SADC PROTOCOL@WORK SUMMITS 2024

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MOSES C MUGUGUNYEKI







SYNOPSIS

- Print (The Standard)
- The item is a story titled **Skewed policies hit Chitungwiza women hardest**, which bout how water challenges weigh heavily on women in Chitungwiza, a town outside Harare and that the situation has been worsened by climate challenges with no meaningful solution in sight.
- Women are disproportionately affected by water challenges as they are most likely to be responsible for fetching water for households.
- Women and girls aged 15 and older are primarily responsible for water collection in 7 out of 10 such households, compared with 3 in 10 households for their male peers.
- With a population of more than 1, 5 million, I believe that this story is relevant considering that a number of people will be affected by the water crisis.
- The story was timeously written and is responding the water problems following an El Nino induced drought

BACKGROUND

- Chitungwiza is one of the most populous urban settlements, but it does not have its own source of water relying from Harare City Council, which is also failing to meet it water demand
- Due to the water woes, women and girls bear the brunt as seen by queues that form at various water points in Chitungwiza
- The council has failed to address the challenges, more so, failed to address service delivery issues through gender lenses
- Te story highlights the importance of having gender responsive budgets for local authorities or at national level





Key Objectives

- While authorities have tried to come up with the long-term solution to address the water crisis in Chitungwiza, my story tried to bring to the fore the critical role gender responsive budgeting play in service delivery
- I wanted to provoke residents to push the local authority and to some extent, the government to consider gender responsive budgeting on areas around water, hygiene and sanitation
- I also wanted to engage policy makers, councillors to come up with policies that encourage gender responsive budgeting from councils to central government

Target Audience

- I hoped to achieve women and girls in Chitungwiza.
- I managed to talk to a number of affected women, including Spare Chaparapati (pictured)
- There is a video as well



PROCESS/METHODOLOGY

- I had interviews with sources, I looked through documents (council, government, civil society like Gender Links), I also researched old articles and I observed events firsthand
- I had four female sources, three who were affected and one was a woman rights advocate who gave an analysis on the importance of gender responsive budgeting.
- The three women gave their own experiences of the water shortages; I picked a woman who is employed and two elderly women
- Gender Links was engaged to share an overview of the Drivers of Change; Local Government Institutional Centres of Excellence and Gender Responsive Budgeting

IMPACT

- The story had a lot of impact considering it was shared on various social media platforms by Chitungwiza Residents and Ratepayers Trust.
- The residents association went a gear up in encouraging embracing gender responsive budgeting through pre-budget consultation meetings
- Council is said to have incorporated its Gender Focal Point person in its service delivery meetings
- I uploaded the article on my social media platforms, including Facebook, X and various WhatsApp groups which are linked to Chitungwiza Municipality and Chitungwiza residents

FEEDBACK

- Most of the feedback I received was instant on WhatsApp Groups, and one notable one was by Marvellous Kumalo, a residents' association director who explained the importance of gender responsive budgeting on resident WhatsApp Group.

FOLLOW UP

- I am working on a follow-up story and it's an analysis of the proposed Chitungwiza Municipality budget from a gender perspective.
- I also hope to engage Chitungwiza Municipality Gender Focal Point person to give her overview on how far the local authority has gone in addressing gender equality and equity.
    - **"Empower women, empower humanity"**

- THE END