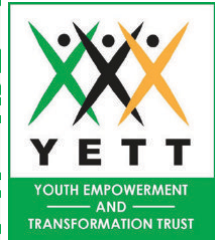
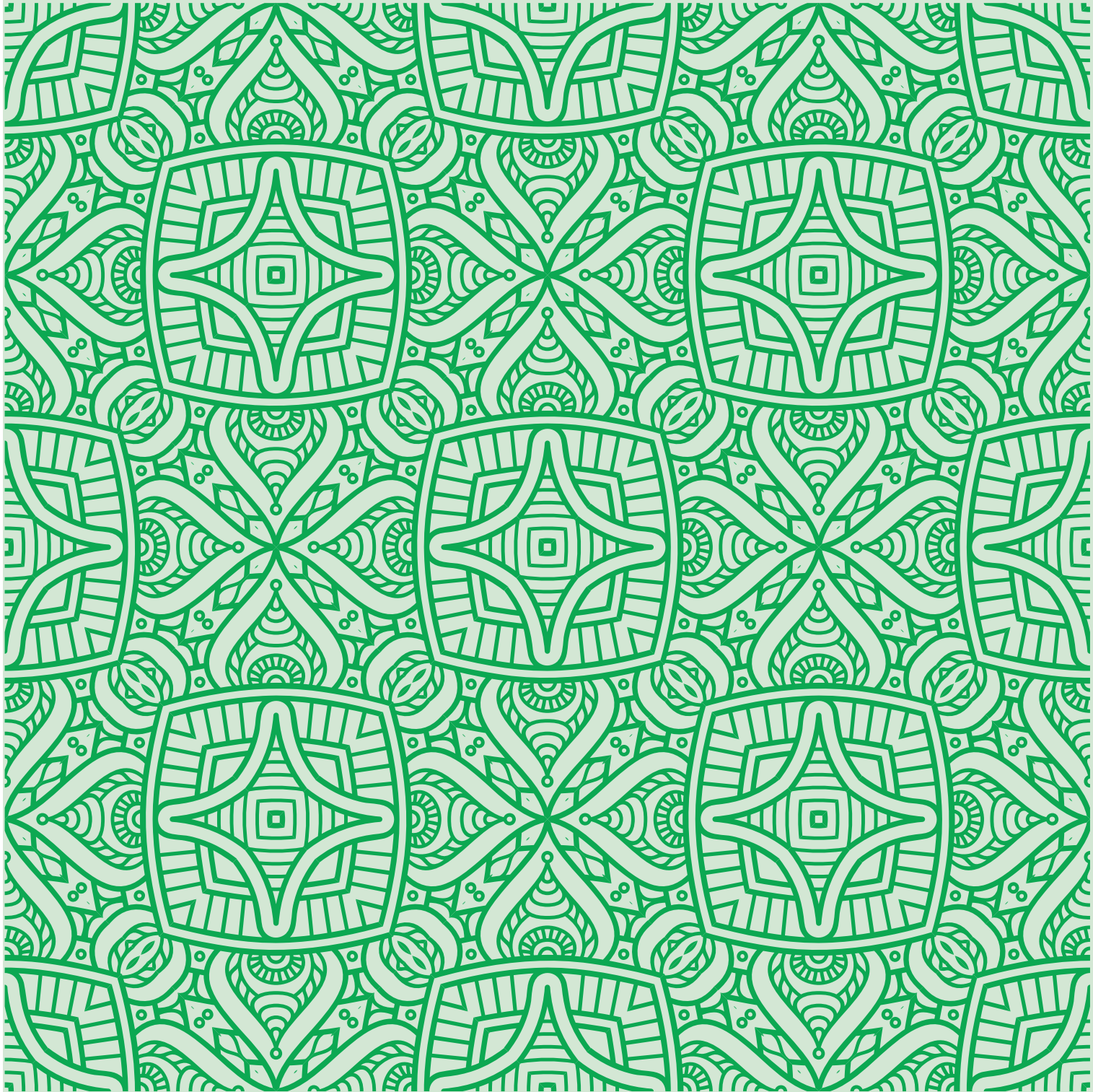


DECADES OF STRUGGLE AND HOPE:

A ZIMBABWEAN YOUTH
COMPENDIUM



2019 REPORT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The study was commissioned by the Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT).

Technical and administrative support provided ensured successful execution of different study components. Acknowledgements are further extended to the Zimbabwe Youth Council as well as the Ministry of Youth for supporting with mobilisation and sensitizing other government departments. The study was made successful by youths across the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe who took time to respond to questions and to discuss their circumstances. It is trusted that the study will contribute towards design and implementation of effecting interventions that will transform the conditions of youths in Zimbabwe.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ART	antiretroviral therapy
CAL	Coalition for African Lesbians
CeSSHAR	Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research Zimbabwe
CSO	civil society organisation
EA	enumeration area
FGD	focus group discussion
GALZ	Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe
GBV	gender-based violence
HAR	humanitarian assistance and resilience
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HTS	HIV testing services
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
IEEP	Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Programme
IPV	intimate partner violence
LEDRIZ	Labour Economic Development Research Institute Zimbabwe
NAC	National AIDS Council
NGO	non-governmental organisation
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PSI	Population Services International
PSU	primary sampling unit
SAfAIDS	Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service
SRC	Sexual Rights Centre
STI	sexually transmitted infection
TSU	tertiary sampling unit
VTC	vocational training centre
WB	World Bank
YETT	Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey
ZEC	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
ZIM-ASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation
ZIYEN	Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network
ZNASP	Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan
ZNEPF	Zimbabwe National Employment Policy Framework





FOREWORD

The Youth Situational Compendium presents the findings of a year long in-depth analysis of the current status of Zimbabwe's youth and allows us a glimpse into their struggles, aspirations, and hopes for a better future.

By giving us a deeper insight into the unique perspective of this critical segment of society, which represents 61 percent of the population of Zimbabwe, the report offers a better understanding of issues, challenges, and opportunities faced by young Zimbabweans.

The report highlights the painful realities of millions of educated young people who are unable to find jobs and care for their families. It also highlights their eagerness to participate in peaceful democratic processes as a gateway to achieving their aspirations.

Furthermore, it provides an important analytical foundation to develop shared, holistic strategies across multiple sectors that the youth operate in. By taking an integrated look at seven domains – youth trends, health, citizenship, resilience, economic growth, migration, and information and technology – we expect this analysis to offer a strong baseline for evidence-based programming.

Over the past four years, I have had the privilege

to work with many young people in Zimbabwe. I am convinced more than ever that the youth in this country need greater opportunities to realize their potential as a positive force for development and prosperity. Given that opportunity, Zimbabwe's youth will be important development actors, entrepreneurs, and innovators driving social and economic development and creating a better future for themselves, their communities, and the nation.

Our hope is that this inaugural report will inform decision makers in civil society, international development, and government as we strive to create a positive future for Zimbabwe.

Stephanie Funk
USAID/Zimbabwe Mission Director





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides findings, conclusions and recommendations from a youth situational analysis study for Zimbabwe that was carried out between November 2018 and April 2019.

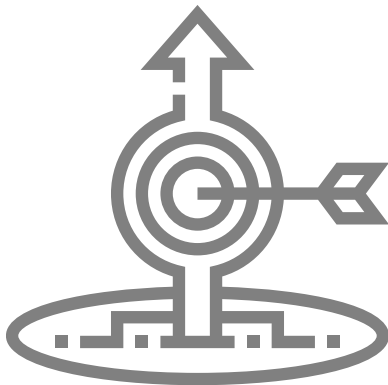
PURPOSE

The purpose of the study was to establish the political, social and economic situation of youth (15–35 years of age) in Zimbabwe.

The objectives of the study were to:

- 1. **Broaden understanding of** the different groups of young Zimbabweans, their aspirations, challenges and opportunities within the prevailing political, social, economic, health, humanitarian and technological context;
- 2. **Deepen understanding about** how young persons are surviving, organizing and mobilizing around issues that affect them;
- 3. **Review the effectiveness** and constructiveness of young people's different modes of organizing and mobilising, and to suggest practical recommendations on how weaknesses noted can be strengthened;

- 4. **Establish challenges and** opportunities for participation, leadership and agency of youth in the social, economic and political dimensions;
- 5. **Assess young people's** knowledge about economic and political engagement opportunities available to them as well as understanding of their rights, roles and responsibilities as citizens, including those provided for by the Constitution and legislative framework of Zimbabwe;
- 6. **Establish ways to** strengthen youth advocacy and oversight at multiple levels, and to improve civil society advocacy and representation of youth views; and
- 7. **Identify good practice** models and programmes from comparative regional and international case studies to support youth participation, leadership and agency.



Children hike after school along Shamva Road | Image Credit: Photographer

METHODS

The study initially used a cross-sectional prevalence study design that allows generalizability of population-based samples, followed by the panel longitudinal study design.

The panel study will be conducted over two intervals, i.e. mid-term (2021) and end-term (2023). Baseline information for the panel study will be drawn from the cross-sectional study (only using data from panel study participants).

A total of 5,582 youths were reached through the individual survey in all 10 provinces of Zimbabwe (195 enumeration areas [EAs]). The study achieved a 98.7 percent response rate, which is above the minimum expected response rate of 95 percent.

- Fifty focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with youths between 15 and 35 years old (males and females separately for 15–24 years and 25–35 years old);
- Youths residing in selected communities;

- Unemployed youths;
- Formally employed youths;
- Youths in informal employment;
- Youths with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans(gender), intersex and / or queer (LGBTIQ) youths;
- Youth sex workers;
- Youth artisanal miners;
- Youths in agriculture, along with youths in the informal sector.

A total of 140 key informant interviews were conducted with stakeholders from government, United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society, the private sector and community leaders.

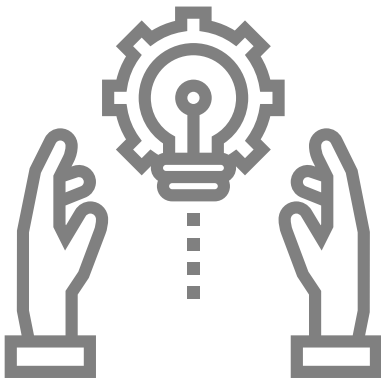


Image Credit: Photographer

OVERVIEW OF KEY FINDINGS

TOTAL REACH OF SURVEY



AGE GROUPS

15-35 YEARS



43% 57%

SURVEY
RESPONSE
RATE

ACTUAL
98.7%

EXPECTED
MINIMUM
95.0%

140 KEY INFORMANT STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

30% AGES 15-19 YEARS
27% AGES 20-24 YEARS

99.5%
WITH SOME
FORMAL
EDUCATION

38% OF THE ABOVE HAVE
COMPLETED SECONDARY

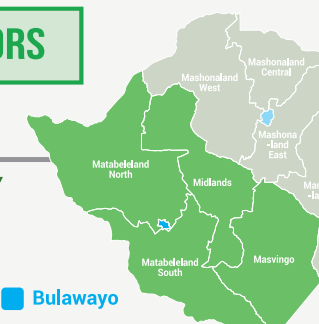
42% MARRIED
53% WOMEN
28% MEN

ECONOMIC FACTORS

ACCORDING TO REPORTS BY YOUTH

Provinces most affected by
food shortages including
due to drought

Most affected Harare Bulawayo



USD127 AVERAGE MONTHLY
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

URBAN vs RURAL MONTHLY INCOME
The urban average is about
double the rural average



70-75%
OF YOUTHS REPORTED:



INADEQUATE
SAFE WATER
SUPPLY



FAILURE
TO PAY
BILLS



12 MONTHS WITHOUT
ACCESS TO
ADEQUATE FOOD

YOUTH ACCESS TO ICT & INTERNET

<42% LESS YOUTH OWN
A SMARTPHONE



URBAN VS RURAL
65% 29%

43%
HAVE ACCESS
TO INTERNET

TOP USES OF
INTERNET
BY YOUTH



SOCIAL
MEDIA **85%**

ONLINE
EDUCATION **21%**

EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES **20%**

NEWS **20%**

BUSINESS **9%**

HIGHEST % SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP: BULAWAYO 70% | HARARE 63% | MANICALAND 29%



93%

OF YOUTH REGISTERED TO VOTE

69% FEMALE
71% MALE

OF THOSE THAT REGISTERED 62% CAST THEIR VOTE

YOUTH
ATTITUDE
TOWARD
LGBTIQ

NEGATIVE
3.88

46%
CITED FOOD
INSECURITY
WITHIN THEIR
COMMUNITIES

SCALE OF 1 TO 5
WITH 5 BEING HIGHLY
NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

KEY FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Fifty seven percent of the sample were women. Youths aged between 15 and 19 years constituted the biggest proportion of the sample (30 percent), followed by those aged 20–24 years who constituted 27 percent of the sample. Forty two percent of the sample reported being married with 53 percent of females sampled being married compared to 28 sampled males. 99.5 percent of the sample had at least some formal education. The largest proportion (38 percent) of the sample had completed secondary education, followed by 34 percent who had some form of secondary education.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Income

The average monthly income for households of which youths were part was USD 127.¹ This is in line with the 2014 Labour Force Study, which states, “the majority (32.9 percent) of the paid employees received cash income of between US\$1 and US\$100 during the month of May 2014”.

Households in urban areas are likely to have double the average household monthly income (US\$217.57) of rural households (US\$87.03). There is a significant association between place of residence and average household monthly income ($p<0.0001$).

Urban–rural income disparities are consistent with findings from the Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report² where the average monthly income of

urban households was four times (US\$151.01) that of rural households (US\$37.64).

Over seven in ten (75 percent) youths reported that their household had gone without food in the 12 months preceding the study, having had inadequate clean water at the house (71 percent), not being able to access medication when they needed it (70 percent) and failing to pay bills (70 percent).

Food shortages specifically affected youths and broader communities, and youths from Masvingo, Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and Midlands where droughts and inadequate fertilisers contribute towards poor harvests and elevates the household’s susceptibility to food insecurity.



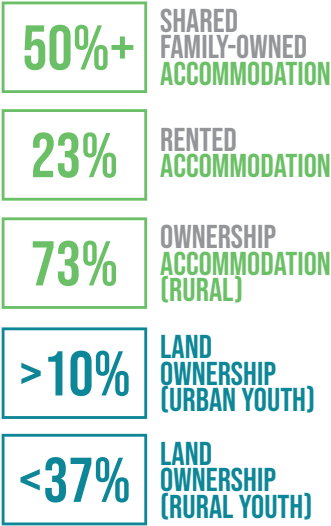
1. The amount was real time gross settlement (RTGS) \$377 and was converted using the interbank rate as at 27/03/2019 of US\$1: RTGS\$2.96.

2. Zimstat (2018). Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report.

Assets

Over half of the respondents lived in accommodation owned by the family, followed by 23 percent who lived in rented accommodation. Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of rural-based respondents reported living in owned accommodation, while 37 percent of urban-based respondents reported the same. Less than half (48 percent) of the participating youths owned land or other immovable property. Just over one in ten (12 percent) urban youths reported owning land or immovable property compared to nearly four in ten (37 percent) rural youths who reported the same. Nearly one third (33.1 percent) of rural youths have had access to land compared to 7.6 percent of urban youths. Insights from

resettlement areas showed that youths had access to land but sometimes parents determined what should be planted as well as how income is distributed. Youths reported paying to access land for agriculture, especially in areas where some resettled farmers are renting out portions of their land. Youth in Mashonaland East reported possibilities of renting land but this required financing, as landlords required fixed amounts or demanded a percentage (between 10 and 20 percent) of total earnings after harvesting. Beyond agricultural land, paid access was highlighted by youths in mining areas who reported paying for access to mining claims in order to conduct artisanal mining activities.



KEY FINDINGS

Employment

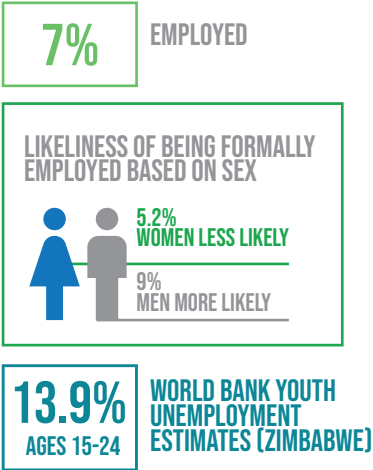
Only seven percent of respondents were formally employed. There was a significant association between sex and the likelihood of being formally employed ($p < 0.0001$), with more male respondents (9 percent) being formally employed compared to their female counterparts (5.2 percent). The proportion of urban youths who were formally employed was twice (10 percent) that of rural youths (5 percent). This number is lower compared to data from sub-Saharan Africa.

The most recent figures by the World Bank estimate youth unemployment at 13.9 percent (ages 15–24), demonstrating the high unemployment level in Zimbabwe (<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SLUEM1524ZSSSF>). Data from Round 6 of the Afrobarometer put unemployment for individuals below 35 years across sub-Saharan Africa at 63 percent. For Zimbabwe alone, the unemployment estimate is 66 percent. The

number is also significantly lower than official estimates by Zimstat, which puts unemployment at just 11.3 percent (2014 Labour Force Study).

Youth, especially in urban areas, consistently lack of formal employment as a key challenge, with responses from Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare linking lack of formal employment to the fact that formal employers had either scaled down or completely ceased operations.

More than half (51 percent) of youths who reported being employed were engaged as general hands, while 25 percent of formally employed youths were employed in the public sector, followed by the food and beverages sector (12.6 percent), mining (6.1 percent), transport (5.1 percent) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (2.9 percent). Less than half (43 percent) of formally employed youths are engaged in professions for which they trained.



Entrepreneurship

Nine percent of youths reported running a business. This number is rather low compared to sub-Saharan Africa at large. According to the 2016 Afrobarometer, 42 percent of the employed youth below the age of 35 reported to be self-employed.

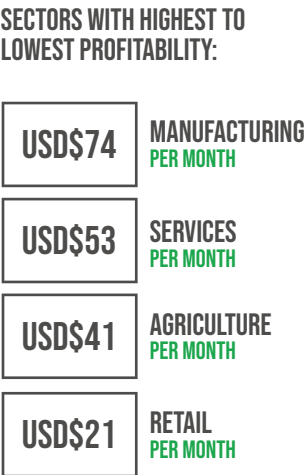
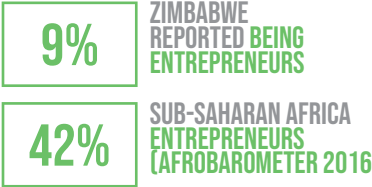
For Zimbabwe, the estimate is 23 percent, which is still significantly higher than our own estimates. There was a statistically significant association between age and running a business ($p < 0.0001$). Sixteen percent of urban youths reported running a business compared to 5 percent among rural youths. Harare had the highest proportion (16 percent) of youths running businesses followed by Bulawayo (14 percent).

