# Country Guide: Zimbabwe

June 2020





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The Republic of Zimbabwe is a landlocked country situated in Southern Africa between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, with a total land area of 390,757km<sup>2</sup>. The country is divided into 10 administrative provinces including two metropolitan cities with provincial status, the capital Harare and Bulawayo.

Formerly called Rhodesia under British colonial rule (1888 – 1965) and internationally unrecognised white minority rule (1965 – 1980), Zimbabwe gained full independence in 1980 after a 15-year civil war. The Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), has ruled the country since, initially under Robert Mugabe (1980 – 2017) and now under Emmerson Mnangagwa (2017 – present). However, the legitimacy of most recent general elections, including the 2018 election, has been called into question by the international community. Once the economic success story of Southern Africa, destructive policy decisions in the last 20 years, combined with poor governance, have left the country in economic turmoil.



Figure 1: Map of Zimbabwe. Source: d-maps

#### **Natural environment**

Zimbabwe's climate is sub-tropical, though this is moderated by altitude. Most of the country consists of a central plateau with altitudes of between 1,000 and 1,600m and mountainous Eastern Highlands to the east. The Zambezi river forms a natural boundary with its neighbouring country Zambia, on which the Victoria Falls



Figure 2: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

is located, the world's largest curtain of falling water. On the Zambia-Zimbabwe border is Lake Kariba, the world's largest reservoir by volume at 180 cubic kilometres.

The rainy season is from November to March, with the highest rainfall occurring in January at 161 mm on average. Average rainfall decreases from east to west; the Eastern Highlands receive an annual average of more than 1000 mm, while Bulawayo in the west receives an annual average of 610 mm. Temperature variations correspond closely to altitude, with the low-lying areas in the south and north-west experiencing warmer temperatures than the high lying areas in the east.

Zimbabwe is particularly vulnerable to a changing climate. Two-thirds of Zimbabwe is classified as being arid, or semi-arid, and the country is facing

growing exposure to drought, floods and extreme temperatures associated with climate change. The effects of climate variability and shocks are felt in both urban and rural areas. Droughts have affected rural areas where livelihoods are largely dependent on rain fed agriculture, as well as resulting in water shortages in urban areas where diminished water sources are unable to support growing populations.

Droughts have also had severely negative impacts on electricity supply. Water levels of the Kariba Dam, the location of one of Zimbabwe's largest hydropower plants, has in recent times reached one of the lowest ever recorded dam capacity levels at 27%, where a minimum level of 37% is required for power generation. Within Bulawayo, one of the major cities of Zimbabwe, there is an ongoing water crisis due to drought, with the city implementing five-day weekly water-shedding exercises. Local authorities decommissioned two of the city's major supply dams, the Umzongwane and the Upper Ncema, in

| Table 1: Zimbabwe at a glance |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Capital                       | Harare  |
| Total Area                    | 390 757 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Population                    | 14.44 million (2018)  |
| Official languages            | Sixteen official languages including Shona, Ndebele and English |
| Urban Population              | 32.2% (2018)  |
| GDP                           | USD \$ 31 M (2018)  |
| GDP Per Capita                | USD \$ 2 147 (2018)   |
| Currency                      | USD \$  |
| Access to Electricity         | 34% (2017)  |
| Electrification – urban areas | 81% (2017)  |
| Electrification – rural areas | 19% (2017)  |

2019 as a result of falling water levels. Authorities further expect to decommission the Lower Ncema Dam in 2020 due to ongoing depletion of the water levels, which will further exacerbate the water crisis.

#### **Demographics and economics**

Zimbabwe has a population of approximately 14.44 million, with a population density of 37.3 people per square kilometre. This closely resembles the average population density in Africa (39 people per square kilometre). Outside the major urban agglomerations of Harare (the capital) and Bulawayo, the population distribution of Zimbabwe is relatively evenly spread, with the eastern half of the country having a slightly higher population density. 32.2% of the population resides in urban areas. Annual population growth in 2017 was recorded at 2.3%.

