

# Zimbabwe

## Country profile

**2016**  
October



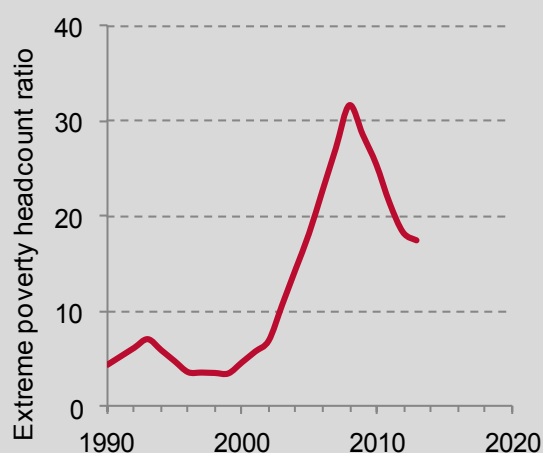
[www.devinit.org/p20i](http://www.devinit.org/p20i)

This country profile is produced by Development Initiatives to support the National Dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As one of the founding partners of the Leave No One Behind partnership, established in July 2015, our role is to provide data at a national level to help track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so we can make sure that no one is left behind.

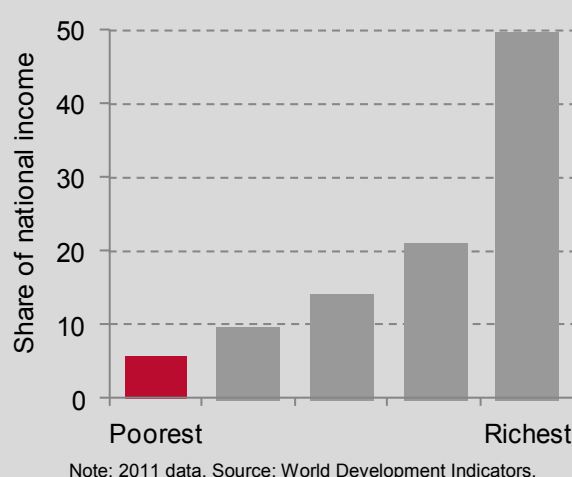
## Poverty profile

- According to the most recent data (2011), 72.3% of the population live below this line, of who 67% live in rural areas. The majority (84.3% in 2011) of the rural population live below the poverty line, while less than half of the urban population does (46.5% in 2011).<sup>1</sup>
- In Zimbabwe, extreme poverty, defined as those living on less than PPP\$1.90 a day, rose steeply during the 2000s and has been decreasing from a peak in 2008 to 17.5% in 2013
- As of 2011, the richest 20% of people in Zimbabwe owned 49.7% of national income, in contrast to the 5.8% of national income shared by the poorest 20%.

### Is poverty reducing over time?



### How is income distributed?



**National poverty line  
(US\$ per day)**

**2.52**

Note: 2011 data. Source: ZimStat  
(Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency).

**% of population living  
below the national  
poverty line**

**72.3%**

Note: 2011 data. Source: ZimStat  
(Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency).

**% of population living  
below the national  
poverty line in rural  
areas**

**84.3%**

Note: 2011 data. Source: ZimStat  
(Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency).

**Mean household income  
per month (2011 PPP\$)**

**162.92**

Note: 2013 data. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

**% of population living below the  
international extreme poverty line**

**17.5%**

Note: 2013 data, international extreme poverty line is 2011 PPP\$  
1.90/day. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

## Economic profile

- In 2015, Zimbabwe's GDP per capita was PPP\$1,688 compared with a regional average of PPP\$3,477 for sub-Saharan Africa.
- Economic growth in Zimbabwe has been declining steadily since 2011 (from 11.9% in 2011 to 3.8% in 2014), after a sharp rise in 2010 (from 0.0% in 2009 to 11.4% in 2010).<sup>2</sup>
- The Gini index measures the income distribution of a country's residents where 0 means everyone earns the same, and 100 that one person earns everything. In Zimbabwe in 2011, the Gini index was 43.2.
- Out of 188 countries, Zimbabwe is ranked 155 on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (2015), with a score of 0.509.

**GDP per capita  
(2011 PPP\$)**

**1,688**

Note: 2015 data. Source: World  
Development Indicators.

**Human Development  
Index Ranking**

**155/188**

Note: 2015 data. Source: United Nations  
Development Programme.

**Gini index**

**42.3**

Note: 2011 data. Source:  
World Bank's PovcalNet.