Mashonaland Central had the smallest proportion (4.3 percent) of youths running businesses, followed by Matabeleland South (5 percent). Over nine out of ten (92 percent) youths ran informal businesses. More than half

of all youth-run businesses were in the retail sector (52 percent) followed by agriculture (13 percent) and services (12 percent).

Businesses run by youth made an average monthly profit of US\$40. There were variances in profitability across businesses run by respondents. The greatest profitability was found in the manufacturing sector (US\$74 per month), followed by services (US\$53 per month) and agriculture (US\$41 per month). Retail was the least profitable sector (US\$25 per month) despite more than half of the participating youths running businesses in that sector.

Only nine percent of respondents running businesses reported receiving funding from financial institutions for business support. Forty percent of participating youths cited a lack of funding/capital as a key barrier to their economic participation, 14 percent cited currency instability, while 8 percent cited lack of information as a barrier.



KEY FINDINGS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Sources of Information

Thirty three percent of the participating youths cited community meetings as their main source of information followed by social media (31 percent), friends and community members (25.2 percent), traditional leaders (21 percent), radio (19 percent), television (12 percent) bulk SMS messaging and print media, which were cited by nine percent of respondents.

More than half (51 percent) of the youths from urban areas cited social media as their main source of information. This is in contrast to 20 percent of rural youths who cited social media as their source of information. Urban youths in FGDs also affirmed their reliance on social media as a source of information.

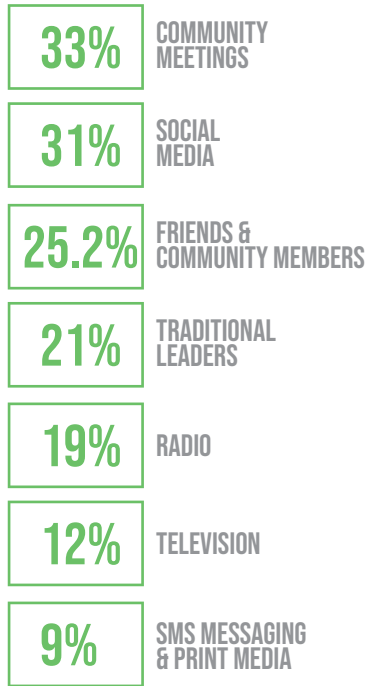
An additional dimension from FGDs pointed to scenarios where youths use social media as a tool for triangulating and verifying information reported through traditional mediums, such as television, radio and print media.

The majority of rural youths cited community meetings (44 percent) as their main source of information, followed by traditional leaders (32 percent) as well as friends and community members (26 percent).

Rural youths in FGDs predominantly cited receiving information about politics, distribution of inputs as well as NGO-related programmes through community meetings. Key actors in provision of information were the councillor, the village head and political party chairperson.



Image Credit: Cynthia R Matonhodze



Citizen Participation and Engagement

Sixty two percent of youths reported being registered to vote. There was a positive association between sex and being registered to vote ($p=0.004$) with 71 percent of males and 69 percent of females being registered to vote.

Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of youth who were registered to vote (76 percent), followed by Mashonaland East (74 percent), Mashonaland West (73 percent). Matabeleland South (57 percent) had the lowest proportion of youths who are registered to vote followed by Bulawayo and Manicaland (67 percent).

Youth insights from FGDs point to strong political mobilization of youth by ZANU-PF in Mashonaland Central, and this could have contributed towards more of them being registered to vote.

Motivation for registering to vote included a desire to decide who governs, and the hope that voting for a new government would bring better opportunities. Insights from FGDs, especially in Harare, Gweru and Mutare, showed linkages between the idea of voting and possibilities of changing the government. There were procedure-related motivators with qualitative discussions revealing that some youth registered because the process had become easier with the introduction of the biometric voter registration as well as acceptance of an affidavit instead of proof of residence.

Ninety-three percent of respondents who confirmed being registered voted in the 2018 election, showcasing a high level of turnout. This number is significantly higher compared to results from sub-Saharan Africa. According to the 2016 Afrobarometer, 55 percent of respondents below 35 years of age voted in the most recent national election in their country.

Beyond voting, few respondents have organized or participated in youth events. Nine percent of respondents had organized events— whether political or not. Just over one in five (23 percent) of youths reported ever organizing a community event, while 13 percent reported ever participating in or joining any political activity. There were different reasons provided by youth on limited participation in events. Youths had limited involvement in accountability processes with six percent reporting ever having held duty bearers to account. Qualitative data from Masvingo, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East pointed to limited spaces for youth to organize events for themselves.



Where events were reported to have been organized, they had largely been sports events, and predominantly soccer for males. Civil society key informants in the Midlands, Bulawayo and Matabeleland North pointed to limited financial and technical capacity among youth to organize events. In the absence of material and human capacity among youths, civil society organisations (CSOs) along with political parties were reportedly organizing events for youth.

KEY FINDINGS

Constitutional Awareness and Policy Awareness



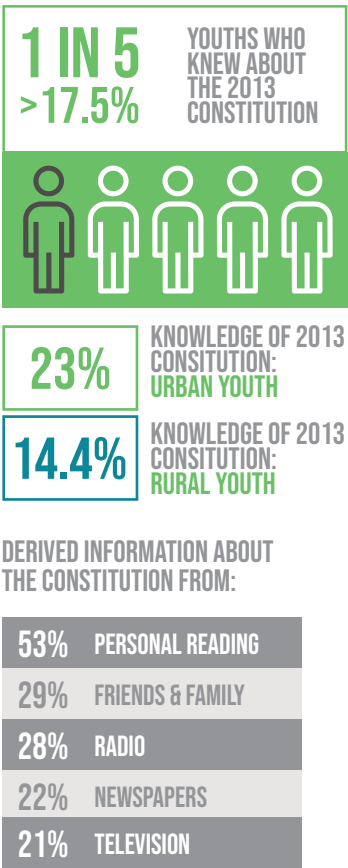
Fewer than one in five (17.5 percent) knew about the 2013 Constitution. There was a statistically significant association between sex and constitutional awareness ($p < 0.0001$). Twenty two percent of male youth and 14 percent of female youths were aware of the constitution. Constitutional awareness increased with age from nine percent among youths aged 15–19 years to 29 percent among youth aged 35.

A larger proportion of urban youth (23 percent) knew about the 2013 Constitution compared to rural youths (14.4 percent). Constitutional awareness was highest in Bulawayo (23.6%) and lowest in Matabeleland North (10.4 percent). There was a statistically significant association between educational attainment and knowledge of the Constitution ($p < 0.0001$).

Half of the youths with more than secondary education had knowledge of the Constitution

while none of the youth with no formal education had knowledge of the Constitution. Five percent of youths were aware of the National Youth Policy with the majority of those who reported having knowledge being aware of education and vocational skills training (52.1 percent), followed by 43 percent who reported that the National Youth Policy prioritises youth employment and access to resources.

Fifty three percent of youths derived information about the Constitution from personal reading, followed by friends and family (29%), radio (28 percent), newspapers (22%) and television (21 percent). Sources of knowledge about the Constitution differed between urban and rural youths. Forty eight percent of urban youths and 26 percent of rural youths mentioned personal reading as a source of information about the



Constitution. The majority of rural youths gained knowledge of the Constitution from the radio, which is consistent with the most dominant information sources in rural areas.

The right to economic opportunities (36 percent) was mentioned as the most important followed by the right to be heard (31 percent), government accountability (28 percent), and the right to individual liberties, including voting (28 percent). There were no statistically significant differences between sex and rights prioritized by youths.

Seven percent of youth reported having experienced violent conflict. There was no statistically significant association between sex and prior experience of violent conflict ($p = .340$). The likelihood of having experienced violent conflict increased with age ($p < 0.0001$).

Thirteen percent of the youths aged 35 years, 9 percent of those aged 30–34 years, 8 percent of those aged 25–29 and 20–24 respectively reported having experienced violent conflict.

Those aged 15–19 years comprised the lowest proportion of those who reported experiencing violent conflict. Youths from urban and rural areas further confirmed witnessing violence but not necessarily being victims of it.

Rural youths from Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West reported witnessing politically motivated violence. Youth in Manicaland reported witnessing state-supported violence, especially in diamond fields. Within mining communities in the Midlands and Matabeleland South, youth reported witnessing violence among artisanal miners.



KEY FINDINGS

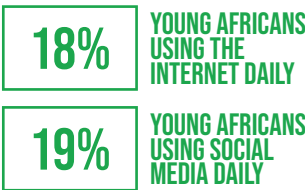
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS)

Less than half (42 percent) of youths owned a smartphone and 14 percent had access, while 65 percent of urban youths and 29 percent of rural youths owned a smartphone. This number is rather low compared to sub-Saharan Africa at large, where 81 percent of respondents in the Afrobarometer 2016 reported owning a smartphone. Ownership of smartphones by urban and rural youths was consistent with household income levels where urban households had nearly three times the income of rural households.

Bulawayo had the highest proportion (70 percent) who reported ownership of a smartphone, followed by Harare (63 percent). Manicaland had the lowest proportion (29 percent) of respondents who reported owning a smartphone. Less than half (43 percent) of youths had access to the internet. Sixty five

percent of urban youths and 30 percent of rural youths had access to the internet, while 30% of rural youths could access the internet. Eighty five percent of youth used the internet for social networking, followed by employment opportunities (20 percent), online education (21 percent), news (20 percent) and business (9 percent%).

The prominence of internet use for social networking was corroborated by participants in all urban and some rural FGDs who reported using the internet to access Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, Skype, YouTube, Tinder and Telegram. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the 2016 Afrobarometer found that 18 percent of young Africans access the internet daily, while 19 percent use social media daily. By contrast, 60 percent of young respondents never used the internet and 61 percent never used social media.

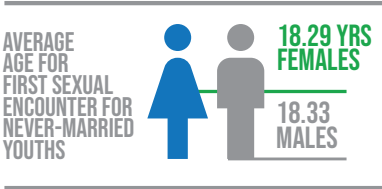


HIGHEST % SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP: BULAWAYO 70% | HARARE 63% | MANICALAND 29%

HEALTH

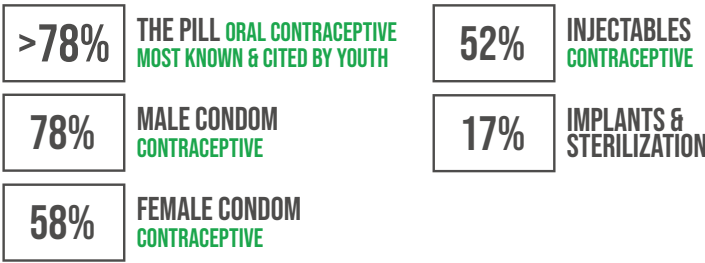
Over one third (36 percent; n=2,730) of youth who were never married reported ever having had sex. A larger proportion of males (42 percent) reported ever having had sex compared to the female sample (29 percent). Bulawayo province had the highest proportion of never-married youths who reported ever having sex followed by Matabeleland North (43 percent) and Matabeleland South (43 percent). Manicaland had the lowest proportion of never-married youths who reported ever having had sex. The average age for the first sexual encounter for never-married youths was 18.29 among females, and 18.33 among males. The

pill (oral contraception) was the most cited family planning method known by youths, followed by the male condom (78 percent), female condom (58 percent), injectables (52 percent%), implants and sterilization (17 percent). The majority (81.2 percent) of youths of childbearing age reported currently using modern family planning methods. Knowledge of family planning increased with levels of education. Just over one third (35 percent) of youths reported ever testing for HIV. Of those who reported ever being tested for HIV, 85 percent had been tested in the 12 months preceding the study.



FORMS OF CONTRACEPTION IN USE

81.2% OF YOUTHS ARE USING MODERN FAMILY PLANNING METHODS



35%+ YOUTHS HAVE GONE FOR HIV TESTING

85% TESTED IN THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THIS STUDY

KEY FINDINGS

ATTITUDES TOWARDS LGBTIQ



Young people expressed negative attitudes towards diversity, and specifically sexual minorities. Individual youths reported generally negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=highly positive attitude and 5=highly negative attitudes, youths reported an attitude score of 3.88, which leaned towards negativity. Rural youths had the most negative attitude (3.95 score) compared to urban youths (3.75 score).

This rating is in line with estimates from the Afrobarometer 2016, where 62 percent of respondents strongly disliked the idea of having homosexuals as neighbours – a number that is as high as 73 percent in Zimbabwe.

Negative attitudes—especially towards LGBTIQ persons—were reportedly aided by the absence of institutionalised efforts providing information about the LGBTIQ community. Negative

attitudes have reportedly contributed towards LGBTIQ persons refusing to disclose and, in the process, missing opportunities for support. Male sex workers reported that most of their clients were males who were married to females and who maintained marriages or relationships with females in order to conform to societal expectations.

Focus group discussions with LGBTIQ persons revealed that health was used as an entry point towards transforming negative societal attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons. Organisations cited included the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research (CeSSHAR), Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS), Population Services International (PSI), Sexual Rights Centre (SRC), Trans Smart Trust, Wilkins Hospital along with the Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL).



AFROBAROMETER 2016:
62% STRONGLY DISLIKED PROSPECT OF HOMOSEXUAL NEIGHBOURS

ZIMBABWE VERSION:
73% STRONGLY DISLIKED PROSPECT OF HOMOSEXUAL NEIGHBOURS

YOUTH ATTITUDE TOWARD LGBTIQ
NEGATIVE 3.88
SCALE OF 1 TO 5 WITH 5 BEING HIGHLY NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

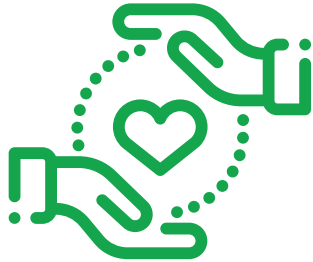
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

Forty six percent of youth cited food insecurity as a key humanitarian issue within their communities. This was followed by limited access to clean water (32 percent [31.5 percent female and 32.1 percent male]), poor transport and communication infrastructure (27 percent [25 percent female and 30 percent males]), recurrent droughts (25 percent [24.8 percent females and 25.8 percent males]) along with limited access to education opportunities. Food insecurity was cited by the largest proportion (34 percent [46 percent females and 46 percent males]) of rural youths, while the largest proportion of urban youths cited limited access to clean water (37 percent [31.5 percent females and 32.1 percent males]) as the key humanitarian issue.

Urban youths, especially in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo and Kadoma, confirmed challenges related to limited access to clean water. Youths from Harare pointed to repeated

cholera outbreaks to illustrate the magnitude of challenges linked to limited access to clean water. Youths reported being involved in humanitarian assistance programmes with the majority of them being involved in road rehabilitation (47 percent%), followed by construction or rehabilitation of community assets, such as dip tanks, irrigation schemes, dams and community gardens (39 percent).

The lowest proportion of youths (8 percent) reported having been involved in savings and lending clubs. Low involvement in savings and lending clubs was linked to the absence of sustainable, stable income sources since clubs are generally options for saving rather than for generating any money. Enhanced youth participation in humanitarian assistance was reportedly affected by lack of information (51 percent), lack of capacity (38 percent), corruption (14 percent) and the absence of material benefits (13 percent).



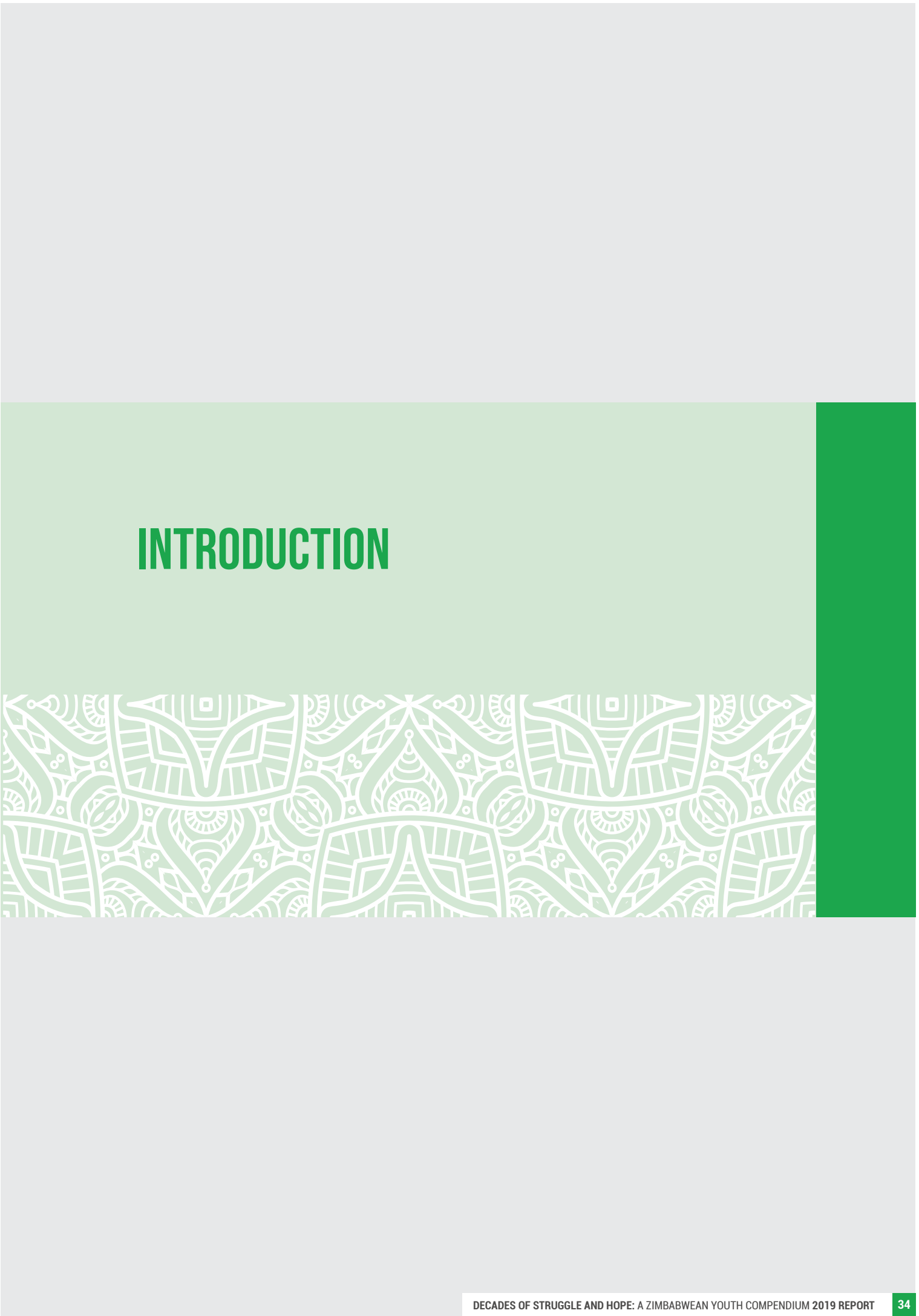
- 46% FOOD INSECURITY
- 32% LIMITED ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
- 27% POOR TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE
- 25% RECURRING DROUGHTS
- 27% LIMITED ACCESS TO EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