The country remains extremely poor. In 2017, the prevalence of poverty (people living on less that USD \$1.90/day) was measured at 86% in rural areas and 37% in urban areas with an overall poverty rate of 70.5%, illustrating a country in deep economic turmoil.

In 2018, Zimbabwe GDP composition by sector illustrated that agriculture contributes 12.1%, with industries and service contributing 32.5% and 45.7% respectively.

Zimbabwe's economy has more recently shown some recovery following decades of economic contraction, the sharpest of which occurred between 2000 and 2008, which almost halved GDP.

This was exacerbated in 2008, when Zimbabwe experienced a peak of hyperinflation, driven by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe printing money in excess to fund the country's budget deficit. A multicurrency regime was subsequently adopted to stabilise inflation. This contributed to a period between 2009 and 2012 that was marked by economic stabilisation, with mining and agriculture key sectors strengthening the economy.

However, in June 2019, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe abolished the multiple currency system and replaced it with a new Zimbabwe dollar based on the RTGS Dollar (real-time gross settlement dollar). This retriggered surging inflation, and in March 2020, the Reserve Bank in Zimbabwe reverted to the US dollar, with the Reserve Bank now adopting a fixed exchange rate system at the current interbank level of ZW\$25 to the US\$ (although street rates indicate an exchange rate of 44.5 ZW\$ to the US\$).

Zimbabwe has been subject to varying levels of sanctions since 2003 when the United States first imposed financial and travel restriction related sanctions against then-president Robert Mugabe, state companies and close members of the president's inner circle, over rights abuses and rigged elections. The United States and the European Union have recently mandated sanctions against officials and entities linked to the governing party over the lack of progress in democratic and human rights reforms, as well as a restriction on press freedoms. United States financial sanctions and travel restrictions currently apply to the president and 85 individuals, with a further 56 companies/organisations facing restrictions.

These sanctions have been stated by the Zimbabwe president to be slowing down the country's progress and inhibiting economic recovery.

In 2019, GDP contracted by 12.8% due to poor performance in mining, tourism, and agriculture, largely due to foreign currency and electricity shortages affecting these industries. Public debt remains above the statutory target of 70% of GDP while in June 2019, external debt constituted 87% of total country debt, estimated at \$8 billion, of which about \$5.9 billion (73.75%) was accumulated arrears.

Economic crisis, hyperinflation and ensuing political crisis have had significant effects on the Zimbabwean society, which resulted in Zimbabwe experiencing mass migration in recent years. This has led to a significant skills exodus, pushing highly skilled workers abroad due to unemployment, low wages, and few opportunities at home. The economic crisis together with the drought has also left 60% of Zimbabweans food insecure, making economic recovery extremely challenging. Furthermore, Zimbabwe's debt crisis together with the country's inability to repay loans has made it difficult for the country to borrow new capital to stabilise the already fragile economy.

In the yearly World Bank survey on "Doing Business", a comparison of business regulation in 190 economies, Zimbabwe scored lower than the Sub-Saharan African average (80.1). The 2020 edition of Doing Business ranks Zimbabwe 167 out of the 190 with a score of 72 out of 100 for the ease of starting a business. Figure 3 provides the ranking and scores of Zimbabwe compared to other economies for various 'Doing Business' topics, showing areas where Zimbabwe is performing well and those that need to be improved. Accessing electricity and enforcing contracts are the biggest areas of weakness for Zimbabwe, which negatively impact doing business within the country and therefore limit business development.



Figure 1: World Bank doing business 2020 global rankings and scores for various 'Doing Business' topics in Zimbabwe. Source: World Bank Group, 2020

#### **Energy**

The state-owned Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) is the holding company for both the national generation utility Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) and the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC). These two companies are the main actors involved in the power sector, responsible for power generation, and transmission and distribution, respectively.

The generation sector has been liberalised, however ZPC remains responsible for approximately 95% of power production. Likewise, transmission and distribution are theoretically liberalised as other players can obtain transmission and distribution licences, though in practice, ZETDC remains the only significant operator responsible for transmission and distribution.

