## STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN AFRICA AND ASIA (SRERUAA)

Regional Profile



ZIMBABWE

## 1. REGIONAL PORTRAIT

- a) Key issues of interest and relevance to the SREURAA
- b) Approximate population and key features
- c) Essential geographical/environmental features that affect HEIs
- d) Economy, industries and employment features

# (A) KEY ISSUES OF INTEREST AND RELEVANCE TO THE SREURAA

Zimbabwean economy on downward spiral mid-1990s,

Growth of informal sector

+US\$7 billion circulating in the informal sector

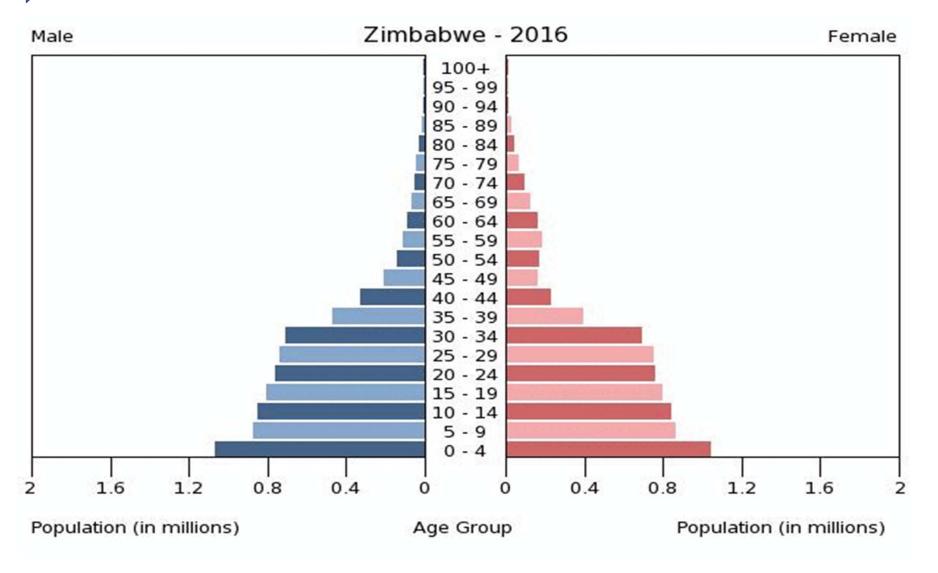
Companies closed or down-sized enmasse Influx of school leavers from the rural areas into urban areas