RECOMMENDATIONS

DOMAIN	FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
OVERALL	In the different domains that affect youth wellbeing, the key challenge emanates from weaknesses within the macro-environment, specifically restrictive policies and legislation, policy inconsistencies along with weak policy implementation.	Intensifying advocacy to transform and ensure implementation of policies, regulations and practices inhibiting broader political and macroeconomic development.
	The country does not have a national youth employment action plan or policy, despite unemployment being the biggest challenge facing youth.	Activating the Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network and supporting its mandate to develop a national youth employment action plan and implementation framework focusing on optimum utilisation of the youth workforce as part of developing an inclusive economy.
ECONOMIC GROWTH	The country's economy is over-self-employed as wholesale, unregulated and involuntary informalisation has resulted in youths graduating with skills that are not in demand while being ill-equipped to participate productively in the informal economy.	Engaging government, the business community and universities in creating an environment conducive to developing decent and waged employment to offset challenges emanating from the over-self-employment currently being experienced; Investing in growing locality-specific enterprises and value chains, including agribusiness and agro-processing along with structured involvement of artisanal miners through support towards registration, access to equipment and equitable markets; and Supporting processes of up-skilling, re-skilling and developing new learning opportunities that have a link to the economic reform agenda at national level.
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	Information in rural areas usually flows through community structures and opinion leaders, including councillors and political party representatives. Community structures in rural areas are highly politicised, which limits the extent to which diverse opinions and preferences can be promoted.	Considering investing in alternative community-based information provision structures, such as community information hubs as well as NGO-led information-sharing platforms and workshops. Strengthening the capacity of community structures (e.g. through training and mentorship) to focus on developmental issues as well as agency of the community to demand inclusivity from the local representatives.
	There are strong opportunities for mobilising youths to vote, but their participation in broader civic processes is highly limited. A lack of experience and capacity, restrictions in accessing civic spaces, and low programming to motivate participation beyond voting constrain youth participation. These factors further reduce the quality of participation when youths are afforded opportunities. Voting predominantly focuses on the presidential vote with minimal interest in local government, which restricts opportunities for organic, youth-driven transformation.	Supporting processes of enhancing youth participation in civic activities, including at local government level. These should focus on both the demand side (increasing youth agency) and the supply side (mainstreaming youth inclusion in local governance).
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	Internet access is still predominantly urban. The urban-centric nature of internet access is driven by inadequate rural infrastructure, high costs of data and to a lesser degree the cost of educational attainment. The digital divide between urban and rural areas constrains levels of participation, leading to missed opportunities to broaden access to information for youths.	Engaging government, the private sector and civil society to collaborate in democratising internet access through different models, including development of community hubs and open access centres.
	Traditional, institutionalised communication mediums are giving way to newer, interactive ones. Urban youths are less reliant on television, radio and print media as sources of information. Internet-aided platforms, including social media, have become major sources of information, predominantly because of their ability to provide users with the capability to interact with the content, to triangulate facts as well as to facilitate engagement irrespective of time, space, designation and economic status.	Exploring opportunities for supporting youths to be co-creators of participation-oriented content to allow optimal utilisation of internet-aided information-sharing platforms (such as social media) with a focus on supporting the creation and sharing of factual, democracy-oriented content.

DOMAIN	FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
MIGRATION	Youths increasingly feel that opportunities for a better future lie beyond their current geographical stations. This translates into high intentions to migrate to other urban areas or other countries. High migration intent translates into limited focus on participating in processes within current stations, which are viewed as temporary or transitional.	Supporting continued advocacy for devolution to increase opportunities for localised development of economic opportunities that motivate youths to participate and to aspire to contribute towards development within their current settings.
HEALTH	Low uptake of HIV testing services (HTS) translates into missed opportunities as testing is an entry point to other HIV services. High prevalence of HIV-related stigma potentially curtails uptake of services, positive health-seeking behaviours, and disclosure along with positive health and dignity for people living with HIV.	Supporting intensification of demand-generation activities aimed at providing youths with information on HTS while motivating them to get tested. Investing in enquiry to understand factors behind low uptake of HTS despite high levels of knowledge about its benefits as well as places where testing services can be found. Prioritizing interventions, which transform structural attitudes that sustain HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE	Rural youths are predominantly affected by food insecurity while urban youths are mostly concerned with limited access to clean water and the related health challenges posed.	Prioritising interventions towards catalysing transitioning of households from humanitarian crises towards some development and resilience characterised by food security. Exploring possibilities of supporting emergency access to clean water as well as response mechanisms for areas prone to water-borne diseases. Intensifying advocacy for government to plan for medium- to long-term investments in infrastructural factors that currently contribute towards limited access to water for urban households.
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	Youths have low tolerance for sexual minorities, and there are negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons. Negative attitudes are reflected in restrictions in accessing health services, harassment in public and private spaces along with intolerant law enforcement processes. Low tolerance is not intrinsic among youths but reflects broader negative social, structural and political intolerance.	Supporting a multi-pronged approach toward inculcating tolerance for sexual minorities with a focus on policies, community/ institutional attitudes along with institutions of socialisation. Utilising entry points, such as health, where interventions are being designed to facilitate access to comprehensive, quality services for sexual minorities in non-discriminating ways.
	Young people with disabilities have limited access to education, which is compounded by a lack of supportive infrastructure.	Investing in disability mainstreaming focusing on policy and operational levels. This includes advocacy towards ensuring disability-friendly infrastructure in all public spaces.
	There are limited skills training programmes for young people with disabilities despite the transformational potential linked to the possession of skills.	Collaborating with organizations coordinating constituencies of people with disabilities to design skills development interventions using vocational skills training as an entry point.
	Sex workers face multiple challenges, including HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), violence by their colleagues, harassment by law enforcement agents, stigma and discrimination by community members along with ostracization by families. The illegal status of sex work restricts the extent to which sex workers can access services, such as justice and health.	Intensifying advocacy towards decriminalisation of sex work and utilise entry points, such as health, to facilitate access to services as well as respect for the rights of sex workers.



INTRODUCTION

This report provides findings, conclusions and recommendations from a Youth Situation Analysis study for Zimbabwe.

The study was commissioned by the Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT). The study design, data collection, data analysis and report writing took place between November 2018 and March 2019.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE YOUTH SITUATION ANALYSIS STUDY

Young people are a critical demographic group. With an estimated 1.8 billion of them under the age of 30 globally, it is the largest generation of young people in history.³ Advancements in technology mean some young people are connected to each other like never before.

Social networks assist in community resilience-building processes, while young people are increasingly at the centre of innovations catalysing social change and even disrupting political hegemonies.

The heterogeneity of young people as well as opportunities they present have led to conclusions that they “constitute a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in, opening the door to an unparalleled multiplier effect”.¹ Beyond potential and enthusiasm, young people struggle with limited access to resources, voice and opportunities. This limits their immediate and potential agency. The potential to transform their own circumstances as well as those of their families, communities and nations is equally curtailed. Opportunities and challenges

for young people are highly pronounced within developing countries where nearly nine in ten (90%) of young people reside, often constituting large proportions of the population.¹

An estimated 225 million young people (15–24 years) live in Africa, which means that the continent's population is young and growing.⁴ The continent's young population is expected to increase by nearly 50 percent and estimates show that by 2050, the continent will have the largest number of young people, making up nearly twice the young population of South Asia and Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania as illustrated in the figure below.

Young people in sub-Saharan Africa face significant challenges and risks whose effects

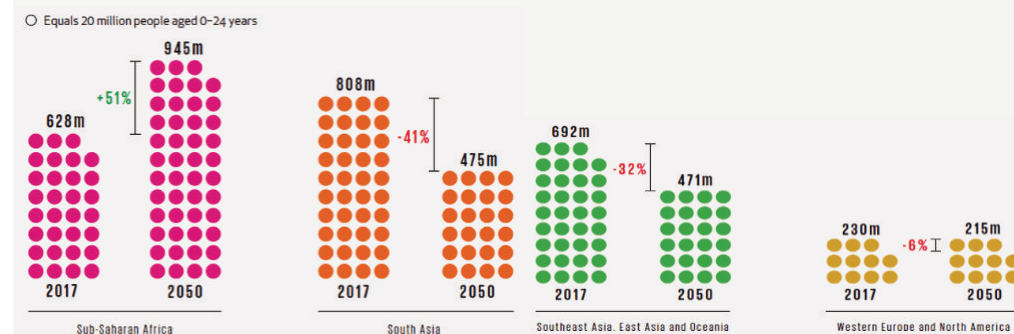
**225 MILLION
YOUNG PEOPLE
IN AFRICA**



↑ 50%
**PERCENTAGE BY
WHICH AFRICA'S YOUNG
POPULATION IS EXPECTED
TO INCREASE BY THE
YEAR 2050**

Figure 1: Africa Youth Population Projections

Africa's Youth Population is Booming, the Rest of the World's is Shrinking



Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Goalkeepers Report (2018)

3. United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, (2018). Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy. Available online @ https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

4. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (2018). The Goalkeeper's report. Available online @ <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/report>

are largely borne by girls and young women. Most challenges and risks relate to accessing rights, including quality education, healthcare or decent work.

Conflict in home countries further escalates risks among young people as some of them resort to forced migration. Young people also suffer from interpersonal violence, climate change and other human and natural disasters. They experience intersecting forms of marginalization, and struggle with the brunt of a global erosion of human rights along with constrained access to justice.¹

Zimbabwe defines youth as persons between 15 and 35 years of age. An estimated 4,702 046 people were aged 15–34 years in 2012, constituting 36% of the national population. Females constituted 53 percent of the youth demographic with males constituting 47 percent. The country is entering a demographic transition requiring that labour productivity increase so that new entrants to the workforce find jobs at higher than the average level of productivity.⁵

There are also cultural dimensions that define youth, including one's marital status and number of children. The resulting conflation of marriage or childbearing with adulthood prejudices some young people, especially those who had been married or had borne children as teenagers.

The academic literature points to the need to bring definitional consistency to ensure that all youths are captured, that their voices are incorporated, and that their needs become part of the broader policy agenda.

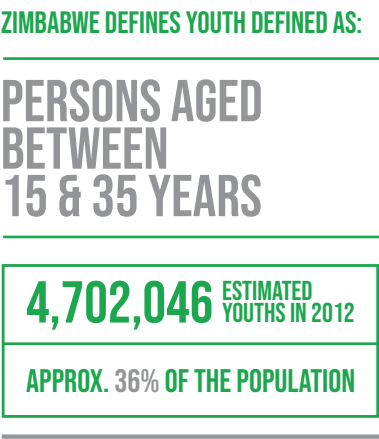
Zimbabwe has various institutional and policy frameworks that seek to address youth development. Policies and programmes have been developed and implemented by the Zimbabwean government in order to address the economic empowerment needs of Zimbabwean youths.

These include the drafting of the National Skills Development Policy, the review of the National Youth Policy, the review of the Vocational Training programme to focus on Training for Enterprise, and the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment programme (IEEP).

Additional policy measures and programmes developed by government to promote job creation, especially for the youth, include the development of the Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network (ZIYEN), the formulation of the Zimbabwe National Employment Policy Framework (ZNEPF), the establishment of the Youth Development Fund, the establishment of Youth Economic Zones, the IEEP, and the formulation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIM-ASSET).

Although the documents have been developed, the conditions of youths have remained precarious due to limited financing for implementation. Broader macroeconomic challenges further constrain the extent to which policies transform material conditions of youths.

The Youth Investment study of 2016⁶ concluded that investment in youth had been neglected and was sub-optimal to non-existent, especially when compared to what is required to bring young people meaningfully into mainstream



5. World Bank in collaboration with Zimstat Zimbabwe (2018) Jobs Diagnostic: Initial Findings

6. Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment (2016); Zimbabwe Youth Investment Case Study.

socio-economic and political spheres. Underinvestment in youth, the youth bulge and the fast population growth rate of 2.2% per annum compound the challenges faced by the youth.

The study further concluded that without investing in youth health interventions, new HIV infections will increase by at least 2,700 per year among the sexually active youth age group. The study further projected that crime attributable to drug abuse was likely to increase. In addition, the number of cases of crime committed per year would increase by 12%, with half of the cases being juvenile rape cases.⁶

The study further made a case that, if investments in education and skills development proposed in the business case do not materialize, many learners will drop out of school (300,000 in primary education alone) and be denied their right to basic education. Over 50% will delay schooling. Pass rates in secondary school will remain below 40% at Form 4 (Ordinary Level).⁶

Additional evidence shows that the employment rate is now far higher in rural than in urban areas, while unemployment and non-participation are urban challenges. An estimated 73 percent of jobs in Zimbabwe are rural while in urban centres, demand for labour is low. Seventy-eight percent of inactive workers and 86 percent of unemployment is in urban areas. Significantly, evidence shows that youths have moved to rural areas and they will likely return to cities and towns if demand for labour in urban areas rises. Urban youth, especially young and less-educated women, tend to be less active in the labour market.³

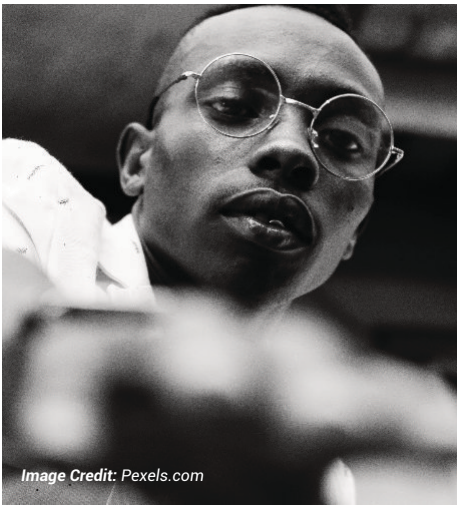
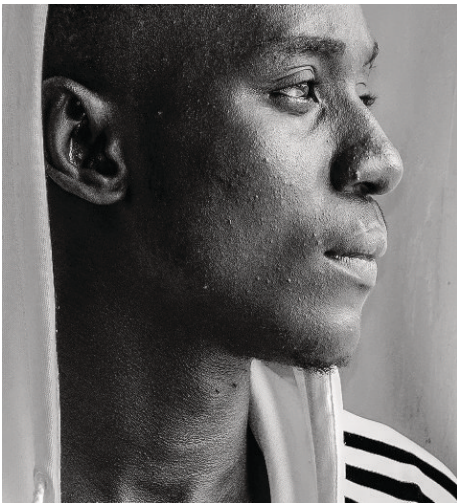
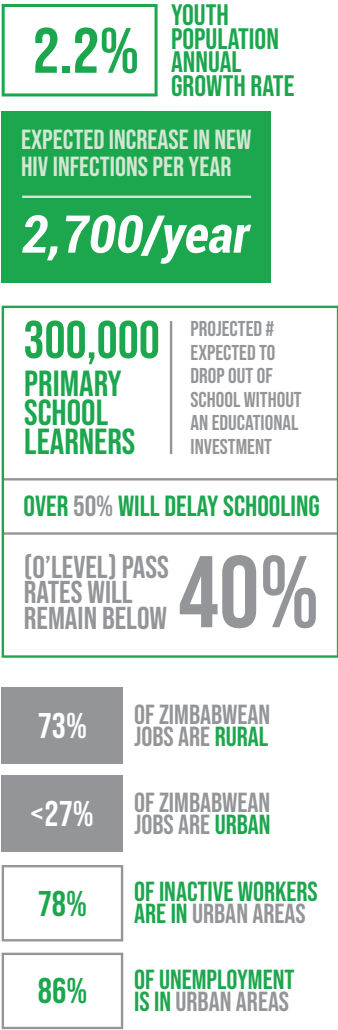


Image Credit: Pexels.com



1.2 RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

Young people are an important group for the purpose of harnessing a 'demographic dividend'.

Where the right investments have been made for young people to thrive, there is the potential to avert economic stagnation and decline, while also preventing destructive social vices.

The United Nations recommends, “the way in which shifting demographics in the world are leveraged, and how young people navigate their transition into adulthood, are critical for the progress of humankind and the health of the planet”.¹ Making the right investments for young people crucially depends on the availability of comprehensive, credible, reliable and valid data regarding the situation of young people.

This study provides data to facilitate and focus investments in young people's priority areas. It provides insights into young people's aspirations, ways of mobilising or organising young people, as well as old and emerging spaces for engaging young people.

The study also recommends policy adjustments required in order to activate the agency of young people to claim their rights. Finally, the study provides recommendations on ways of creating the conditions that allow young people to progress and play an active role in development.



Image Credit: YETT

1.3 STUDY PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose

The purpose of the study was to establish the political, social and economic situation of youth (15–35 years of age) in Zimbabwe.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- 1. Broaden understanding of** the different groups of young Zimbabweans, their aspirations, challenges and opportunities within the prevailing political, social, economic, health, humanitarian and technological context;
- 2. Deepen understanding about** how young persons are surviving, organizing and mobilizing around issues that affect them;
- 3. Review the effectiveness** and constructiveness of young people's different modes of organizing and mobilising, and to suggest practical recommendations on how weaknesses noted can be strengthened;
- 4. Establish challenges and** opportunities for participation, leadership and agency of

youth in the social, economic and political dimensions;

- 5. Assess young people's** knowledge about economic and political engagement opportunities available to them as well as understanding of their rights, roles and responsibilities as citizens, including those provided for by the Constitution and legislative framework of Zimbabwe;
- 6. Establish ways to** strengthen youth advocacy and oversight at multiple levels, and to improve civil society advocacy and representation of youth views; and
- 7. Identify good practice** models and programmes from comparative regional and international case studies to support youth participation, leadership and agency.

Study Domains

The study focused on five key domains with some cross-cutting components. Domains were based on an analysis of different dimensions that contribute towards the wellbeing of young people. The domains were adapted from key global documents, including the United Nations

Youth Strategy and the Global Youth Wellness Index.

The study focused on demographics, economic growth, citizen participation, ICTs, migration, health, humanitarian assistance and resilience.



FINDINGS

CHAPTER 1: ZIMBABWE'S YOUTH DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The survey reached 5,582 individuals, covering 10 provinces of Zimbabwe. Fifty seven percent of the sample were women. The proportions are slightly different from those of the census, where 53 percent of people aged 15–34 were females and 47 percent were males. Youths aged between 15 and 19 years constituted the biggest proportion of the sample (30 percent), followed by those aged 20–24 years who constituted 27 percent of the sample.

The vast majority of respondents were Christian with 35 percent being Apostolic, 23 percent being Pentecostal, 15 percent being Protestant and eight percent being Catholic. Just about one in ten (9 percent) individuals reported having no religious affiliation. This could point to a small, but rising number of secular youth.