More than half of the population is unelectrified, and as with most Sub-Saharan African countries, there is a big difference between rural and urban electrification rates. Access to electricity in urban areas is estimated at 81% and rural electricity access is estimated at 19%. 68% of the population live in rural areas, which therefore translates into approximately 7.8 million people without

access to electricity.

The main sources of primary energy in Zimbabwe are coal, wood fuel, electricity and petroleum fuels, of which biomass fuel comprises the majority. According to the latest national energy balance (2009), wood fuel comprises 61% of the total energy supply, followed by liquid fuels (18%), electricity (13%), and coal (8%).

Zimbabwe has an installed capacity of approximately 2,470MW, comprised of large hydro (approximately 45% of installed capacity) and fossil fuel powered stations (approximately 50%). The remaining 5% is derived from Independent Power Producers (IPPs), of which the bulk is derived from three IPPs using biomass, and to a lesser extent from mini hydropower projects.

However, Zimbabwe has a net deficit in power supply, as the actual capacity available (1,300 - 1,500 MW) is much lower than the installed capacity (2,470 MW), with supply unable to meet power demand (approximately 1,600 MW). Inability to supplement the recent deficits has resulted in rolling electricity blackouts lasting as long as 18 hours a day.

This is due to a combination of impacts such as droughts causing low water levels in the Kariba Dam, a shortage of coal, the government's debt crises (impacting the country's ability to purchase electricity from neighbouring countries), and the cost of fuel and power stations operating under capacity due to a lack of maintenance.

Besides the commissioning of the Kariba South extension (300 MW hydro) in 2018, limited additional power generation capacity has been added to the grid in the last three decades. There are, however, projects in the pipeline to increase generation capacity. These include Hwange Power Station Expansion (600 MW coal), Mutare peaking plant (120 MW), the Batoka Gorge Hydro Power station (2,400 MW to be equally split between Zimbabwe and Zambia) and approximately 700 MW from IPPs. Additionally, Zimbabwe's Rio Energy Ltd have signed a deal to build a 2,100 MW thermal coal power plant with China Gezhouba Group Corp in Sengwa, Northern Zimbabwe, at a cost of \$3 billion dollars.

| Table 1: Zimbabwe Power Sources              |                         |                  |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| Name of power plant                          | Owner                   | Capacity<br>(MW) |
| Kariba Dam<br>Hydroelectric Power<br>Station | ZPC                     | 750              |
| Kariba South Extension<br>(Hydro)            | ZPC                     | 300              |
| Hwange Thermal Power<br>Station              | ZPC                     | 920              |
| DEMA diesel peaking plant                    | ZPC                     | 100              |
| Munyati (Coal)                               | ZPC                     | 100              |
| Bulawayo (Coal)                              | ZPC                     | 90               |
| Harare (Coal)                                | ZPC                     | 80               |
| Triangle (Bagasse)                           | Triangle Ltd            | 45               |
| Hippo Valley Estates<br>(Bagasse)            | Hippo Valley<br>Estates | 33               |
| Green Fuel (Bagasse)                         | Green Fuel              | 18               |
| Small and Mini-hydro<br>IPPs                 | Various IPPs            | 30               |

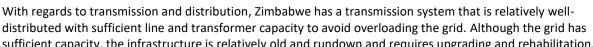
The Renewable Energy Policy (REP) is supportive of renewable energy technologies including biomass, hydro, solar and wind power, and acknowledges the potential of renewable energy for rural electrification. In order to transform the policy intentions into reality, the REP was developed with an implementation strategy to achieve the goals set in the National Energy Policy (NEP) and Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The REP specifies targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency, and also articulates an implementation strategy with specific deliverables and timeframes. To meet the NDC's 33% emission reduction target, it sets a target of 1,100 MW (or 16.5% of total demand) of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025, and 2,100 MW (or 26.6% of total demand) by 2030, excluding large hydro (such as electricity from Lake Kariba). The policy also brought about the following key changes relevant to private sector players within the energy field:

- The payable licencing fee threshold was increased from 100 kW to 1 MW
- EIA requirements have been relaxed for mini grids up to 5 MW
- Awarding National Project Status and Tax Incentives to renewable energy projects
- A Green Energy Fund is being set up to extend financial assistance for setting up renewable energy projects (including mini grids) and will initially be housed with the Rural Electrification Fund (REF), then subsequently with the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ)
- Setting up of a Nodal Agency to facilitate administrative approvals and assist with complex processes such as land acquisitions, transmission connectivity and signing of a PPA

However, IPPs have faced significant barriers to participation in the power sector due to a lack of clarity over regulation, a lack of incentives, and high offtake risk for independent generators. Yet investment in power generation projects such as small hydro and solar plants have been recognised by the government as critical. Recent government interventions such as new policies (e.g. the REP) and frameworks may aid in overcoming challenges previously faced by IPPs. In principle, the government is supportive of IPPs and mini grid developers. They also acknowledge the importance that off-grid electrification will play in increasing electricity access and the role that IPPs can have to increase the installed capacity of the country.

distributed with sufficient line and transformer capacity to avoid overloading the grid. Although the grid has sufficient capacity, the infrastructure is relatively old and rundown and requires upgrading and rehabilitation.



#### Solar

Zimbabwe is a sunny country which enjoys about 3,000 hours of sunshine a year with average solar irradiation of 5.7 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day. Solar PV has a technical potential of over 300 MW, with the north and west regions of the country having the highest irradiation potential.

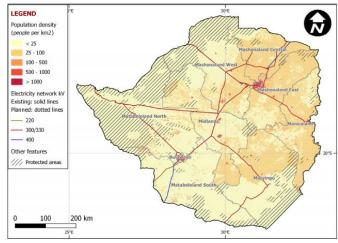


Figure 2: Zimbabwe transmission and distribution network. Source: SE4All and African Development Bank, 2018

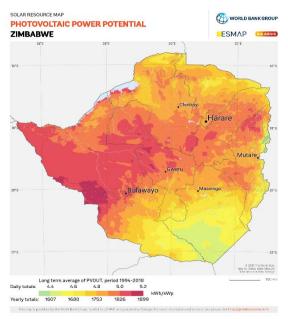


Figure 5: Solar Resource Zimbabwe. (2019 The World Bank, Source: Global Solar Atlas 2.0, Solar resource data: Solarqis)

Only a limited portion of this solar energy potential has been utilised. Solar energy has traditionally been used for domestic and commercial solar water heating, refrigeration in rural clinics and hospitals, and solar-water pumping to a limited degree. Solar home systems are becoming increasingly common in rural and periurban areas and can be commonly found in social institutions such as schools and clinics within these areas.

In 2019, the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) processed 39 solar powers projects, six now functional, two under construction and 31 to be developed. Together, the solar power projects will have the capacity to generate up to 1152 MW, which will help increase energy capacity within the country. Furthermore, the World Bank is proving aid to the Zimbabwean government to introduce a competitive programme for procuring large scale PV power projects under the newly completed National Renewable Energy Policy. The World Bank tender seeks experts to advise the Zimbabwean government on a procurement programme emphasising generation asset planning. The illustrated scope of work includes demand and

generation forecasts, grid flexibility analysis, committed generation and a domestic resource assessment.

#### Wind

Average wind speeds are relatively low at an estimated 3.5m/s, though the Ministry of Energy and Power Development sees potential in the exploitation of the slow wind speeds for water pumping. Areas around Bulawayo and the Eastern Highlands show greater potential for larger power generation with wind speeds ranging from 4 to 6 m/s.