Universities to provide technical (STEM) and managerial training

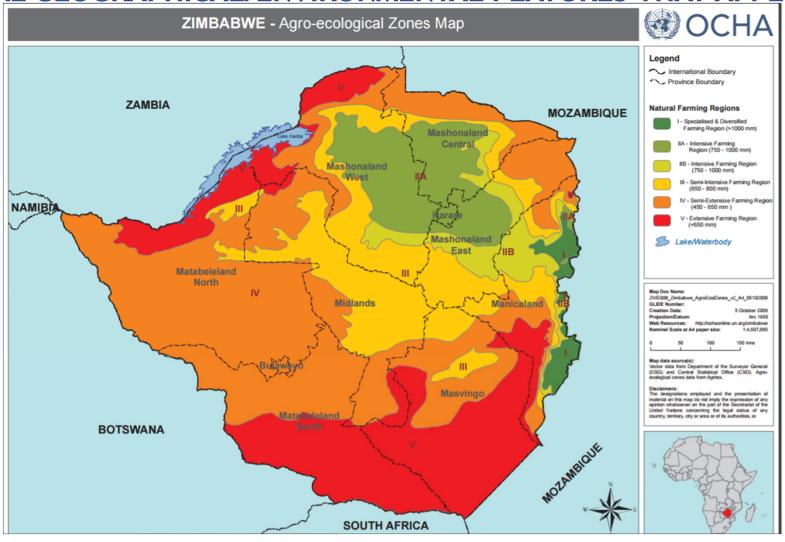
Massive formal sector unemployment

Large numbers of people joining informal sector

## (B) APPROXIMATE POPULATION AND ANY KEY FEATURES



### (C) ESSENTIAL GEOGRAPHICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES THAT AFFECT HEI



## (D) ECONOMY, INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT FEATURES

**MINING** 



**AGRICULTURE** 





INFORMAL TRADING AND INDUSTRY

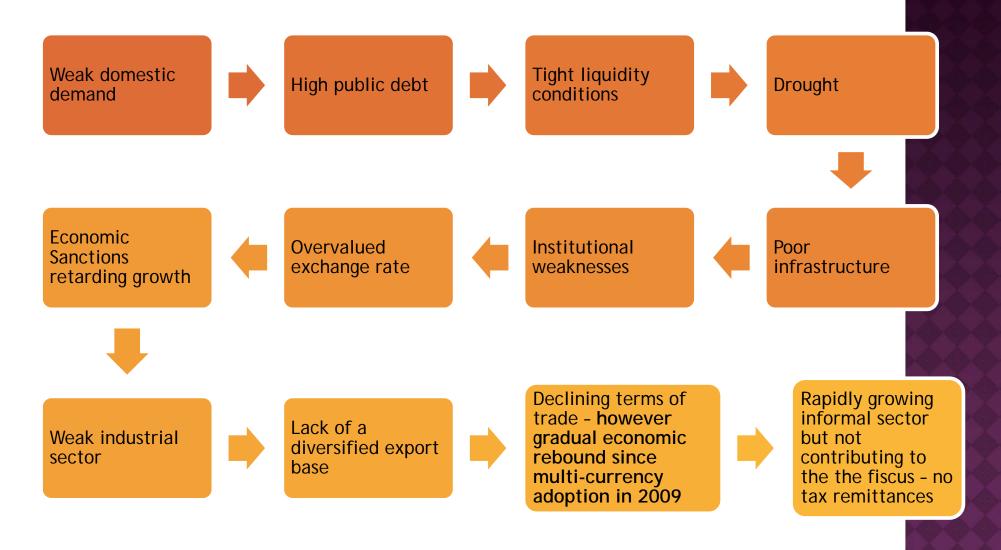


**TOURISM** 

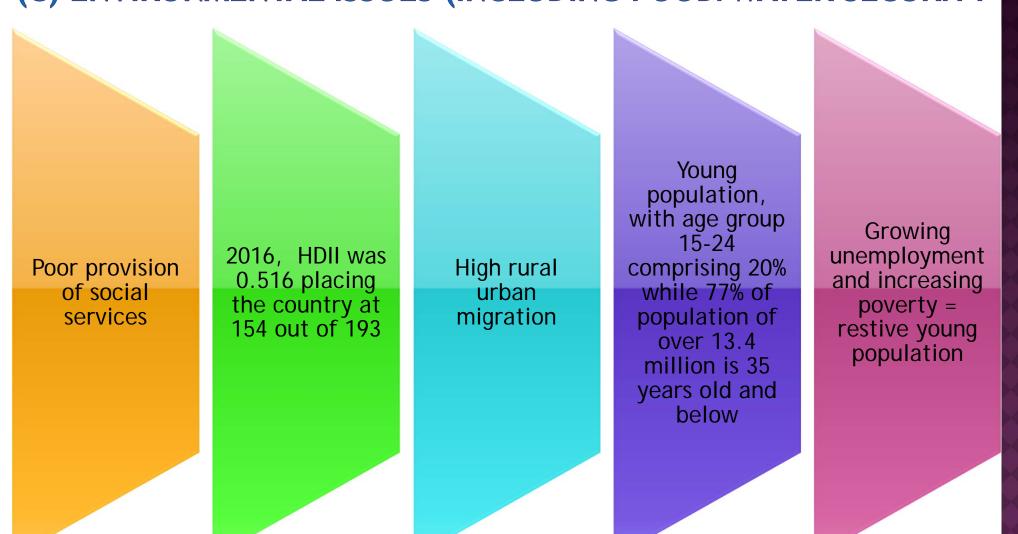
# 2. KEY ISSUES & CHALLENGES CONFRONTING REGION