While religious affiliation was broadly comparable across men and women, non-religious affiliates were almost four times as high in the male sample (15 percent) compared to the female sample (4 percent). Forty two percent of the sample reported being married, while 49 percent were not married. A larger proportion (53 percent) of females sampled reported being married compared to sampled males (28 percent) who reported being married.

The likelihood of being married increased with age, as 55 percent of those never married were between the ages of 15 and 24, followed by 30 percent aged 20–24 years, 11 percent who were aged 25–29 percent and five percent who were aged 30–34 percent. Nearly two thirds (64 percent) of respondents were based in rural areas, and the remaining 36 percent were based in urban areas.

This is comparable to results from the census (2012) where 67 percent of the population was

rural-based and 33 percent was based in urban areas.

Nearly all (99.5 percent) of the sample had at least some formal education. The largest proportion (38 percent) of the sample had completed secondary education, followed by 34 percent who had some secondary education. Just under one in ten (9 percent) of the respondents had more than secondary education. Less than 1 percent (0.5 percent) had no formal education, while 7 percent had some primary education. Across the male and female sample, educational attainment was highly comparable, although men were slightly more likely to have obtained tertiary education (12 percent) compared to women (7 percent). The table 3 on page 52 shows some background characteristics of the study sample.

Twenty three percent of youths belonged to the highest wealth quintile, followed by 21 percent in the fourth wealth quintile, 20 percent in the middle wealth quintile and 18 percent respectively for both the second lowest and the lowest wealth quintiles. Nearly two thirds (64 percent) of respondents were from rural areas while 36 percent were from urban areas. Three percent of the sample reported living with some form of disability. Within the sample of people with disabilities,

99.5%
WITH SOME
FORMAL
EDUCATION

38% OF THE ABOVE HAVE
COMPLETED SECONDARY

YOUTH BY WEALTH QUINTILE FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST

23% HIGHEST

21% FOURTH

20% MIDDLE

18% SECOND

18% LOWEST

64% RURAL
RESPONDENTS
FROM RURAL
AREAS

36% URBAN
RESPONDENTS
FROM URBAN
AREAS

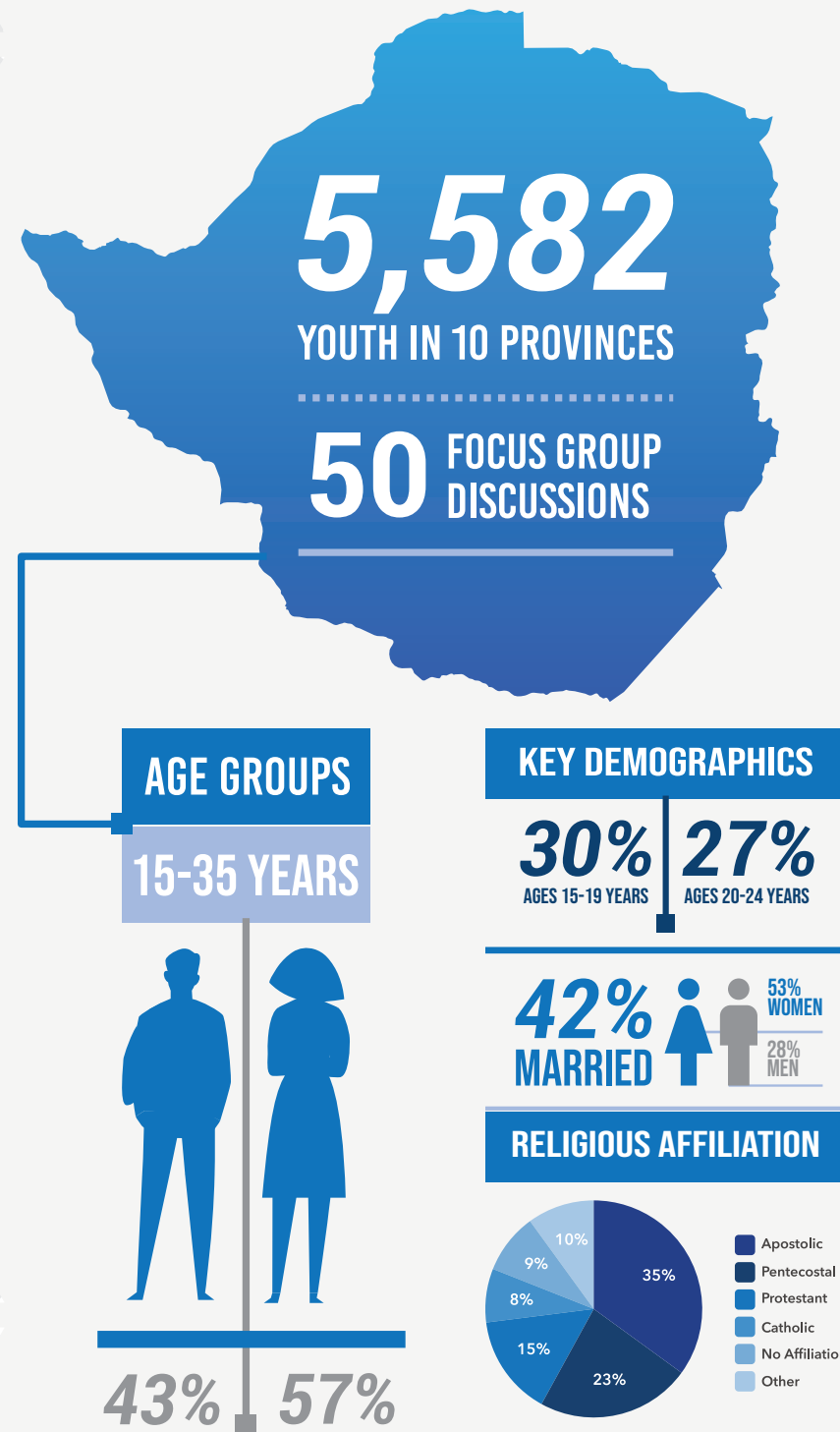


Table 1: Background Characteristics of Study Sample

Background Characteristics	OVERALL		FEMALES		MALES	
	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number
Age						
15-19	30.5	1,702	27.8	887	34.0	816
20-24	27.1	1,513	26.6	848	27.8	665
25-29	20.9	1,168	22.9	729	18.3	439
30-34	19.0	1,059	20.1	639	17.5	420
35	2.5	139	2.6	82	2.3	56
Religion						
Traditional	1.9	104	0.9	27	3.2	76
Roman Catholic	7.9	442	6.8	217	9.4	225
Protestant	14.5	809	15.1	481	13.7	329
Apostolic Sect	35.4	1,975	39.3	1,250	30.3	725
Pentecostal	22.3	1,243	24.8	791	18.9	452
Other Christian	8.1	451	7.9	252	8.3	199
Muslim	0.3	18	0.2	8	0.4	10
Other	1.1	61	1.0	32	1.2	30
None	8.6	479	4.0	128	14.6	351
Marital Status						
Never Married	49.0	2,733	34.9	1,110	67.7	1,622
Married	42.1	2,352	52.6	1,675	28.3	677
Living Together	1.1	62	1.6	49	0.5	12
Widowed	0.9	48	1.4	43	0.2	5
Divorced/Separated	6.8	378	9.5	302	3.2	76
Other	0.1	8	0.2	5	0.1	3
Residence						
Urban	35.7	1,990	38.2	1,216	32.3	775
Rural	64.3	3,591	61.8	1,970	67.7	1,622
Education						
No Formal Education	0.5	29	0.5	16	0.6	14
Some Primary	6.5	365	6.6	209	6.5	156
Completed Primary	12.5	695	12.5	399	12.4	296
Some Secondary	33.8	1,885	35.1	1,118	32.0	767
Completed Secondary	38.1	2,129	38.5	1,225	37.7	904
More than Secondary	8.6	478	6.8	218	10.8	260

60 percent had a physical disability, 25 percent had a chronic illness, 9 percent had a mental disability and 8 percent had a cognitive disability. There was no relationship between sex and disability status ($p=0.054$).

The average household size was 5 people. Nearly three quarters (72 percent) of respondents had both parents alive while 17 percent had the mother alive and 5 percent

had the father only alive. A further 6 percent reported being double orphans.

Over one third of the youth (35 percent) lived with neither of their parents, while 40 percent lived with both parents, 22 percent with the mother only and 3 percent with the father only.

The table below shows additional background characteristics.

Table 2: Additional Background Characteristics

Background Characteristics	OVERALL		FEMALES		MALES	
	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number
Wealth Quintile						
Lowest	18.1	1,011	17.6	561	18.8	451
Second	18.0	1,006	17.6	562	18.5	444
Middle	19.6	1,094	17.2	547	22.8	547
Fourth	21.2	1,184	21.3	677	21.2	507
Highest	23.0	1,286	26.3	839	18.7	447
Disability						
Physical	60.1	94	55.1	44	65.4	49
Mental	8.5	13	8.6	7	8.5	6
Cognitive	6.7	10	3.4	3	10.1	8
Chronic Illness	24.7	38	32.9	26	16.0	12
Average Household Size						
Average	4.79	5,581	4.89	3,185	4.66	2,396
Parents Survivorship						
Both Parents Alive	72.1	645	67.6	324	73.4	321
Mother Only Alive	17.4	155	18.6	89	15.2	66
Father Only Alive	4.5	40	4.9	24	3.9	17
Double Orphan	6	54	6.1	29	5.7	25
Living With Parents						
Both Parents	40.0	367	34.6	166	46.0	201
Mother Only (Absent Father)	21.7	199	22.3	107	21.2	93
Father Only (Absent Mother)	3.4	31	2.9	14	4.0	17
Neither of the Parents	34.8	319	40.2	193	28.8	126

3%

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS LIVING WITH A FORM OF DISABILITY

60%

PHYSICAL DISABILITY

25%

CHRONIC ILLNESS

9%

MENTAL DISABILITY

8%

COGNITIVE DISABILITY

0%

NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX & DISABILITY

5

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE



72%

BOTH PARENTS ALIVE



17%

MOTHER ONLY ALIVE



5%

FATHER ONLY ALIVE



6%

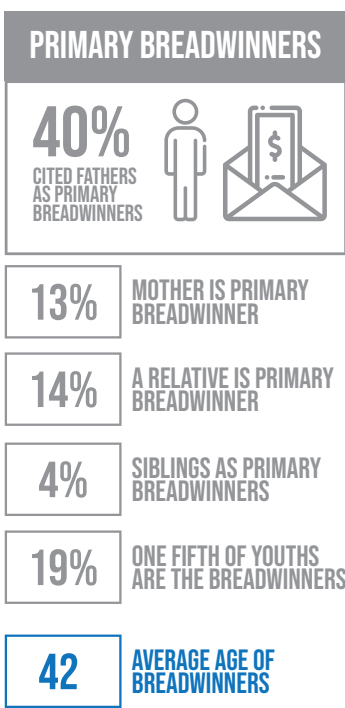
DOUBLE ORPHANS

The father was cited as the primary breadwinner by the majority (40 percent) of the youths. Other primary breadwinners were the mother (13 percent), a relative (14 percent) or siblings (4 percent). Nearly one fifth (19 percent) of the youths were the primary breadwinners.

The average age of primary breadwinners was 42 years, while the majority (33 percent) of them were own account workers in agriculture. Other primary breadwinners were paid employees (31 percent) and own account workers in other sectors (20 percent). Five percent of primary breadwinners were reported to be retired, sick or too old. The table below shows background characteristics of primary breadwinners.

Table 3: Background Characteristics of Primary Breadwinners

Background Characteristics	OVERALL		FEMALES		MALES	
	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number
Primary Breadwinner						
Father	40.1	2,235	42.3	1,348	37.0	888
Mother	12.8	714	12.4	395	13.3	319
Sibling	3.5	196	3.0	95	4.2	101
Myself/Respondent	18.8	1,050	10.6	338	29.7	712
Relative	13.6	760	13.8	439	13.4	321
Other	11.2	626	17.9	570	2.3	55
Average Age of the Primary Breadwinner						
Average	41.54	5,581	40.7	3,185	42.6	2,396
Main Economic Activity Status of the Primary Breadwinner						
Paid Employee	30.5	1,702	31.9	1,016	28.6	685
Employer	0.9	48	0.8	24	1.0	24
Own Account Worker (Agriculture)	33.3	1,858	29.8	948	39.0	910
Own Account Worker (Other)	20.3	1,133	22.7	723	17.1	410
Unpaid Family Worker	1.8	99	1.6	52	1.9	47
Looking for Work or Unemployed	2.5	140	2.4	75	2.7	65
Student	0.5	31	0.6	18	0.5	12
Homemaker	1.2	66	1.4	43	0.9	23
Gambler or Hustler	0.0	2	5.1	163	0.1	2
Retired, Sick, Too Old	5.2	290	1.7	53	5.3	127
Other	1.7	98	2.2	70	1.9	44
Other	4.7	263	5.1	161	4.2	102
TOTAL 15-35	100	5,581	100	--	100	--



CHAPTER 2: YOUTH, WORK, AND EMPLOYMENT

2.1. Income

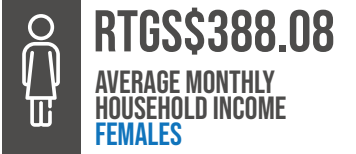
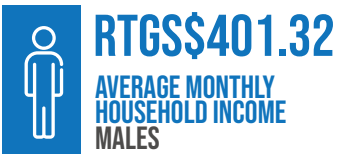
The average monthly income for households of which youths were part was USD\$127/RTGS\$377 at the time of research. Average monthly household income was slightly higher among males (RTGS\$401.32) compared to females (RTGS\$388.08).

However, there was no significant relationship between respondents' sex and their average household income (p=0.052). Respondents aged 35 had the highest average household monthly income in dollar value but there was no significant association between age and average household monthly income (p=0.972).

Government and civil society key informants concurred on the continued degeneration of the rural economy, and the subsequent disempowerment might have been a factor in the low average household income. Similarly, in all rural FGDs with youth, the perception of a higher income was cited as a key pull factor for migrating to urban areas.

The degeneration of the rural economy contributed towards a strong desire among rural youths to migrate to urban areas. Seventy seven percent of youths expressed willingness to migrate if given a chance. However, the most cited (27 percent) migratory route was rural to urban.

Average monthly household expenditure was RTGS\$314.49. This consisted of RTGS\$309.29 per month for households from which female respondents came and RTGS\$321.41 for households from which male respondents came. Expenditure was RTGS\$505.27 for urban households and RTGS\$211.53 for rural respondents.



URBAN vs RURAL MONTHLY INCOME The urban average is about double the rural average



"I was born here and have lived here all my life. If I continue staying here there is no possibility of me earning any money because there are no jobs. The only possibility of getting money is when people ask me to do small jobs for them but the money is very little. Perhaps if I go to Gweru, Bulawayo or Harare I can get something to do and earn some money."

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, ZVISHAVANE RURAL

9. The amount was RTGS\$377 and was converted using the interbank rate as at 27/03/2019 of US\$1: RTGS\$2.96.

Table 4: Average Household Monthly Income by Sex, Age, Marital Status and Residence

Background Characteristics	Mean Income	95% Confidence Interval		Number
	Mean	Lower	Upper	
Gender				
Female	388.08	363.98	412.17	3,097
Male	401.32	371.07	431.58	2,332
Age				
15-19	368.63	335.77	401.49	1,630
20-24	396.35	360.58	432.11	1,463
25-29	386.05	346.43	425.67	1,151
30-34	430.79	382.36	479.23	1,044
35	451.04	323.91	578.17	140
Marital Status				
Never Married	453.66	424.55	482.77	2,641
Married	324.69	298.28	351.09	2,313
Living Together	795.10	560.65	1,029.54	61
Widowed	387.25	198.89	575.61	44
Divorced/Separated	326.04	263.49	388.58	361
Other	623.56	-11.75	1,258.86	8
Residence				
Urban	644.28	603.58	684.98	1,911
Rural	257.62	240.13	275.10	3,517

Rural households' monthly expenditure constituted 82 percent of average monthly income while urban households' average expenditure constituted 78 percent of average monthly household income.

This illustrates households' constrained capacities to save as documented by the PICES

survey (2018:69), which concluded, "households are dissaving and households have a net negative average annual household change in value of assets of US\$29".

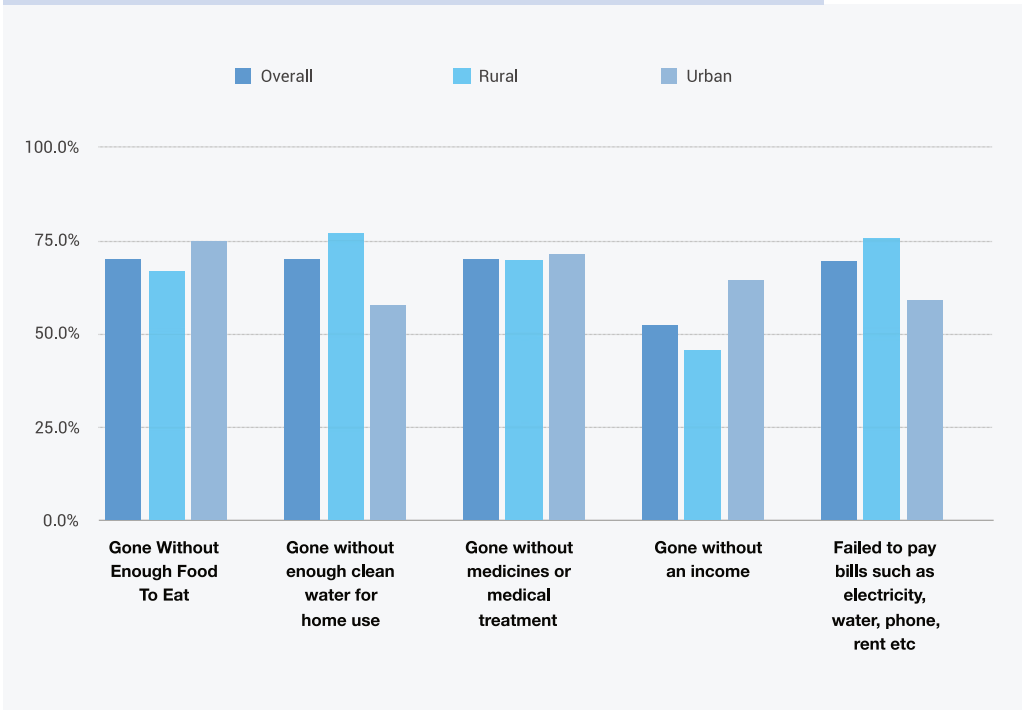
Seven out of ten (70 percent) youths reported that their household had gone without food in the 12 months preceding the study. Seventy

percent of youths respectively reported having had inadequate clean water at the house and not being able to access medication when they needed it. Over half of the youths (52,4 percent) reported having gone without an income, while 70 percent failed to pay their bills.