Besides wind-powered water pumping systems, there are no existing wind farms in Zimbabwe. A pilot project, which was implemented in three phases between 1990-2008, ran as part of the Power from Wind project and was implemented by the Zimbabwe Environmental Research Organisation (ZERO). This project resulted in the production of 1 kW and 4 KW wind turbines by a local manufacturer, Power Vision, and the installation of wind turbines in the Temaruru and Dumbanwe areas. However, the project ceased in 2008 due to vandalism of the turbines by local people and a lack of responsibility and ownership for the projects.

A proposed feasibility study to determine the wind potential of three sites was put on hold by ZERA in early 2018, due to a lack of available funding. The purpose of the feasibility study was to create an accurate knowledge base of the wind resource potential to inform future renewable energy projects.

#### Hydro

Zimbabwe has a high potential for both large and small hydropower plants, totalling an estimated 17,500 GWh/year. The large hydropower potential of the Zambezi River is estimated at 7,200 MW. The total small and mini hydro potential is estimated to be 120 MW, based on 20 MW from existing dams, 60 MW from proposed dams and 43 MW from run-of-river sites.

By 2017, the installed capacity of small hydropower had reached 15.2 MW, mainly from run-of-river schemes in the Eastern Highlands. The Eastern Highlands are particularly promising for small hydro development as they have a wet climate with perennial streams and rivers flowing throughout the year.

However, droughts and variable rainfall have limited the viability of micro-hydro systems in Zimbabwe in recent years, with hybrid systems proposed to mitigate some of the risks from future droughts.

Table 2 outlines micro and small hydropower in Zimbabwe. From this table, it is evident that the total capacity under development is 72.6 MW with 29 MW operational and 1 MW non-operational (due to aging equipment).

| Non-operational |       | Operational      | Operational |                 | Under development (licenced-awaiting final closure |  |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Name            | kW    | Name             | kW          | Name            | kW   |  |
| Chitofu         | 20    | Mutsikira        | 3           | Ruti            | 960  |  |
| Dazi            | 20    | Nyafaru          | 20          | Mayunchi        | 1,400  |  |
| Svinurai        | 30    | Chipendeke       | 30          | Immaculate Tech | 1,600  |  |
| Nyamarimbira    | 30    | Sithole Chikwati | 30          | Mutambara       | 1,600  |  |
| Aberfoyle       | 35    | Ngarura          | 30          | Nyahode         | 1,700  |  |
| Kuends          | 75    | Nyamwanga        | 30          | Odzani          | 2,400  |  |
| Himalaya        | 80    | Claremont        | 300         | Orsbone         | 3,000  |  |
| Rusitu          | 750   | Nyamingura       | 1,100       | Claremont       | 3,000  |  |
|                 |       | Kupinga          | 1,600       | Tsanga          | 3,300  |  |
|                 |       | Duru             | 2,200       | H.T.Gen         | 3,300  |  |
|                 |       | Hauna            | 2,300       | Great Zimbabwe  | 5,000  |  |
|                 |       | Pungwe A         | 2,750       | Tokwe Mukorsi   | 15,000   |  |
|                 |       | Pungwe B         | 3,750       | Gairezi         | 30,000   |  |
|                 |       | Pungwe C         | 15,000      |                 |  |  |
| Total           | 1,040 |                  | 29,143      |                 | 72,260   |  |

#### **Biomass**

Biomass occupies the largest share of the total energy mix, though it is predominantly used for cooking and heating by the general population, rather than for electricity generation. There is currently 100 MW of installed commercial electricity generation biomass capacity (Table 3). This tends to be limited to sugar cane producers and sawmills and is generally for self-consumption (though in some instances, excess power is fed back into the grid). Biomass mini grids are most likely to be viable near industrial sites producing organic waste such as forestry and sugar. Surplus power could be used for nearby communities.

| Table 3: Biomass power generation plants in Zimbabwe |            |          |
|--|------------|----------|
| Plant  | Fuel       | Capacity |
| Triangel Sugar Mill (Tongaat<br>Hullet (Pvt) Ltd     | Bagasse    | 45 MW    |
| Chiredzi Sugar Mill (Tongaat<br>Hullet (Pvt) Ltd     | Bagasse    | 33 MW    |
| Chisumbanje Ethonal Plant<br>Green fuel (Pvt) Ltd    | Bagasse    | 18 MW    |
| Charter Sawmill Border<br>Timbers (Pvt) Ltd          | Wood Waste | 0.5 MW   |

#### **Geothermal potential**

As Zimbabwe is located on the southern end of the geologically active Rift Valley, geothermal power may be a viable generation option. In 1985, 50 MW of geothermal potential was identified but little has been done since to further catalogue the resource.