## Education outcomes

- In 2010, the Zimbabwe government spent PPP\$27.31 per capita on education, this compares with a regional average for sub-Saharan Africa of PPP\$132.65.
- In 2011, Zimbabwe's adult literacy rate stood at 83.6%, a modest improvement from 83.5% in 1992.

## Adult literacy rate (%)

83.6%

Note: 2011 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

## Per capita public expenditure on education (2011 PPP\$)

27.31

Note: 2010 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

## Health outcomes

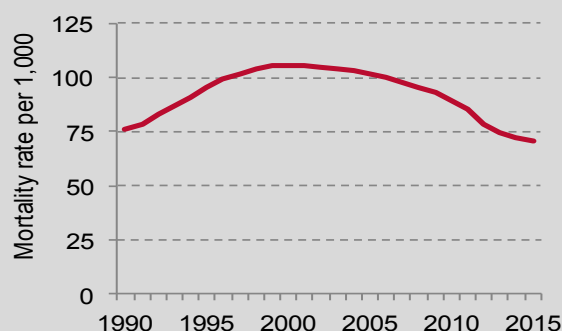
- Life expectancy in Zimbabwe decreased during the 1990s to a low of 40.7 in 2002 and has been increasing since, to 57.5 in 2014.
- The mortality rate of children under 5 rose from 75.8 per 1,000 in 1990 to a peak of 105.8 in 2000 and has since decreased to 70.7 per 1,000 in 2015.
- In 2014, public spending on healthcare in Zimbabwe was PPP\$42.16 per capita, compared with a regional average for sub-Saharan Africa of PPP\$80.12.

### Life expectancy at birth



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

### Under five mortality rate per 1,000



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

## Per capita public expenditure on healthcare (2011 PPP\$)

42.16

Note: 2014 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Note: Economic, health and education data in this profile are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's World Development Indicators and the UNDP's Human Development Index; please refer to these sources for full definition of public spending. Poverty data are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's PovcalNet.

## Achieving SDGs

If global efforts to end poverty and achieve the SDGs are to be reached, it is essential that no one is left behind; the SDGs will not be considered met unless they are met for everyone.

Despite being a resource rich country, Zimbabwe's situation has worsened in recent years, with significant reversals in economic and human development outcomes. A worsening macro-fiscal

Development Initiatives (DI) is an independent international development organisation working on the use of data to drive poverty eradication and sustainable development.

position has resulted in significant reductions in investments in the social sectors, leaving Zimbabwe lagging behind neighbouring countries in human development outcomes. In contrast to most African countries, Zimbabwe continues to register worsening figures for extreme poverty, acute rural poverty and poor macro-economic prospects.

However, current data is not good enough to tell us exactly who is being left behind, where they live and why. To better target resources and track their progress we need to better understand who they are. To achieve this we need more and better data disaggregated by at least geography, gender, age and disability.

A new project from Development Initiatives, the P20 Initiative, will be doing just this. The P20 Initiative will provide data on whether things are improving for the poorest 20% of people globally. It will do this by gathering and using existing data and promoting better disaggregation of data on people so we can ensure that those furthest behind are reached first and included in progress so the SDGs can be achieved for all.

## Contact

If you would like more information on the any of the data provided in this summary or on the P20 Initiative please contact Cat Langdon on [cat.langdon@devinit.org](mailto:cat.langdon@devinit.org)

## Data use survey

Do you use data in your work? How would you rate your use of data? What data sources do you use? We are interested to hear about the ways in which you use data in your work. Please complete our [short survey](#)

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> See: ZimStat, national accounts, available at: [http://www.zimstat.co.zw/sites/default/files/img/publications/Accounts/National\\_%20Accounts\\_2009\\_2015.pdf](http://www.zimstat.co.zw/sites/default/files/img/publications/Accounts/National_%20Accounts_2009_2015.pdf) (Accessed on 14 October 2016)

<sup>2</sup> See: ZimStat, national accounts, available at: [http://www.zimstat.co.zw/sites/default/files/img/publications/Accounts/National\\_%20Accounts\\_2009\\_2015.pdf](http://www.zimstat.co.zw/sites/default/files/img/publications/Accounts/National_%20Accounts_2009_2015.pdf) (Accessed on 14 October 2016)

The Leave No One Behind partnership seeks to drive global momentum to make sure that happens. Made up of three international non-profit organisations (CIVICUS, Development Initiatives, and Project Everyone) with the support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development we have come together as founding partners to catalyse a global movement to ensure that the pledge to Leave No One Behind turns from words into reality.

For more information on the Leave No One Behind partnership please email [info@leavenoonebehind.global](mailto:info@leavenoonebehind.global) or visit [www.leavenoonebehind.global](http://www.leavenoonebehind.global)

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