Key informants –especially in rural areas – cited food shortages as a key challenge, which

reportedly affect youths and broader communities. Youth in FGDs in Masvingo, Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and Midlands reported that droughts and inadequate fertilisers contribute towards poor harvests and raise possibilities of household hunger. The figure below shows proportions of respondents who reported having gone without key basic necessities.

Figure 2: Proportion of Youths Who Reported Going Without Necessities



NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY GOALS:

- **To empower** youth to participate and contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation;
- **To develop** a coordinated response and participation by all stakeholders in the development and empowerment of the youth;
- **To instill** in youth a clear sense of national identity and respect for national principles and values; and
- **To promote** the health of young people and develop youth-oriented healthcare.



2.2 Assets

Youths reported limited access to and control over the means of production, specifically land and capital. Over half (60 percent) of respondents live in accommodation owned by the family, followed by 23 percent who live in rented accommodation.

Fourteen percent of respondents reported living in free accommodation. Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of rural-based respondents reported living in owned accommodation, while 37 percent of urban-based respondents reported the same. Over half (52 percent) of urban-based respondents reported living in rented accommodation.

Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of respondents (78 percent) who reported owning the dwelling units in which they stayed, followed by Harare (69 percent) and Masvingo (68 percent). Bulawayo province had the lowest proportion (40 percent) of respondents who reported that the dwelling units within which they resided were owned by the household. Nearly half of the respondents from Manicaland (49.5 percent) reported staying in rented dwelling units, followed by 48 percent from Bulawayo who reported the same.

Mashonaland East had the lowest proportion (3.9 percent) of respondents who reported staying in rented dwelling units, followed by Mashonaland Central (12 percent), Harare (15 percent) and Mashonaland West (21 percent).

There was a positive association between the area of residence and the possibility of owning the dwelling place ($p < 0.0001$). This could be attributed to differences in the value of urban and rural land. Rural land, where the majority reported being owners, is usually owned by families and has limited exchange value compared to urban land. Another explanatory factor is that rural areas generally have use right over the land, and 'ownership' is not the same, as the land does not have title, and government can shift the land use patterns at any given time and relocate people, such as in the case of leaving space for mining operations. The table below shows ownership status of dwelling units.

Ownership of land and other immovable property:

"I have access to land although it was allocated to my father. Even if I want to grow my own crops, I don't have inputs and government programmes such as command agriculture give inputs to the person who has an offer letter."

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, MASHONALAND CENTRAL



Table 5: Ownership of Dwelling Unit

Background Characteristics	Owned	Rented	Subsidized	Free	Squatting	No Response	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Gender							
Female	56.5	26.8	2.9	12.8	0.5	0.5	3,184
Male	64.4	17.5	2.6	14.8	0.3	0.4	2,397
Age							
15-19	65.6	17.5	2.7	13.0	0.4	0.8	1,702
20-24	57.6	24.3	3.1	14.3	0.3	0.4	1,513
25-29	56.8	26.7	2.1	13.4	0.9	0.2	1,169
30-34	56.9	26.1	3.0	13.5	0.1	0.4	1,058
35	63.0	15.2	5.1	16.7	0.0	0.0	138
Residence							
Urban	36.7	52.0	2.6	8.2	0.2	0.3	1,989
Rural	72.7	6.7	2.9	16.6	0.5	0.6	3,591
Province							
Manicaland	43.5	49.5	0.0	5.7	0.6	0.6	314
Mashonaland Central	78.0	11.7	1.0	8.8	0.0	0.5	785
Mashonaland East	61.0	3.9	10.1	23.1	1.0	0.8	485
Mashonaland West	59.8	21.2	0.0	16.8	0.7	1.5	611
Matabeleland North	62.7	16.8	2.6	17.5	0.2	0.3	585
Matabeleland South	56.9	16.7	0.0	23.0	2.8	0.6	319
Midlands	55.7	11.8	6.4	26.1	0.0	0.0	281
Masvingo	68.0	21.5	1.8	8.7	0.0	0.0	607
Harare	68.7	15.2	6.1	9.6	0.2	0.2	622
Bulawayo	39.9	48.1	1.7	10.0	0.1	0.2	975
TOTAL	59.9	22.8	2.8	13.6	0.4	0.5	5,580

Ownership of Land and Other Immovable Property

At the time of this study, less than half of the participating youths (48 percent) owned land or other immovable property.

Just over one in ten urban youths (12 percent) reported owning land or immovable property compared to nearly four in ten (37 percent) rural youths who reported the same. Nearly one third

of rural youth (33.1 percent) had access to land compared to 7.6 percent of urban youths who reported the same. Higher possibilities of owning or having access to land in rural areas

12%
URBAN

URBAN YOUTHS
OWNING LAND/
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

37%
RURAL

RURAL YOUTHS
OWNING LAND/
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

were further reflected by insights shared in FGDs with rural youths, especially in Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Midlands, Masvingo and Manicaland who cited agriculture as a key economic activity.

Land ownership and access dynamics were further reflected by insights from resettlement areas where youth reported having access to land but sometimes parents (who would have been allocated the land) determined what should be planted as well as how income is distributed.

Youths reported paying to access land for agriculture, especially in areas where some resettled farmers are renting out portions of their land. Youth in Mashonaland East reported possibilities of renting land but this required financing, as landlords required fixed amounts or demanded a percentage (between 10 and 20 percent) of total earnings after harvesting.

Beyond agricultural land, paid access to land was articulated by youths in mining areas who reported paying for access to mining claims in order to conduct artisanal mining activities. Youth in artisanal mining in Shurugwi highlighted that they did not work for claim owners but paid an ‘access fee’ in order to carry out their mining activities.

Figure 3 on the following page shows ownership of and access to land by youth.

Youths reported having limited access to livestock, with 8.3 percent having access to cattle, 12 percent having access to goats, 0.8 percent owning sheep, and 1.4 percent owning donkeys. In addition, 7.3 percent of youths reported having access to a plough, while 4.3 percent reported having access to a scotch cart.

Limited access to livestock is consistent with findings from the Zimbabwe Resilience Study (2018), which concluded that due to drought “households-maintained livestock holdings through the first year of drought (2015); but in the second year (2016), the percentage of households owning livestock decreased and the percentage of households reporting loss of all livestock doubled”.¹⁰

Focus group discussion participants in rural Manicaland, Masvingo, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central and Midlands outlined that livestock was predominantly owned by parents. The same applied to household equipment, such as ploughs and scotch carts. District key informants in Beitbridge and Gwanda highlighted that, irrespective of livestock ownership patterns, droughts and diseases had depleted cattle herds among households.

Figure 3: Youth Ownership of and Access to Land

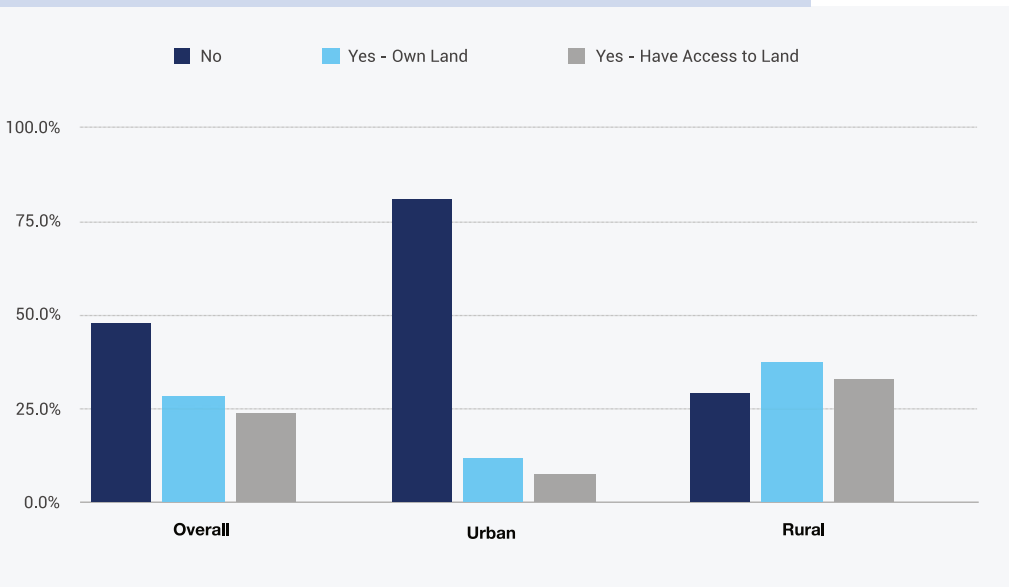
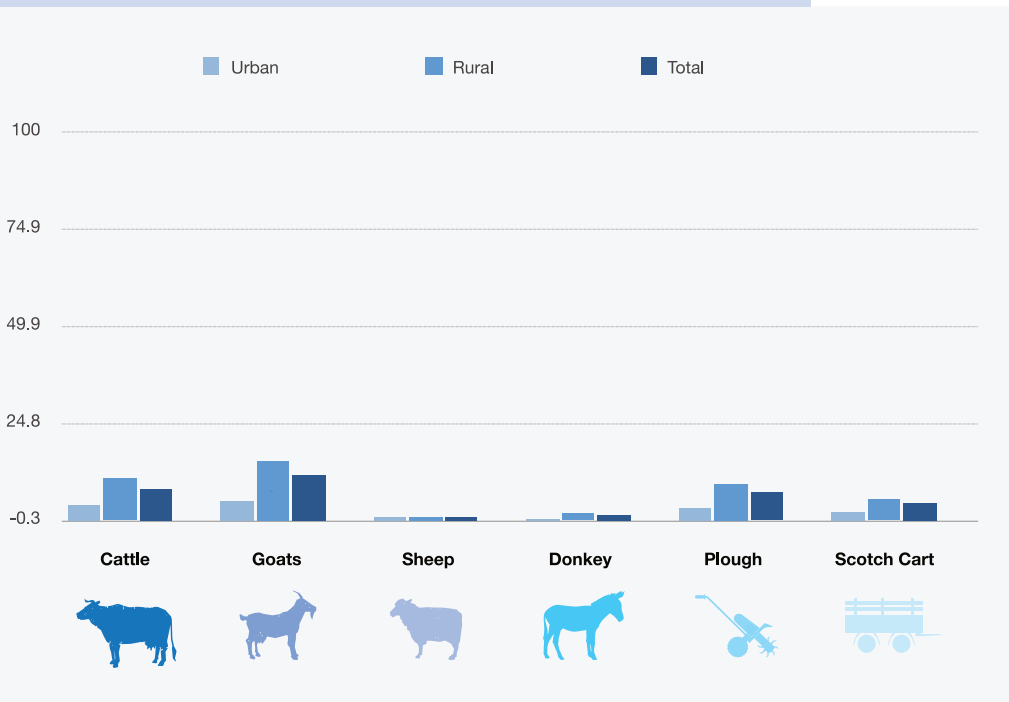


Figure 4: Ownership of Agricultural Assets



10. TANGO International. 2018. Zimbabwe Resilience Research Report. Produced as part of the Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (REAL) Associate Award. Photo Credit: Colin Crowley/Save the Children.

2.3 Employment

Seven percent of the youths who were part of the study, 7 percent were formally employed.

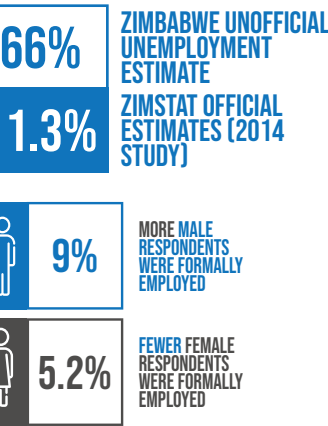
There was a significant difference between sex and the likelihood of being formally employed ($p < 0.0001$). More male respondents (9 percent) were formally employed compared to females (5.2 percent). The likelihood of being formally employed was affected by age ($p < 0.0001$), residence ($p < 0.0001$), province ($p < 0.0001$) and education ($p < 0.0001$). The proportion of urban youths who were formally employed was twice (10 percent) that of rural youths (5 percent) who were employed. The number of employed youths is lower compared to data from sub-Saharan Africa.

The most recent figures by the World Bank estimate youth unemployment at 13.9 percent (ages 15–24), showing the high unemployment level in Zimbabwe (<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SLUEM1524ZSSSF>). Data from Round 6 of the Afrobarometer puts unemployment for individuals below 35 years across sub-Saharan Africa at 63 percent. For Zimbabwe alone, the unemployment estimate is 66 percent. This percentage is lower than official estimates by Zimstat, which puts unemployment at just 11.3 percent (2014 Labour Force Study).

Table 6: Formal employment by Sex, Residence and Province					
Background Characteristics	Employment Status	95% Confidence Interval		Number	P-Value
	%	Lower	Upper		
Gender					> 0.01
Female	388.08	363.98	412.17	3,097	
Male	401.32	371.07	431.58	2,332	
Residence					> 0.01
Urban	10.1	8.8	11.4	1,990	
Rural	5.3	4.6	6.0	3,591	
Province					> 0.01
Bulawayo	12.1	8.4	15.7	314	
Manicaland	5.0	3.5	6.6	785	
Mashonaland Central	9.1	6.5	11.6	485	
Mashonaland East	4.9	3.1	6.5	612	
Mashonaland West	6.2	4.2	8.1	584	
Matabeleland North	2.8	1.0	4.7	318	
Matabeleland South	8.2	5.0	11.5	280	
Midlands	4.3	2.7	6.0	606	
Masvingo	8.2	6.0	10.3	623	
Harare	9.9	8.0	11.7	974	

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY STRATEGIC AREAS:

- Education and skills development
- Youth employment and sustainable livelihoods
- Youth empowerment and participation
- Youth migration
- Gender equality and equity
- Information, communication and technology
- Data and research
- Youth coordination and mainstreaming
- Culture, sport and recreation
- National youth service
- Youth health
- Youth and environment



Participating youths, especially in urban areas, consistently lacked formal employment as a key challenge. Youths from Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare linked the lack of formal employment to the fact that formal employers were reported to have either scaled down or closed down completely. All key informants cited a lack of formal employment opportunities for youths as a key challenge.

A key informant in Harare highlighted that the shrinking formal employment market has contributed towards barriers to entry into employment, especially for youth graduating from universities. Most formal employment opportunities reportedly require a minimum of two years' experience, which most youths do not possess.

More than half (51 percent) of youths who reported being employed were engaged as general hands, while 38 percent were engaged as professionals, 8 percent had clerical positions, and 3 percent had managerial positions. There was a significant difference between age and the type or level of

employment ($p < 0.0001$). Nine out of ten (95 percent) youths aged 15–19 years who reported being employed were working as general hands, followed by 64 percent of those aged 20–24 years who reported being engaged as general hands.

The relationship between age and the nature of employment could be attributed to the likely absence of professional skills among youths aged between 15 and 19 years of age. National level key informants cited a combination of limited employment opportunities, limited experience among the youth as well as a misalignment between current qualifications being offered by institutions of higher learning and competence requirements by prospective employers.

Youth in FGDs in Masvingo, Manicaland, Midlands, Bulawayo and Mashonaland East cited limited opportunities as a key factor in them taking up any opportunities available as opposed to what they would have been trained to do.



"I graduated from NUST [National University of Science and Technology] with an honours degree in Accounting in 2013. I have lost count of the number of applications that I sent to prospective employers. After three years, I gave up applying. My older brother was working for Bulawayo City Council and assisted me to get a job as a water meter reader and I have been in that job for three years now."

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, BULAWAYO

There were statistically significant associations between employment level and residence ($p < 0.0001$), province ($p < 0.0001$), and level of educational attainment ($p < 0.0001$). The majority of formally employed urban youths (46 percent) were employed as professionals, followed by those who were employed as general hands (40 percent). Nearly two thirds of formally employed rural youths were employed as non-professional staff, while 30 percent were employed as professionals. Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion (81 percent) of respondents who were formally employed as general hands, followed by Mashonaland East (76 percent), Bulawayo (63 percent), Midlands

(59 percent) and Masvingo (57 percent). Harare had the lowest proportion of youths (26 percent) who were formally employed as general hands. More than half (54 percent) of formally employed youths from Harare were engaged as professionals. This was followed by Mashonaland West (47 percent), Masvingo (43 percent), Matabeleland South (42 percent) and Manicaland (40 percent). Mashonaland Central (12 percent) had the lowest proportion of youths formally employed as professionals, followed by Bulawayo (29 percent). The table below shows employment level by sex, residence and province.

Table 7: Employment Level by Sex, Residence and Province

Background Characteristics	General Hand %	Clerical %	Professional %	Managerial %	Number	P-Value
Gender						0.94
Female	49.4	6.6	42.8	1.2	166	
Male	52.7	8.4	34.1	4.9	226	
Residence						> 0.01
Urban	39.8	10.0	45.8	4.5	201	
Rural	63.4	4.7	29.8	2.1	191	
Province						> 0.01
Bulawayo	63.2	--	28.9	7.9	38	
Manicaland	47.5	12.5	40.0	--	40	
Mashonaland Central	81.4	2.3	11.6	4.7	43	
Mashonaland East	75.9	3.4	20.7		29	
Mashonaland West	36.1	13.9	47.2	2.8	36	
Matabeleland North	55.6	--	33.3	11.1	9	
Matabeleland South	50.0	4.2	41.7	4.2	24	
Midlands	59.3	11.1	29.6	--	27	
Masvingo	56.9	--	43.1	--	51	
Harare	26.3	14.7	53.7	5.3	95	

The Zimbabwe National Employment Policy Framework (ZNEPF) promotes an enabling environment conducive to sustainable employment for all.



A quarter (25 percent) of formally employed youths were employed in the public sector, followed by the food and beverages sector (12.6 percent), mining (6.1 percent), transport (5.1 percent) and NGOs (2.9 percent). Formal employment patterns may be attributed to the twin processes of de-industrialisation and informalisation where none of those who were formally employed worked in either agriculture or manufacturing. Preliminary findings from a

job diagnostic analysis conducted by the World Bank (2018)¹¹ indicated that manufacturing employment fell from 8.7 percent to 4.2 percent of total employment between 1999 and 2014. It was further indicated that agriculture (mostly unpaid and self-employment) absorbed labour released from manufacturing, while more educated and young workers were slipping back into agriculture. The figure below shows employment trends in agriculture.

Figure 5: Employment in Agriculture



Source: World Bank Job Diagnostics Study (2018)

More than half (57%) of formally employed youths were engaged in professions for which they did not train. A larger proportion (46 percent) of the female sample was employed in professions for which they trained compared to 41 percent of the male sample. However, there was no statistically significant association between sex and the possibility of being

employed in professions for which youths were trained ($p=0.295$). There was a statistically significant relationship between province and the possibility of employment in the profession of training ($p=0.001$). Fifty eight percent of formally employed youths in Harare and Mashonaland, respectively were employed in professions for which they were trained.