#### Mini grids

As indicated in the 2018 Mini-Grid Market Opportunity Assessment for Zimbabwe, estimates are that 1.1 million people (approximately 6% of the non-electrified population) will be best served by mini grid solutions in Zimbabwe. A further 2.2 million people (13% of the non-electrified population) will be best served by solar home systems (SHS) and 7.6 million people (44% of the non-electrified population) will be best served by grid extension, based on proximity to the existing grid (based on the current grid coverage and taking into consideration any planned grid extensions that will reduce the estimated market size).

80% of the Zimbabwean mini grid market is in the Manicaland, Masvingo and Matabeleland North and South provinces, due to their low electrification rates, limited grid coverage, and population densities high enough to support mini grids. 251,000 and 246,000 people will be most economically served through mini grids in Manicaland and Masvingo respectively, corresponding to around 11% of the population in each province. The provinces with the largest percentage of the population best served by SHS technologies are Mashonaland West and Masvingo, at 21% and 20% respectively.

In summary, estimates calculated in the 2018 Mini-Grid Market Opportunity Assessment indicate the annual mini grid market size of USD \$54.4 million in Zimbabwe, based on an average mini-grid tariff of USD \$0.28/kWh, and average household demand per day of 2.2 kWh. This implies per capita annual electricity expenditure of \$49.94 within the population best served by mini grids. Based on an estimated cost-reflective tariff of \$0.4/kWh across Sub-Saharan Africa, it is therefore estimated that 43% of project costs would need to be covered by subsidy (approximately \$30m annually) to open up the mini grid market to developers (lifetime project costs – with subsidy covering both CAPEX and OPEX).

#### **Energy stakeholders and programmes**

The Ministry of Energy and Power Development, the overarching regulatory authority, is responsible for policy formulation, performance monitoring, promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and overseeing the performance of the state-owned utility company ZESA. The main energy stakeholders and their associated roles are further described in Table 4. Zimbabwe's energy-related support programmes are described in Table 5. These programmes illustrate the main project activities, aims and objectives within the country.

| Institution  | Role   |
|--|--|
| The Ministry of Energy and Power Development                       | The Ministry of Energy and Power Development is the overarching regulatory authority and is supported by the Rural Electrification Fund (REF) and the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA). The ministry is responsible for policy formulation, performance monitoring, promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and overseeing the performance of the state-owned utility company, ZESA Holdings. REF's mandate is to facilitate electrification of rural areas and is responsible for planning and implementing rural electrification projects, as well as to administer the funds for rural electrification. ZERA is responsible for regulating and monitoring public and private enterprises involved with energy production, transportation, distribution and supply as well as issuing licences and setting tariffs. ZERA regulates all energy sources, which include petroleum, gas, renewable energy and electricity derived from conventional thermal power. |
| Zimbabwean Power Company (ZPC)                                     | Responsible for on-grid power generation and supply to the grid.   |
| Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) | Responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity, balancing supply and demand and performing services such as grid impact assessments.   |
| ZESA Enterprises (ZENT)  | A flexible investment arm of ZESA Holdings that provides a diverse range of products and services such as manufacturing of equipment used in the power sector and fleet hiring.  |
| Powertel Communications:   | Public data network operator fully licensed by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) that provides data communications services. It was originally primarily responsible for providing communication services to the power companie (ZESA Holdings, 2018).   |
| Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA)                          | The Zimbabwe National Water Authority is a wholly government-owned entity tasked with managing the country's water resources. ZINWA was created through the ZINWA Act as part of the Government's efforts to reform the country's water sector.  |

