatory to monitor and enable the participation of women in the elections throughout Zimbabwe.

5.9 million

Individuals received invaluable voter education through direct engagement efforts led by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, with a portion reached via materials facilitated by our assistance.

Double Down



Justice Virtually Delivered: Closing the Backlog Gap

In 2023, **nearly 2,800 cases were successfully heard virtually**, a significant proportion of the country's remand hearings backlog.

By streamlining the hearing process, this system helps guarantee timely resolutions, ensuring swifter access to justice for all.

Promoting Justice and Protecting our Environment: A Cross-Portfolio Collaboration

Our Transformative Governance portfolio, and the Nature, Climate and Energy portfolio joined forces to support the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs in a critical initiative aimed to achieve substantial uniformity in sentencing for wildlife crimes.

Consistent sentencing ensures both offenders and victims receive equal protection and benefit from the law, serving as a strong deterrent to those considering illegal wildlife trade.





The benefits of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System [encompassing the virtual courts] far outweigh the perceived and real challenges.

The new system has dealt decisively with inefficiency, corruption, constant missing records and pleadings, back-stamping of documents filed late by parties, clandestine setting down of matters, and many other evils pointed out by stakeholders.

The system of justice delivery cannot afford to go back to those dark spots. The digital system has brought efficiency and transparency.

- Hon. Chief Justice Luke Malaba

On the occasion of the official opening of the 2024 Legal Year

AMPLIFYING REACH AND RESOURCES:

Partnerships



Appreciating the following partners for the development assistance, their continued trust and partnership in 2023



Government of
Denmark



European Union



Government of
France



Global
Environment
Facility



Government of
Germany



The Global Fund
to fight AIDS, TB
& Malaria



Green Climate
Fund



Government of
Ireland



Government of
Japan



Joint SDG Fund



Montreal Protocol



Government of
Netherlands



Government of
Norway



RIKSREVISIONEN



United Kingdom
Foreign,
Commonwealth and
Development Office



United Nations
MPTF Office

United Nations
Multi-Partner
Trust Fund

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: 2024 & BEYOND

The journey towards achieving the SDGs in Zimbabwe is far from over, but the progress made to date serves as a springboard for an ambitious future.

To achieve even greater impact, we recognize the need for **strengthened partnerships** and **pulling together resources**. We invite a broader range of development partners passionate about development to join our journey.

As the United Nations' integrator and development agency, we stand ready as a bridge, **connecting partners** with the most pressing needs and opportunities in Zimbabwe. We are confident that through collective action, we can unlock the immense potential Zimbabwe holds.



Making History: Supporting Zimbabwe's Debt Resolution

In 2023, UNDP was privileged to play a role in Zimbabwe's ground-breaking Debt Dialogue process as co-chair of the Lands Sector Working Group.

This first-of-its-kind initiative brought together the country and its creditors to address long-standing debt and arrears.

A successful resolution will pave the way for increased investment, economic growth, and accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MAKING WORK, WORK.

Operational Efficiency



**\$176
million**

Worth of support
channeled towards
various development
initiatives in 2023.



53% : 47%

Ratio of **male** : **female**
working for UNDP
Zimbabwe.

(August 2023 snapshot)



**US\$140
million**

Value of procurement
transactions handled.



Clean

(Unmodified)

Audit rating of the 10
implementing partners
audited in 2023.



US\$12,600

Value of costs avoided in
2023 from switching to
solar power.



48,000 kWh

Amount of energy
generated from the
solar plant and used
in 2023, with 2,700
kWh expended into the
national grid.