“There are no jobs and competition is fierce for the few jobs that are available. Obviously, in this situation we are prepared to take on employment opportunities that are not related to what we were trained on. The most important thing is to be employed and to earn a living rather than to wait for the right job, which is not likely to come in this environment.”

FEMALE FGD PARTICIPANT, VICTORIA FALLS

11. Merotto, Dino Leonardo; Weber, Michael; Aterido, Reyes. 2018. Pathways to Better Jobs in IDA Countries: Findings from Jobs Diagnostics (English). Jobs series; issue no. 14. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

National level key informants highlighted that high levels of unemployment meant youths were taking up available jobs as opposed to jobs for which they were qualified. A key informant from the Ministry of Youths further outlined that, at the time of this study, there were already plans by government to realign the education and training focus with economic realities as opposed to the current scenario where youths are graduating with skills and competencies that are inconsistent with the needs of the economy.

Youth in FGDs, especially in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, Mutare, Kwekwe, Marondera, Victoria Falls, Chinhoyi and Bindura, highlighted that the need for employment superseded other factors, such as qualifications, type of training, competencies and general preferences, when seeking employment. Formally employed youths spent an average of 5 months unemployed before securing employment. This increased the likelihood of youths being employed in professions for which they were not trained. Youths in Harare spent the greatest number of months unemployed before securing employment, while those in Manicaland spent an average of a month after training before securing employment.

At the time of the study, the average gross monthly salary for formally employed youths was RTGS\$301.48. The average gross monthly salaries for females and males were

RTGS\$277.60 and RTGS\$319.09 per month respectively. Youths aged between 15 and 19 years were the highest proportion of those who reported being employed as general hands, and they also had the lowest gross monthly salary of RTGS\$64 per month.

Formally employed youths aged 30–34 years had the highest average gross monthly salary of RTGS\$423.59, followed by those aged 35 years, those aged 25–29 years (RTGS\$344.06) and those aged 20–24 years (RTGS\$188.47). Harare had the highest average monthly salaries (RTGS\$423.11), followed by Mashonaland West (RTGS\$445.60), Matabeleland North (RTGS\$399.73) and Bulawayo (RTGS\$398.51).

Table 9 on the following page shows gross average monthly salaries by sex, age, residence, province and education.

The Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network (ZIYEN) policy framework promotes technical skills and entrepreneurship through:

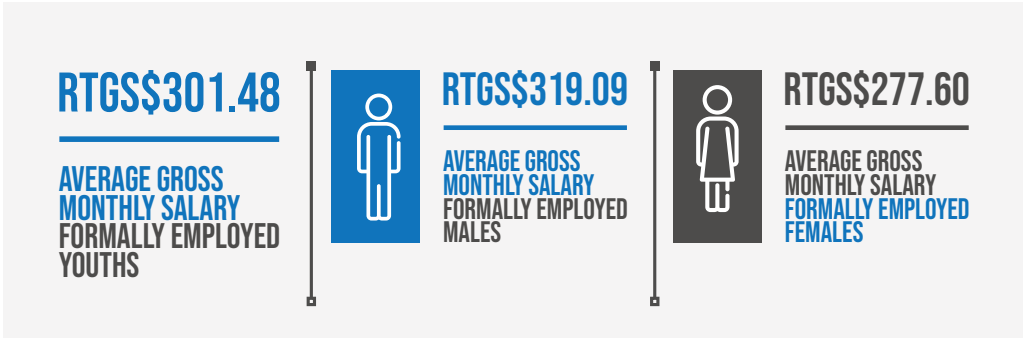
- Formal and informal business incubation;
- Apprenticeship development; and
- Establishment of business incubators and commercial business units at vocational training centres (VTCs).

Table 8: Sex, Age, Residence, Province and Education

Background Characteristics	Average Gross Income	95% Confidence Interval		Number
	Mean	Lower	Upper	
Gender				
Female	277.60	227.75	327.46	166
Male	319.09	266.05	372.12	225
Age				
15-19	64.40	56.24	72.56	45
20-24	188.47	149.59	227.35	97
25-29	344.06	271.48	416.64	106
30-34	423.59	341.15	506.03	130
35	378.05	237.37	518.73	15
Residence				
Urban	385.61	321.97	449.25	201
Rural	212.98	180.84	245.11	191
Province				
Bulawayo	398.51	186.84	610.18	38
Manicaland	147.07	92.67	201.47	39
Mashonaland Central	99.95	81.11	118.78	44
Mashonaland East	192.46	118.18	266.74	30
Mashonaland West	445.60	300.22	590.98	36
Matabeleland North	399.73	61.45	738.00	9
Matabeleland South	263.51	155.70	371.32	23
Midlands	297.15	217.64	376.66	26
Masvingo	257.32	185.32	329.32	51
Harare	423.11	336.51	509.71	96
Education				
No Formal Education	--	--	--	--
Some Primary	81.31	43.53	119.10	15
Completed Primary	82.70	48.39	117.01	24
Some Secondary	106.73	83.73	129.74	75
Completed Secondary	256.50	204.25	308.74	130
More Than Secondary	497.88	423.13	572.64	148



Image Credit: Ralph Chikambi - Economy



2.4 Entrepreneurship

Nine percent of youths reported running a business. A larger proportion of females (10 percent) reported running a business, while 8 percent of males reported the same.



Image Credit: Cynthia R Matonhodze – The Informal Sector (Theophas)

There was a statistically significant association between age and running a business ($p < 0.0001$). This number is rather low compared to sub-Saharan Africa at large. According to the 2016 Afrobarometer, 42 percent of employed youth below the age of 35 reported to be self-employed. For Zimbabwe, the estimate is 23 percent, which is still significantly larger than study findings.

The proportion of youths running businesses increased by age from 2 Percent among youths aged 15-19 years, 8 percent among those aged 20-24 years, 13 percent among those aged 25-29 years, 16 percent among 30–34-year

olds and 18 percent among those aged 35 years. Sixteen percent of urban youths reported running a business, compared to 5 percent of the rural youths.

Key informants in rural areas, pointed to multiple challenges that constrained the potential of youth to run businesses, except for areas with artisanal miners and strong agriculture. A key informant in the Ministry of Small to Medium Enterprises reported that most youths were predominantly involved in “survivalist” ventures characterised by undefined systems and structures, which were run or managed by the owner, and which were often vulnerable

“Youth often have very good business ideas but they often lack capital and skills to grow ideas into profitable businesses. Most of them also lack collateral so they cannot access low-interest loans. As a result, you will get very few youths running a business however small.”

KEY INFORMANT,
HARARE

to shocks, such as fluctuating prices due to unstable exchange rates.

Reasons for constrained youth potential to run businesses included limited access to capital as well as limited access to markets, especially as most low-capital enterprises often rely on their nuclear environments for clients. Youth further confirmed the existence of key barriers to entrepreneurship with most in urban and rural FGDs citing limited access to capital, lack of skills, lack of equipment and legal restrictions along with the absence of viable markets.

In Mashonaland East, youths in agriculture reported facing challenges emanating from the absence of certification of their produce. Without certification, they were failing to access

reliable and better-paying markets, such as supermarket chains. Harare had the highest proportion (16 percent) of youths running businesses, followed by Bulawayo (14 percent). Mashonaland Central had the lowest proportion (4.3 percent) of youths running businesses, followed by Matabeleland South (5 percent).

There was a statistically significant association between levels of educational attainment and the likelihood of running a business ($p < 0.0001$). Sixteen percent of the youths running businesses had tertiary education, followed by those who completed secondary education (12 percent). The figure below shows the proportion of youths running businesses by sex, age, province and level of educational attainment.

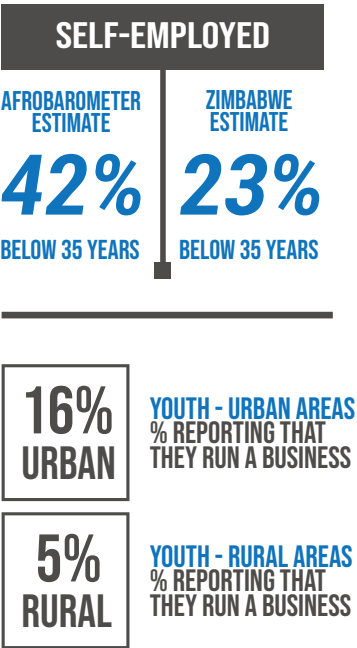
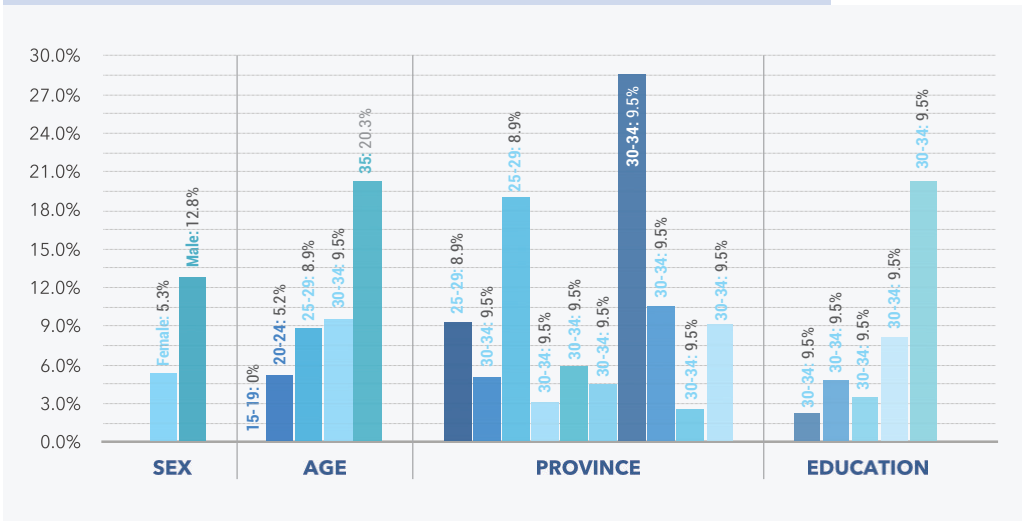
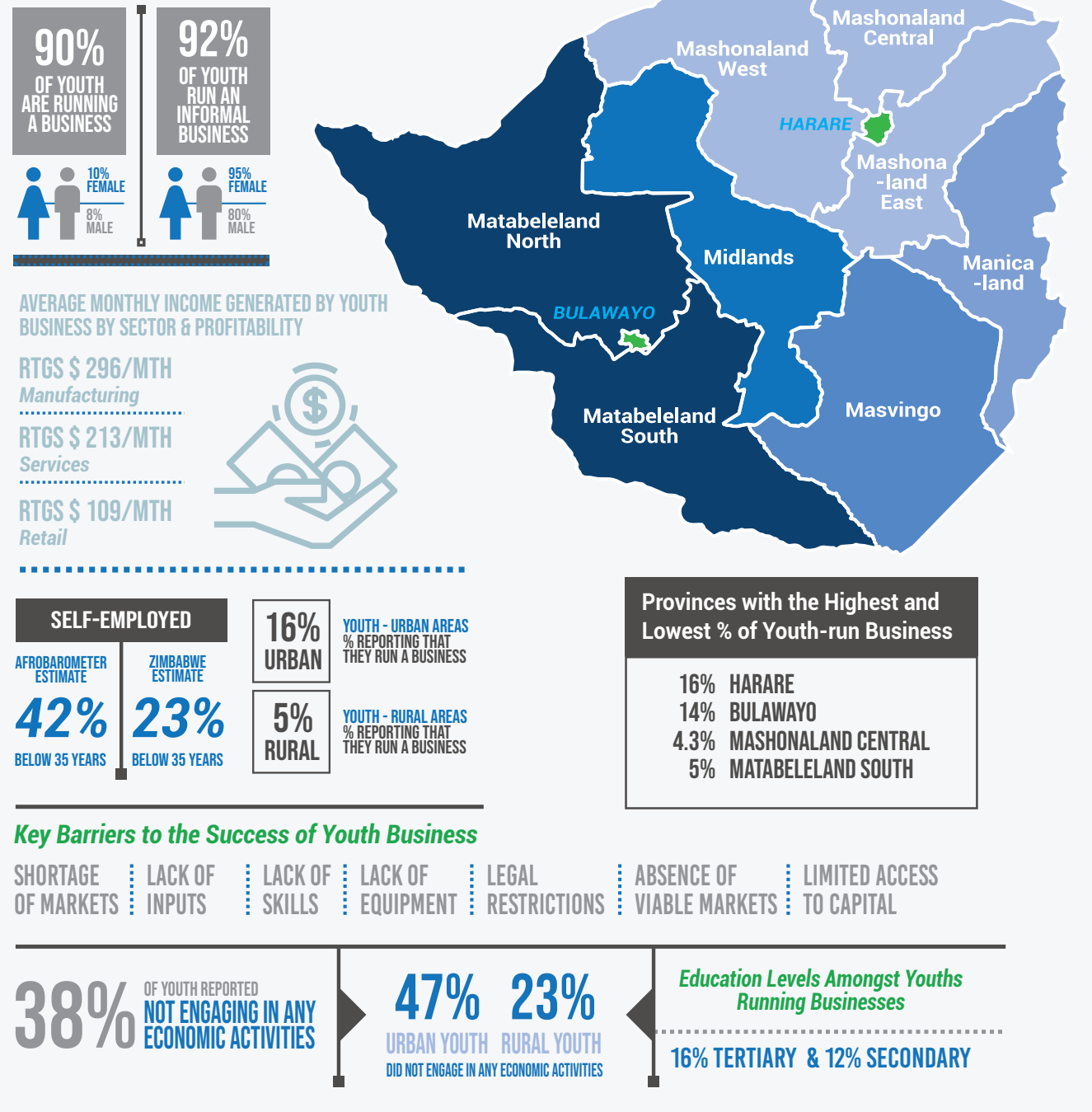


Figure 6: Youths Running Businesses by Sex, Age, Province and Level of Educational Attainment



Infographic: Province Map View of Stats

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS VENTURES OF THE ZIMBABWEAN YOUTH



Over nine out of ten (92 percent) youths ran informal businesses. Eighty seven percent of male youths reported running informal businesses, while 95 percent of females reported the same. Involvement of youths in the informal sector was consistent with overall economic informalisation outlined in other studies and confirmed by key informants as well as by youths in FGDs.

More than half of all youth-run businesses were in the retail sector (52 percent), followed by agriculture (13 percent) and services (12 percent). The unstructured nature of informal businesses was illustrated by 16 percent of youths whose operations fell outside of traditionally defined sectors and were classified as “other”.

Key informants highlighted that youths were likely to be involved in many small ventures and their involvement was largely driven by ad hoc opportunities in the environment, such as shortages of basic commodities. Youth in FGDs in Harare, Gweru, Mutare, Masvingo, Bulawayo, Beitbridge and Kwekwe confirmed involvement in retail-related ventures.

In most instances, this involved cross-border trade with source countries, such as South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Retail activities further involved buying clothes and other wares in towns and reselling these in rural, mining and agricultural communities.

This was mostly cited in Mutare and Kwekwe. Some retail activities were reportedly driven by opportunities arising out of shortages, especially in Harare and Bulawayo where some youths reported being involved in stocking and reselling scarce commodities, especially fuel and cooking oil.

Youth-run businesses made an average monthly profit of RTGS\$141.42. There were variances in profitability across businesses run by respondents.

The greatest profitability was found in the manufacturing sector (RTGS\$296 per month), followed by services (RTGS\$213 per month) and agriculture (RTGS\$163 per month). Retail was the least profitable sector (RTGS\$109 per month) despite more than half of youth running businesses in that sector.

Nine percent of respondents running businesses reported receiving funding from financial institutions for business support. Age (p=0.412), sex (p=0.932), marital status (p=0.646), residence (p=0.104), province (0.142) and education (p=0.567) did not seem to have an effect on access to funding.

This is consistent with overall macroeconomic challenges characterised by limited access to capital. A key informant working on entrepreneurship development highlighted that limited access to business financing was a national challenge. Youth in FGDs – especially in urban areas – cited the absence of collateral and weak record-keeping as barriers to accessing funding, especially from banks.

Challenges in accessing funding from formal financial institutions reportedly forced some youths to borrow from informal entities and

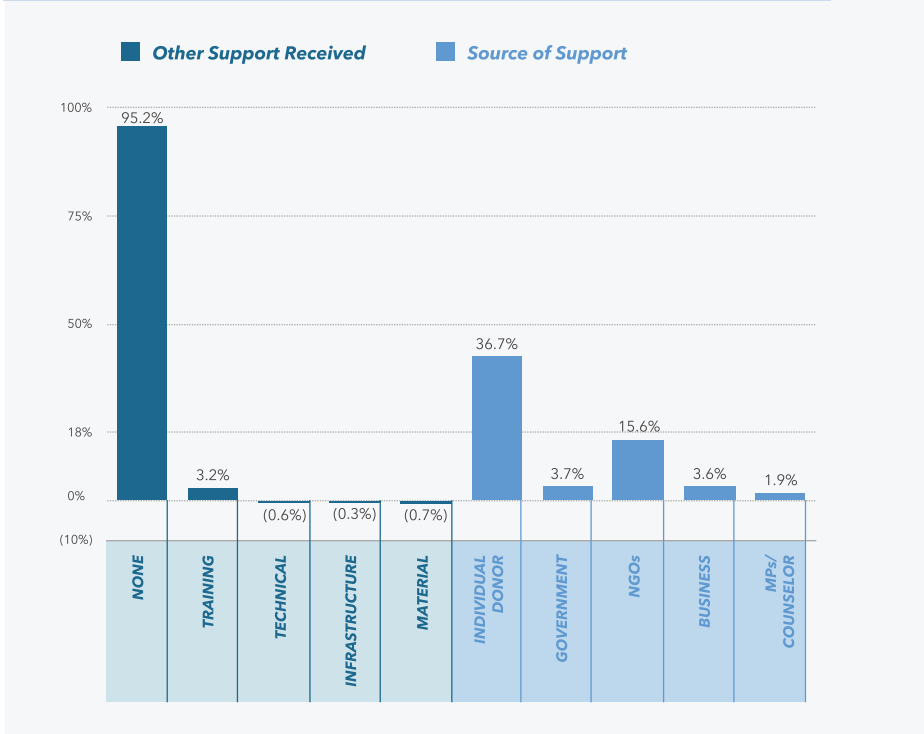
“We used to have savings clubs with support from Care. Clubs were usually made up of people who were part of an irrigation scheme so they had a source of income. When the project ended and the irrigation scheme stopped functioning properly, the savings schemes also collapsed.”