- a) Economic issues
- b) Social issues including health/welfare/education
- c) Environmental issues (including food/water security
- d) Cultural issues
- e) Other issues or dimensions

## a) **ECONOMIC ISSUES**



### (C) ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (INCLUDING FOOD/WATER SECURITY



## (D) CULTURAL ISSUES

Harare: a metropolitan and multicultural City;

Not easy to develop strategies that embrace different cultures of residents Diversity of Languages:

Official language English; predominant indigenous languages are Shona and Ndebele

14 other indigenous languages that are recognised officially across the country

### (E) OTHER ISSUES OR DIMENSIONS

Strong political differences between political parties fuelled by harsh economic environment

Period leading to and just after 2018 General Elections likely to raise tension in communities - not ideal for engagement

Informal traders involved in the informal sector have 'invaded' spaces in the City - presenting challenge to proper human resource audits, development and planning

Rise in corruption, thefts, and other criminal activities

## 3. UNIVERSITIES & OTHER HEI PORTRAIT

1. University of Zimbabwe	Harare
2. National University of Science and Technology	Bulawayo
3. Midlands State University	Gweru
4. Zimbabwe Open University	Harare
5. Chinhoyi University of Technology	Chinhoyi
6. Bindura University of Science Education	Bindura
7. Harare Institute of Technology	Harare
8. Lupane State University	Lupane
9. Great Zimbabwe University	Masvingo
10. Manicaland University of Science and	Mutare
Technology	
11. Marondera University of Applied Sciences	Marondera
12. Gwanda State University	Gwanda
13. Africa University	Mutare
14. Catholic University in Zimbabwe	Harare
15. Solusi University	Solusi
16. Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University	Bindura
17. Reformed Church University	Masvingo
18. Southern Africa Methodist University	Marondera
19. Women's University in Africa	Harare

## 4. REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND AGENDA

- Aspects of regional development and the role of higher education we wish to engage with, focus on and improve on
- b) Situation Analysis
- Areas of special interest to concentrate on in collaboration with other regions
- d) Engagement roadmap and strategy

## (A) ASPECTS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO FOCUS ON \_\_\_\_

Developing capacity of informal sector

Focus on design and technology capabilities - HEIs participate in RIE-SET annually

Research and teaching in HEIs which contributes to community and national developmental aspirations

Strengthen SME Sector

## (B) SITUATION ANALYSIS

Communities calling for the assistance of institutions of higher learning in their development and improvement of livelihoods Universities strive to address issues that affect their communities up to national level and beyond with emphasis on applied rather than basic research in practical oriented disciplines

Environment Ideal for Community Engagement Rich deposits of minerals and growing agricultural produce need high level human resources and technology for value addition and beneficiation - Research and Development key at HFIs

#### (C) AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER REGIONS

Focus on 'SME development' to grow inclusive production sector and reduce unemployment

Strategies needed to capacitate the informal sector to grow into a viable SME sector and contribute more meaningfully to the national economy through increased production of quality goods and improve Government tax collection - Promote LLL

Develop synergies between formal and informal sectors and create markets, including exports

Engage in areas of special interests

### (D) ENGAGEMENT ROADMAP AND STRATEGY

Initial focus on targeted small groups of informal sector operators at selected sites in Harare



Project to snowball and include more and more participants



Initial groups
gradually weaned
off as they become
proficient and viable
in their operations



Participants may be dropped and new ones adopted based on performance and ethical practices.



Participants attend training at: premises of their colleagues at different locales; in design studios, laboratories and workshops at the University; or other nearest premises



Most training to be carried out on-site through mobile teaching units and e-learning



Processes and practices to be continually documented and analysed



Such documentation should produce publications on lessons and best practices learnt for the development of SMEs



Benchmarking and sharing of experiences among network partners = Collaborative research