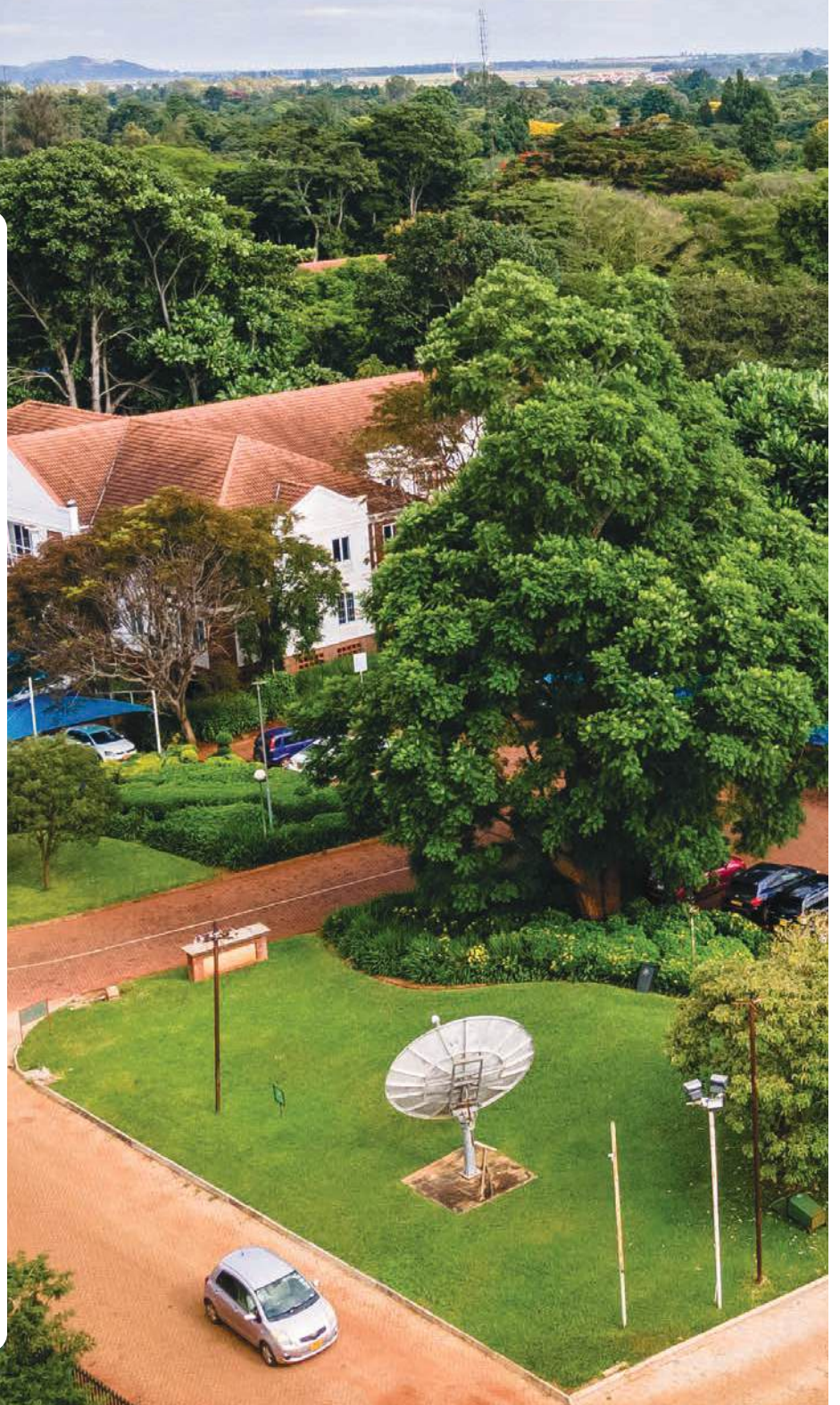
Environmental Responsibility and Business Efficiency

Environmental responsibility is not only crucial for the planet but is also good business.

Our sustainability efforts have yielded tangible benefits. The installation of a solar power plant at our offices has provided uninterrupted power, contributing to cost savings while reducing our carbon footprint. This initiative complements our ongoing efforts to audit, monitor, and reduce water and energy consumption, and waste within our operations.

In 2023, we expanded our greening efforts beyond internal operations, assisting the private and hospitality sectors in auditing their waste generation and developing investor-ready business cases for sustainable waste management practices.

This demonstrates our commitment to leading by example and inspiring broader positive environmental change.







View an interactive version of
this report online:

annualreport.undp.org.zw

OR



SCAN THIS WITH YOUR
PHONE CAMERA



UNDP Zimbabwe | Annual Report
2023 in Review

Double Down





FIND OUT MORE

UNDP Zimbabwe

 @undpzimbabwe

 @undpzimbabwe

 @undpzimbabwe

 @undpzimbabwe

 @undpzimbabwe

 /@UNDPinZimbabwe

 /company/undpzimbabwe

 www.undp.org/zimbabwe

