



ZIMBABWE

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR		WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?	
		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

Zimbabwe has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

SRH RIGHTS

The Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees the right to SRH and access to SRH services.

The *National Health Strategy 2021–2025* prioritizes improved sexual and reproductive health services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The *National Family Planning Strategy 2022–2026* aims to strengthen family planning and SRH service delivery, sexuality education, commodity supply chains, and awareness of adolescent family planning, SRHR, and HIV services.

FAMILY PLANNING

No explicit legal provisions require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian to access

SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

The *Family Planning Guidelines for Zimbabwe* provide health workers with principles and protocols for delivering family planning and SRH services.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The *Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council* holds awareness-raising and sensitization campaigns on SRH.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The *Zimbabwe Education Amendment Act* prohibits discrimination in education on the ground of pregnancy and prohibits expulsion from school on the basis of pregnancy.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in Zimbabwe's legal and supportive frameworks across the five indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Zimbabwe may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The law does not explicitly prohibit discrimination in accessing SRH services based on sex or gender, age, or marital status.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FGM and cross-border FGM are not criminalized under the law. No policy measures aimed at eradicating FGM have been adopted.

FAMILY PLANNING

An adolescent can be required to provide parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. The law does not guarantee access to SRH services in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools. Guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools have not been adopted.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

No explicit legal provision recognizes the right of girls to attend school after childbirth.

No policies to keep girls in school or to allow pregnant or parenting students to attend school have been adopted.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	Yes	Constitution of Zimbabwe, Sec. 76(1)
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	Constitution of Zimbabwe Sec. 76(1) and (4)
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	N/A	
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	N/A	
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	Constitution of Zimbabwe, Sec. 52(b)
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	No	Public Health Act of 2018, Secs. 2 and 35
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	Yes	Education Amendment Act, Secs. 3 and 16
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	No	No applicable provisions could be located

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	Yes	National Health Strategy 2021-2025 ; National Family Planning Strategy 2022- 2026
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	National Family Planning Strategy 2022- 2026
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	National Health Strategy 2021-2025 ; National Family Planning Strategy 2022-2026
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	Yes	Family Planning Guidelines for Zimbabwe
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located