KEY INFORMANT,
HARARE

individuals who impose high interest rates. Forty-three percent of youths who accessed funding had received family loans, followed by individual loans (18 percent), informal loan schemes (16 percent) and cooperatives (12 percent). Beyond financial support, only three percent of respondents received training. The majority of youths whose businesses had

received non-financial support were assisted by individual donors (37 percent), followed by CSOs (16 percent), government (4 percent) and business (4 percent). None of the respondents reported receiving funding from the Empower Bank. The figure below shows other forms and sources of support.

Figure 7: Other Support and Sources of Support



Thirty eight percent of youths who were neither employed nor running businesses did not engage in any economic activities. Nearly half (47 percent) of urban youths reported not engaging in economic activities while 23 percent of rural youths reported the same.

One in five youths was engaged in petty trading, 17 percent were into farming and 12 percent

were part of savings clubs. Youths in FGDs – especially in Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Midlands – reported being involved in subsistence farming often on family-owned land.

They highlighted that families would sometimes allocate them plots where they could grow crops for sale. Savings clubs were also reported in the

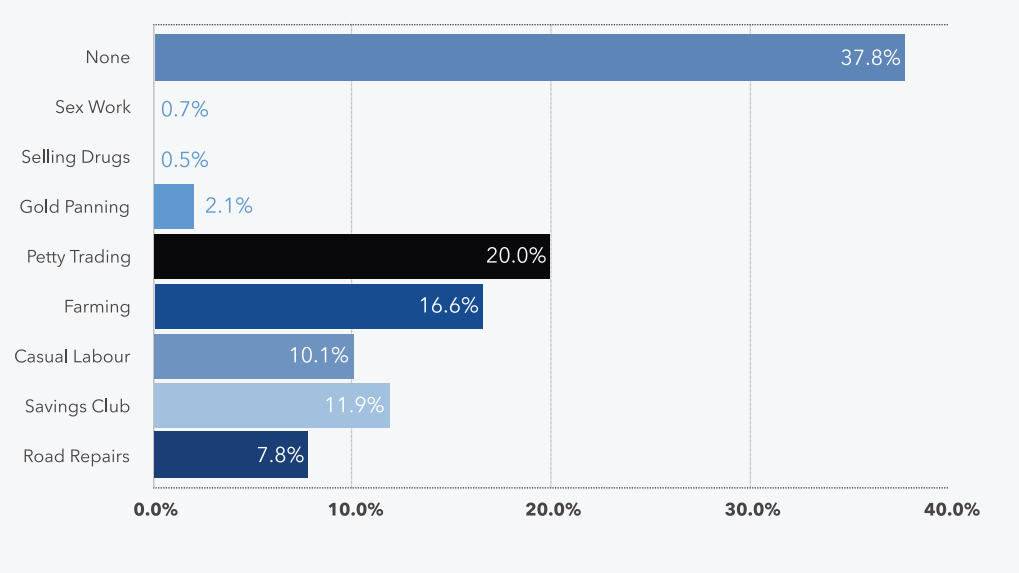
"We used to have savings clubs with support from Care. Clubs were usually made up of people who were part of an irrigation scheme so they had a source of income. When the project ended and the irrigation scheme stopped functioning properly, the savings schemes also collapsed."

FEMALE FGD PARTICIPANT, MASVINGO

Midlands, Masvingo and Manicaland. Youths highlighted that these were often facilitated by NGOs and were usually affected by the fact that most youths do not have money to save. A key informant working on income, savings and lending schemes in Masvingo confirmed

that savings clubs were likely to thrive if they are built around income-generating activities, such as irrigation schemes or artisanal mining sites. The figure below shows other economic activities within which youths engage in their communities.

Figure 8: Other Economic Engagements in Communities



"I know someone who got a loan from an organisation that supports young entrepreneurs. The money was transferred into his bank account. Due to cash challenges he could only get RTGS\$20 per day and the total amount he had received was RTGS\$5000. To get all the money out of the bank would require 250 days. If you factor in bus fare of RTGS\$15 per trip then the whole situation left him with more problems."

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, MASHONALAND EAST

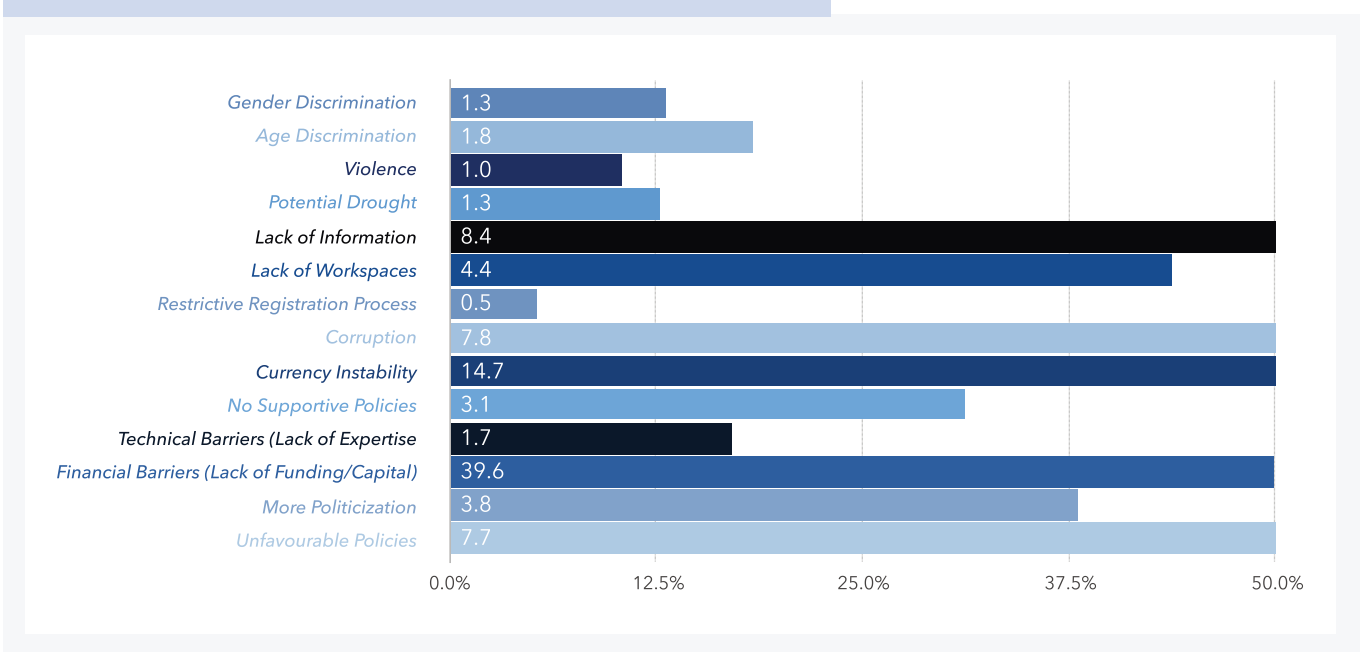
Forty percent of youths cited lack of funding or capital as a key barrier to their economic participation. A further 14 percent highlighted currency instability while 8 percent cited lack of information as a barrier to economic participation. Urban and rural youths identified the poor macroeconomic environment as a key factor limiting their access to capital. Limited funding opportunities along with weak household savings meant most youths had limited economic participation opportunities.

Artisanal miners in Shurugwi, Kwekwe, Kadoma and Mutare mentioned lack of equipment, restricted access to productive mining claims and harassment by authorities as barriers to

their full and beneficial economic participation. Youth in Mashonaland East reported being affected by cash challenges even after securing loans from financial institutions. Key informants in Harare and Bulawayo cited restrictive registration requirements as barriers to youth economic participation. Registration, tax compliance and quality certification were mentioned as critical pre-requisites for accessing lucrative, predictable as well as sustainable markets. In the absence of tax clearances, clients withhold 10 percent of the total amount due to youth.

The figure below shows challenges to enhanced participation in the economy.

Figure 9: Barriers to Enhanced Economic Participation



CHAPTER 3: YOUTH, CITIZENSHIP, AND RIGHTS

3.1. Citizen Participation and Engagement

Sixty two percent of youths reported being registered to vote.

There was a positive association between sex and being registered to vote ($p=0.004$) with 71 percent of males and 69 percent of females being registered to vote. The majority of voters were aged between 30 and 34 years (87 percent), followed by those aged 25–29 years (87 percent) and those aged 20–24 years (83 percent).

There was a positive association between marital status and being registered to vote ($p<0.0001$) with those living together (86 percent) being more likely to be registered to vote followed by those who were married (80 percent) and those who were widowed (79 percent).

There was a positive association between levels of education and being registered to vote as those with more than secondary education had the largest proportion of registered voters (81 percent) followed by those who completed secondary education (72 percent), those with some secondary education (68 percent) and those who completed primary education (61 percent).

There was a positive association between province and the likelihood of youth being registered to vote ($p<0.0001$). Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of youth who were registered to vote (76 percent), followed by Mashonaland East (74 percent), Mashonaland

West (73 percent). Matabeleland South (57 percent) had the lowest proportion of youth who were registered to vote, followed by Bulawayo and Manicaland (67 percent). Key informants from the ZEC in Mashonaland Central reported that they had invested in intensive voter education, which could have contributed towards youth being registered. Youth insights from FGDs pointed to strong political mobilization of youth by ZANU-PF in Mashonaland Central, and this could have contributed towards more of them being registered to vote.

Most female and male youth across all provinces participating in FGDs expressed appreciation of the importance of being registered to vote. Motivation for registering to vote included a desire to decide who ruled them and the hope that voting for a new government would bring better opportunities.

Insights from FGDs, especially in Harare, Gweru and Mutare, showed linkages between the idea of voting and the possibilities of changing the government. There were procedure-related motivators with qualitative discussions revealing that some youth registered because the process had become easier with the introduction of the biometric voter registration as well as acceptance of an affidavit instead of proof of residence. Table 10 on page 76 shows youth who were registered to vote.

"I registered to vote for the first time in 2017. It was easy because the registration centre was close to where I stay, they accepted an affidavit instead of proof of residence and they sometimes would have a commissioner of oaths to stamp your affidavit at the registration centre."

FGD PARTICIPANT, KWEKWE

Table 9: Youths Who Were Registered to Vote

Background Characteristics	Youths Who Were Registered to Vote		P-Value
	%	Number	
Sex			> 0.01
Female	69.2	2,705	
Male	70.5	1,964	
Age			> 0.01
15-19	68.3	1,513	
20-24	83.0	1,168	
25-29	86.7	1,058	
30-34	87.1	139	
35	26.8	790	
Marital Status			> 0.01
Never Married	55.5	1,884	
Married	80.1	2,300	
Living Together	85.5	62	
Widowed	78.7	47	
Divirced/Separated	73.4	369	
Other	57.1	7	
Residence			> 0.01
Urban	69.8	1,745	
Rural	69.7	2,924	
Province			> 0.01
Bulawayo	62.2	270	
Manicaland	66.9	620	
Mashonaland Central	76.1	401	
Mashonaland East	74.0	508	
Mashonaland West	72.7	490	
Matabeleland North	67.8	255	
Matabeleland South	58.6	222	
Midlands	76.6	499	
Masvingo	66.6	530	
Harare	68.3	872	
Education			> 0.01
No Formal Education	59.3	27	
Some Primary	60.9	284	
Completed Primary	61.0	526	
Some Secondary	67.5	1,382	
Completed Secondary	72.3	1,977	
More Than Secondary	80.9	472	
Wealth Quintile			> 0.01
Lowest	72.2	824	
Second	67.6	803	
Middle	69.0	883	
Fourth	68.2	1,030	
Highest	71.3	1,129	
Disability			0.418
Physical	65.1	86	
Mental	38.5	13	
Cognitive	87.5	8	
Chronic Illness	58.8	34	
Average Household Size			0.026
Below Average	71.8	2,391	
Above Average	67.5	2,279	
TOTAL	62.3	5,550	

CHAPTER 3: YOUTH, CITIZENSHIP, AND RIGHTS

Youths who were eligible to register but were not registered provided varying reasons for not registering. The absence of required documents was the most cited reason for not registering to vote, followed by lack of interest (14 percent), being too young when registration was in progress (13 percent), and the voter registration centre being too far (5 percent).

Qualitative insights, especially in Matabeleland South and Bulawayo, pointed to a lack of trust in the agency of voting as a way of transforming their circumstances. Eroded belief in the vote as a transformational currency potentially affected the extent to which youth aspired to register and vote.



Image Credit: Pexels.com

3.2 Ever Voted

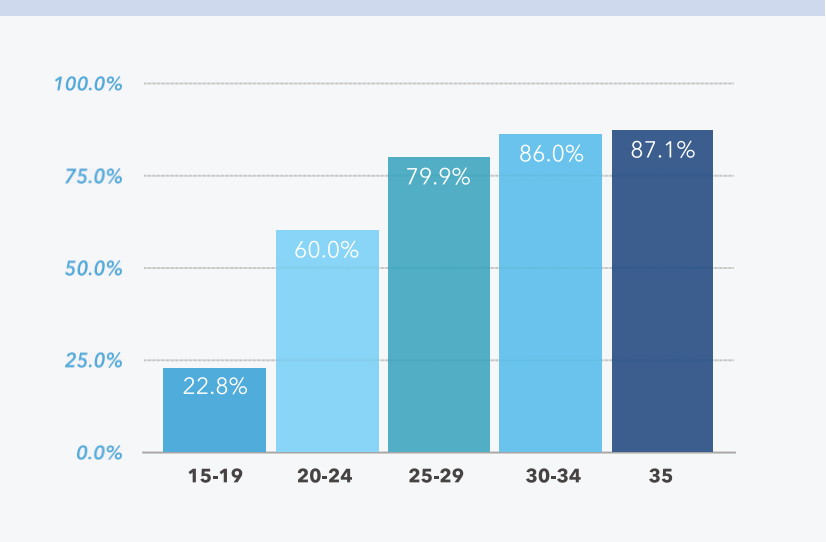
There were high intentions to vote in the 2023 election with 88 percent of youth expressing intentions to vote. Sixty three percent of youths reported ever voting.

There was no association between sex and ever voting ($p=0.004$), and 65 percent of females and 66 percent of males reported ever voting. There was a positive association ($p<0.0001$) between age and ever having voted. Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of youths (73.8 percent) who reported ever voting followed by Midlands (71.1 percent), Mashonaland West

(69.6 percent), Mashonaland East (68.7 percent), Matabeleland North (64.7 percent), Masvingo (62.8 percent), Manicaland (63.5 percent), Harare (62.5 percent), Matabeleland South (56.8 percent) and Bulawayo (54.8 percent).

The likelihood of ever having voted increased by age as illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 10: Ever Voted By Age



"I graduated from NUST [National University of Science and Technology] with an honours degree in Accounting in 2013. I have lost count of the number of applications that I sent to prospective employers. After three years, I gave up applying. My older brother was working for Bulawayo City Council and assisted me to get a job as a water meter reader and I have been in that job for three years now."

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, BULAWAYO

3.3 Citizen Activism

Ninety-three percent of respondents voted in the 2018 election, showing a high level of turnout. Beyond voting, few respondents had organized or participated in youth events. This number is significantly higher compared to sub-Saharan Africa at large.

According to the 2016 Afrobarometer, 55 percent of respondents below 35 years of age voted in the most recent national election in their country. Nine percent of respondents had organized events – be they political or not. Different reasons were provided by youths on limited participation in events. Themes emerging from Masvingo, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East pointed to limited spaces for youth to organize events for themselves.

Where events were reported to have been organized, they had largely been sports events, and predominantly soccer for males. Civil society key informants in the Midlands, Bulawayo and Matabeleland North pointed to limited financial and technical capacity among youth to organize events. In the absence of material and human capacity among youths, CSOs along with political parties were reportedly organizing events for the youth.

Table 10: Citizen Activism

	Sample	Sample	Women	Women	Men	Men
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Registered Voter	69.8	4,684	68.9	2,721	71.1	1,963
Voted in 2018	93.4	3,064	93.1	1,763	93.9	1,301
Organized Youth Event	8.5	5,581	6.5	3,190	11.2	2,391
Participated in Political Events by Youth	13	5,581	10.8	3,190	16	2,391



Image Credit: Phill

93%
OF RESPONDENTS
VOTED IN THE
2018 ELECTION

3.4 Role in Governance

The vast majority of the Zimbabwean youth (based on the sample) deemed their primary responsibility to be that of engaging in political dialogue.

This form of political engagement in the governance process was mentioned by 71 percent of the sample.

This was corroborated by youths in FGDs who cited dialogue as the most viable option. Preference for dialogue emerged from experiences of violence, which occurred in August 2018 after the elections, and violence after protests in January 2019.

Youths in rural Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands mentioned the dimension of dialogue with direct references to the two main presidential candidates in the 2018 election as well as the need for them to engage in dialogue.

The second most mentioned form of engagement in governance was mediation,

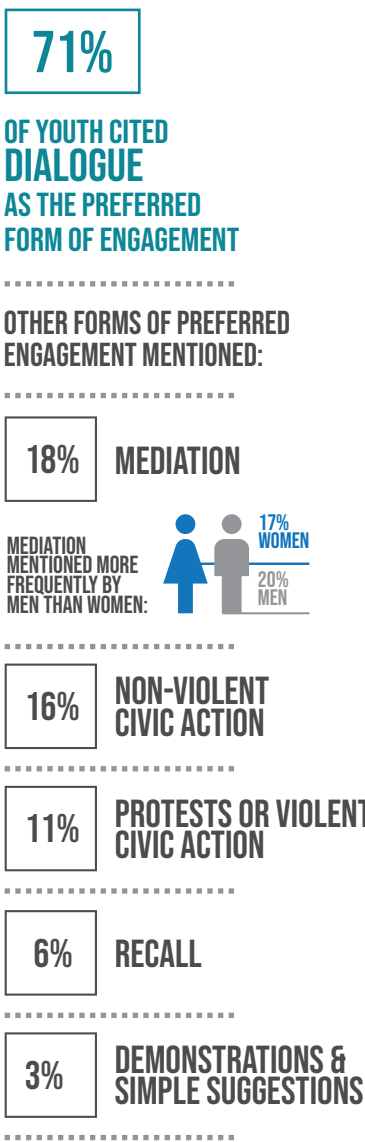
mentioned by 18 percent of respondents. Mediation was mentioned more frequently by men (20 percent) compared to women (17 percent). The third most common activity was nonviolent civic action, which 16 percent of respondents described as a core activity in the governance process.

Other forms of engagement – protests or violent civic action (11 percent), recall (6 percent), demonstrations (3 percent), and simple suggestions (3 percent) – were mentioned by far fewer individuals. The sample thus showed that youths take their role in the governance process seriously.

Even so, respondents deemed it their primary responsibility to be peaceful mediators who engage in dialogue, not being more active protesters.