| Programme   | Main activities  |
|---|--|
| Renewable Energy and Adaptation and Climate Technologies Program for Sub-Saharan Africa (REACT SSA) by the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF). | Zimbabwe is one of the target countries eligible to receive funding from the Renewable Energy and Adaptation and Climate Technologies Program for Sub-Saharan Africa (REACT SSA) by the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF). The AECF is a development institution which supports businesses to create resilience and sustainable incomes in rural and marginalised communities in Africa. The programme will provide funding to promote the implementation of renewable energy projects by the private sector. The fund will match funding on a 1:2 basis to a minimum of USD \$250,000 and a maximum of USD \$1.5 million. For example, private funding of USD \$125,000 will be matched with USD \$250,000 from the fund (AECF Africa, 2018). Under the AECF REACT programme, SIDA committed USD \$6.5million to Zimbabwe for two years, from 2020 to 2021. In a second round of funding, which included mini grids, 14 companies in Zimbabwe were shortlisted, of which nine were targeted to be funded. |
| Green Innovations Hub (GiHub)<br>programme  | The Swedish Embassy in Harare signed an agreement to the amount of USD \$773,000 in 2017, to support UNICEF in the second phase expansion of its Green Innovations Hub (GiHub) programme. The programme began in 2015 and serves as an incubation space for young people. Young entrepreneurs have been invited to come up with ideas for products and services that promote renewable energy and sustainability. Feasible projects will receive funding for testing and technical support to be scaled up. Overall, the programme aims to build capacity in the renewable energy and sustainability sectors, provide space for incubation and innovation, and cultivate a culture of environmental stewardship. 29 projects were funded and supported by mentorship and business coaching. The project closed in October 2019 and   |

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|----------------|---|
|                | linked some of the promising projects to organisations like PFAN, ILO's Green EnterPrize project and others. Several other projects, including the ILO GreenEnterPrize projects, have since been funded by the Swedish Embassy in Zimbabwe to run similar green innovation funding challenges and they are currently being implemented. |

#### **Industry associations**

Renewable Energy Association of Zimbabwe (REAZ) is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit organisation. The mandate of REAZ is to facilitate the sustainable development and uptake of Renewable Energy Technologies in Zimbabwe to the benefit of its members, stakeholders and consumers. REAZ was formed for all the energy stakeholders to speak with one voice. It partnered with Power for All in a 'global campaign to promote distributed energy', and outreach programmes were carried out in Harare, Gweru, Mutare, Masvingo & Bulawayo in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Power Development. REAZ has over 20 members to date, including big companies such as Green Fuel, Nyangani Renewable Energy, Solar Energy Projects, Zimbabwe Bio Energy, Tendo Electronics and Rusununguko Nkululeko Holdings.

#### References and further reading

#### Towards an Upper-Middle Income Economy by 2030

http://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas\_d/files/GoZ%20Presentation%20DC%20-%2019-4-2018.pdf

#### **Zimbabwe Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)**

 $\underline{https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP\%20Zimbabwe\%20Country\%20Strategic\%20Plan.}\\ \underline{pdf}$ 

#### **Zimbabwe Energy Regulation Authority**

https://www.zera.co.zw/

#### Mini-Grid Market Opportunity Assessment: Zimbabwe

https://greenminigrid.afdb.org/country/zimbabwe

#### The World Bank, Source: Global Solar Atlas 2.0, Solar resource data: Solargis

https://solargis.com/maps-and-gis-data/download/zimbabwe

#### **Doing Business - World Bank**

https://www.doingbusiness.org/content/dam/doingBusiness/country/z/zimbabwe/ZWE.pdf

#### Renewable Energy Market Entry Study Report - Zimbabwe

http://large.stanford.edu/courses/2017/ph240/afshar1/docs/nea-17jul17.pdf

#### Official UK Government travel advice for Zimbabwe

https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/zimbabwe

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