Quick facts:
GENDER IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN ZIMBABWE

The Gender Equality Baseline Survey (GEBS) was commissioned by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) within the framework of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO 2016-2020). The survey sought to collect data on gender dimensions of citizens’ participation in the electoral process, looking specifically at women’s participation in voter registration, voter education and participation in elections as candidates. The report was supported through the Joint Programme for Gender Equality (JPGE) funded by the Embassy of Sweden, and ZIM-ECO funded by the European Union.

Media Exposure by Sex

More women (28.9%) than men (17.3%) have no exposure to any form of media at least once a week.

Men (12.4%) are three times more likely than women (4.5%) to be exposed to some form of media each week.

Sources of Information on Politics & Government

Radio and friends are the two main sources for information about politics and government.

Women’s access to and use of radio as a source for information about politics and government is lower than that of men.

Information People Want to Know & What They Receive

Information on voter registration and how to vote are the two ‘most useful’ types of election-related information that women and men want to receive.

Knowledge of the Election Management Body

More than half of the women respondents had ‘never heard’ of the Zimbabwe Election Commission.

Citizen’s Perception of Independence

57%

More than half of the women had ‘never heard’ of Zimbabwe’s Election Commission.

Preferred Language of Election Information

Women and men want to receive election-related information in their indigenous languages.
Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

**Women Participation in Elections**
- Women are 4x more likely than men to be assisted as voters.

**Women Participation in Elections**
- Women and men above the age of 35 years are more likely to participate in elections as voters than the youth.
- Women are four times more likely than men to be assisted as voters.

**Registered and Unregistered Voters**
- 67% of the women and men respondents with the required documentation are registered to vote.
  - More women (56.9%) than men (50.5%) cited ‘cost’ as the main reason for not registering to vote, and more women (12%) said they do not know where to get identity documents.

**Citizen’s Perception of Independence**
- More than half of the women had ‘never heard’ of Zimbabwe Election Commission.

**Election Related Violence**
- 58% cited violence as one of the primary reasons for not participating in elections as voters or as candidates.

**Awareness of the Biometric Voter Registration**
- At the time of this study, knowledge of the BVR was relatively low among women and men, with more men (27.8%) than women (15%) having knowledge about BVR prior to the roll-out of the voters’ education programme and BVR blitz.

**Voting for Women Candidates**
- 64% women and 58.8% of the men respondents in this gender baseline study said they would vote for a woman Presidential candidate.

**Reasons Cited for Voting for Female Candidates**
- Representation, Loyalty, Peace Loving & Knowing Community Needs.