Table 11: Role in Governance

	Sample	Sample	Women	Women	Men	Men
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Role in Governance: Dialogue	71.2	5,582	71.5	3,191	70.7	2,391
Role in Governance: Mediation	17.8	5,582	16.6	3,191	19.5	2,391
Role in Governance: Demonstration	2.5	5,582	2.1	3,191	3	2,391
Role in Governance: Violent Civic Action	10.7	5,582	9.9	3,191	11.7	2,391
Role in Governance: Non-violent Civic Action	15.8	5,582	15.8	3,191	15.9	2,391
Role in Governance: Suggestion	2.5	5,582	2.4	3,191	2.6	2,391
Role in Governance: Recall	5.9	5,582	6	3,191	5.8	2,391



3.5 Information About Activism

The most important source of information was reported to be the community (43 percent), followed by structured community meetings (29 percent), and respondents' families (26 percent). The fourth most salient news source was hearsay, which 17 percent of all respondents mentioned. Sixteen percent of the youth reported that they were informed via social media.



This number is slightly higher for men (18 percent) compared to women (14 percent). Other sources of information were mentioned far less frequently, including traditional media, such as TV, flyers and posters. Key informants from government and civil society confirmed the importance of community groups in providing information, especially in rural areas.

Youths, especially in urban areas, stated a lack of trust in traditional information mediums, such as television and radio. The evidence thus shows the pivotal role of the community in spurring citizen activism, but also highlights the urban-centric growth of social media. The table on the opposite page shows different sources of information for youth.

There were locational and provincial differences in the main sources of information. Community groups were the most cited source of information by rural-based respondents (50 percent). Social media was the most (38 percent) cited source of information

among urban-based respondents. There was still limited utilisation of social media as a source of information in rural areas with 9 percent stating it as their source of information. Urban-centric reliance on social media as a source of information was further reflected in provincial differences where Bulawayo and Harare had the joint highest proportion of respondents (46 percent each) who cited social media as a source of information.

Mashonaland Central had the lowest (3 percent) proportion of respondents who cited social media as a key source of information, followed by Mashonaland East and Midlands (7 percent each).

Levels of education seemed to influence the use of social media as a source of information, with 64 percent of respondents with more than secondary education citing social media as a key source of information. Conversely, none of the respondents with no formal education cited social media as their source of information.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

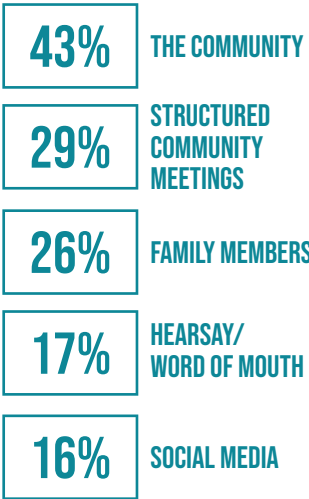


Table 12: Sources of Information

	Sample		Women		Men	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Source of Information: Social Media	15.9	725	14	344	17.6	381
Source of Information: Print	1	725	0.3	344	1.6	381
Source of Information: Hearsay	16.6	725	15.4	344	17.6	381
Source of Information: Poster	5.7	725	4.1	344	7.1	381
Source of Information: Flyer	6.8	725	5.5	344	7.9	381
Source of Information: TV	1.4	725	1.7	344	1	381
Source of Information: Radio	1.1	725	0.6	344	1.6	381
Source of Information: Internet	1.1	725	0.3	344	1.8	381
Source of Information: Meeting	28.6	725	25.3	344	31.5	381
Source of Information: Community	42.8	725	44.5	344	41.2	381
Source of Information: Family	28.2	725	27.3	344	25.2	381



3.6 Constitutional Awareness and Policy Awareness

Less than one in five (17.5 percent) of the respondents knew about the 2013 Constitution.

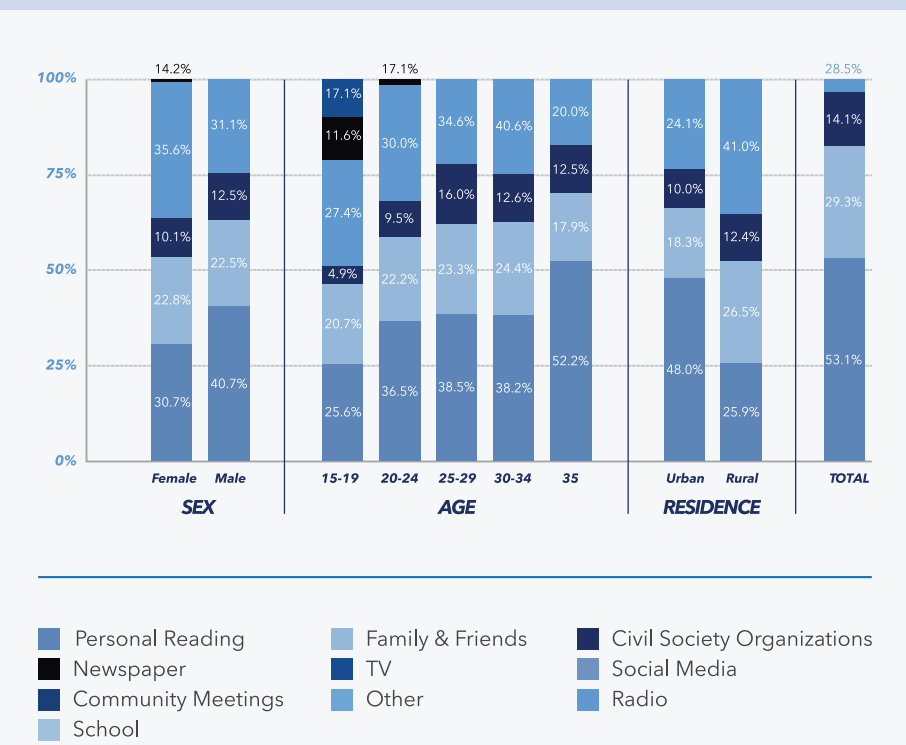
This number is broadly comparable to constitutional knowledge across sub-Saharan Africa. In the 2016 Afrobarometer, 15 percent of respondents claimed they knew “a great deal” or “a lot” about their country’s constitution. There was a statistically significant association between sex and constitutional awareness ($p < 0.0001$). Twenty two percent of male youth and 14 percent of female youths were aware of the Constitution. Constitutional awareness increased with age from nine percent among youth aged 15–19 years to 29 percent among youth aged 35.

A larger proportion of urban youth (23 percent) knew about the 2013 Constitution compared to rural youth (14.4 percent). Constitutional awareness was highest in Bulawayo (23.6%) and lowest in Matabeleland North (10.4 percent). There was a statistically significant association between educational attainment and knowledge of the Constitution ($p < 0.0001$). Half of youth with more than secondary education had knowledge of the Constitution, while none of the youth with no formal education had knowledge of the Constitution.

Fifty three percent of youths derived information about the Constitution from personal reading, followed by information obtained from friends and family (29%), radio (28 percent), newspapers (22%) and television (21 percent). Sources of knowledge about the Constitution differed between urban and rural youths. Forty eight

percent of urban youths and 26 percent of rural youths mentioned personal reading as a source of information about the Constitution. The majority of rural youths obtained knowledge of the Constitution from the radio, which is consistent with the most dominant information sources in rural areas. The figure below shows the main sources of knowledge about the 2013 Constitution by age, sex and place of residence.

Figure 11: Knowledge of 2013 Constitution by Age, Sex and Residence



“Youths may not be able to cite different rights but their aspirations and expectations are consistent with rights enshrined in the constitution.”

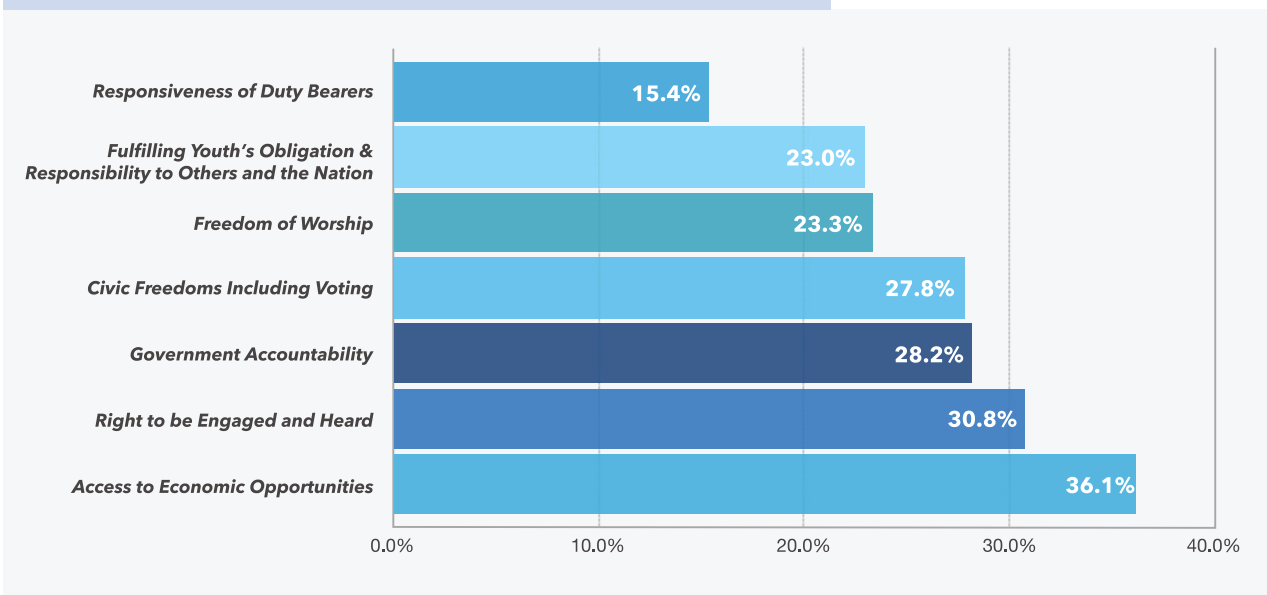
KEY INFORMANT,
HARARE

The right to economic opportunities (36 percent) was mentioned as the most important followed by the right to be heard (31 percent), government accountability (28 percent) and the right to individual freedom, including voting rights (28 percent). Focus group discussions with youth from rural areas showed that there was limited explicit knowledge of rights but youths could articulate their expectations from different duty bearers, including traditional leaders, local authorities and central government. The right to economic opportunities emerged strongly with youths articulating an expectation that government had to provide them with

opportunities to participate economically through employment creation, entrepreneurship support or both. Youths further expressed an expectation that government should be transparent while arguing that corruption, a lack of transparency and accountability among duty bearers at various levels had contributed towards the economic crises facing the country.

Key informants from CSOs highlighted that youths might not know their actual rights but their aspirations and expectations resonated with rights and entitlements within the Constitution.

Figure 12: Important/Priority Rights



CHAPTER 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS:



(SECTIONS 44–87) guarantee the following:



- Right to life
- Right to personal liberty
- Rights of arrested and detained persons
- Right to human dignity
- Right to personal security
- Freedom from torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment
- Freedom from slavery and servitude
- Slavery is not permitted in Zimbabwe
- Freedom from forced labour

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Right to privacy
- Freedom of assembly and association
- Freedom to demonstrate or petition
- Freedom of conscience
- Freedom of expression and of media
- Access to information
- Language and culture
- Freedom of profession, trade or occupation
- Labour rights

- Freedom of movement and residence
- Political rights
- Right to administrative justice
- Right to a fair hearing
- Rights of an accused person
- Property rights
- Rights to agricultural land
- Environmental rights
- Freedom from arbitrary eviction
- Right to education
- Right to healthcare
- Right to food and water
- Marriage rights

Five percent of youths were aware of the National Youth Policy, with a greater proportion of males (6 percent) compared to females (4 percent). Awareness of the policy increased with age from 3 percent among youth aged 15–19 to 8 percent among youth aged 35 years. There was a statistically significant association between place of residence and awareness of the policy ($p < 0.0001$). Seven percent of urban youths, and four percent of rural youths were aware of the National Youth Policy. Knowledge of the National Youth Policy was highest in Bulawayo (8 percent) and Harare (6 percent).

Mashonaland Central had the lowest proportion (2 percent) of respondents who were aware of the National Youth Policy. Education and vocational skills training were the most cited aspects of the National Youth Policy, followed by youth empowerment and participation (48 percent), youth employment and access to resources (43 percent) and national youth service (30 percent). One third of youths who were aware of the national policy felt that it fully addresses priorities and aspirations of young people. The table below shows aspects of the National Youth Policy known by youths.

Table 13: Known Aspects of the National Youth Policy

Known Aspects of the Youth Policy	95% CI			
	%	Lower	Upper	N
Education and vocational skills training	49	43.2	55.0	269
Youth employment and access to resources	42.5	36.6	48.4	269
Youth empowerment and participation	47.5	41.7	53.5	269
Health, population and environment	20.9	16.4	26.1	269
Gender equality and equity	36.8	31.3	42.7	269
Culture, sports and recreation	27.8	22.9	33.5	269
Data and research	9	6.1	12.9	269
National youth service	30	24.9	35.8	269

3.7 Collective Action

The family plays a key role in shaping youth aspirations, with the majority of respondents (30 percent) citing a family member as their role model. Business people (20 percent), religious leaders (14 percent), artists (10 percent) and politicians (9 percent) were other role models cited by youths. The importance of family members as role models was further reflected in the fact that most of youth who were running businesses had received financial support from family members.



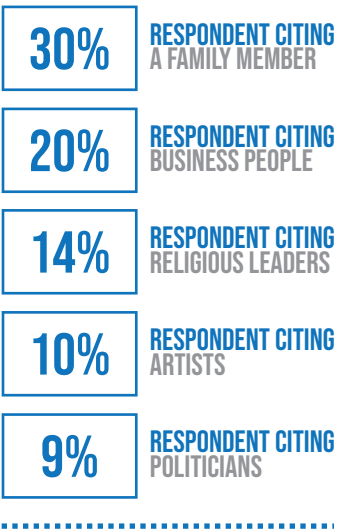
Engagement between youths and different duty bearers was low, as 87 percent of youths had not contacted a local councillor about an important issue in the 12 months preceding the study. Ninety four percent had never contacted their member of parliament or government official respectively. A further 84 percent had never contacted a traditional leader, while 70 percent had never contacted a religious leader about an important community issue.

Youth from urban areas expressed lack of knowledge, especially of their councillors. They mentioned that they did not feel the importance

of knowing their councillors especially those in Harare who mentioned that they only read about councillors in the news, and usually when it involved scandals regarding the allocation of residential stands. In rural areas, youths reported high knowledge of their councillors, as the latter are responsible for distributing inputs as well as coordinating any community support, even from NGOs.

Key informants highlighted that there were challenges in ensuring duty bearers engage with rights holders, and this was much worse for youth. Other key informants linked lack of

ROLE MODELS BY %:



engagement between youths and duty bearers to a political culture that does not prioritise nurturing relationships beyond the point of voting. There were positive attitudes towards participation in community affairs, with 53 percent agreeing and 30 percent strongly agreeing with the statement “the duty of every citizen of Zimbabwe is to participate in national and community affairs”. There was a strong

willingness to participate in public meetings organised by other groups. Fifty three percent of the participating youths, 53% would very likely attend community meetings, while 22 percent would somewhat likely attend a public meeting near their community. The table below shows the likelihood of youth participating if a community development group held a public meeting near their community.

Table 14: Likelihood of Attending a Public Meeting Near Their Community				
Likelihood of Attending a Public Meeting Near Their Community	95% CI			
	%	Lower	Upper	N
Not at all likely	11.8	11.0	12.7	5577
A little bit likely	13.8	12.9	14.7	5577
Somewhat likely	21.8	20.7	22.9	5577
Very likely	53.2	51.9	54.5	5577



3.8 Conflict Resolution

Seven percent of youth reported having experienced violent conflict.

There was no statistically significant association between sex and prior experience of violent conflict (p=.340). The likelihood of having experienced violent conflict increased with age (p=< 0.0001). Thirteen percent of youths aged 35 years, 13% reported having experienced violent conflict compared to 9 percent of those aged 30–34 years, while 8 percent of those aged 25–29 and 20–24 respectively reported having experienced such conflict. Those aged 15–19 years had the lowest proportion of those who reported experiencing violent conflict.

Youths from urban and rural areas further confirmed witnessing violence but not necessarily being victims of it. Rural youths

from Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West reported witnessing politically motivated violence.

Youths in Manicaland reported witnessing state-supported violence, especially in diamond fields. Within mining communities in the Midlands and Matabeleland South, youth reported witnessing violence among artisanal miners. Youths from Harare and Bulawayo reported witnessing and experiencing violence by soldiers and other law enforcement agents. Civil society key informants emphasised the fact that there is still a strong culture of violence, with the state sometimes being involved as a perpetrator.

“Youths may not be able to cite different rights but their aspirations and expectations are consistent with rights enshrined in the constitution.”

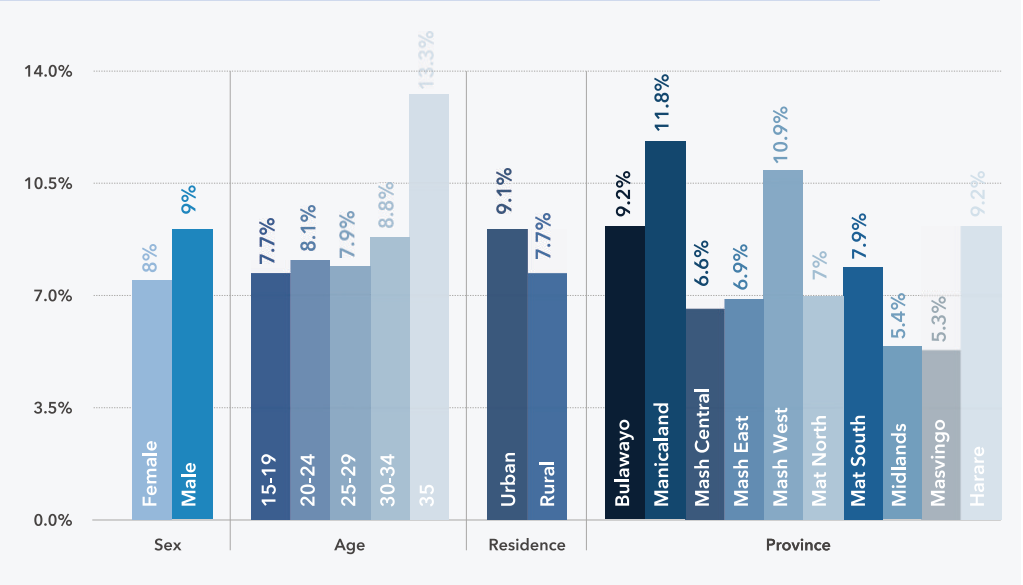
KEY INFORMANT, HARARE

7% OF YOUTH REPORTED EXPERIENCING VIOLENT CONFLICT

LIKELIHOOD OF EXPERIENCING VIOLENT CONFLICT INCREASED WITH AGE



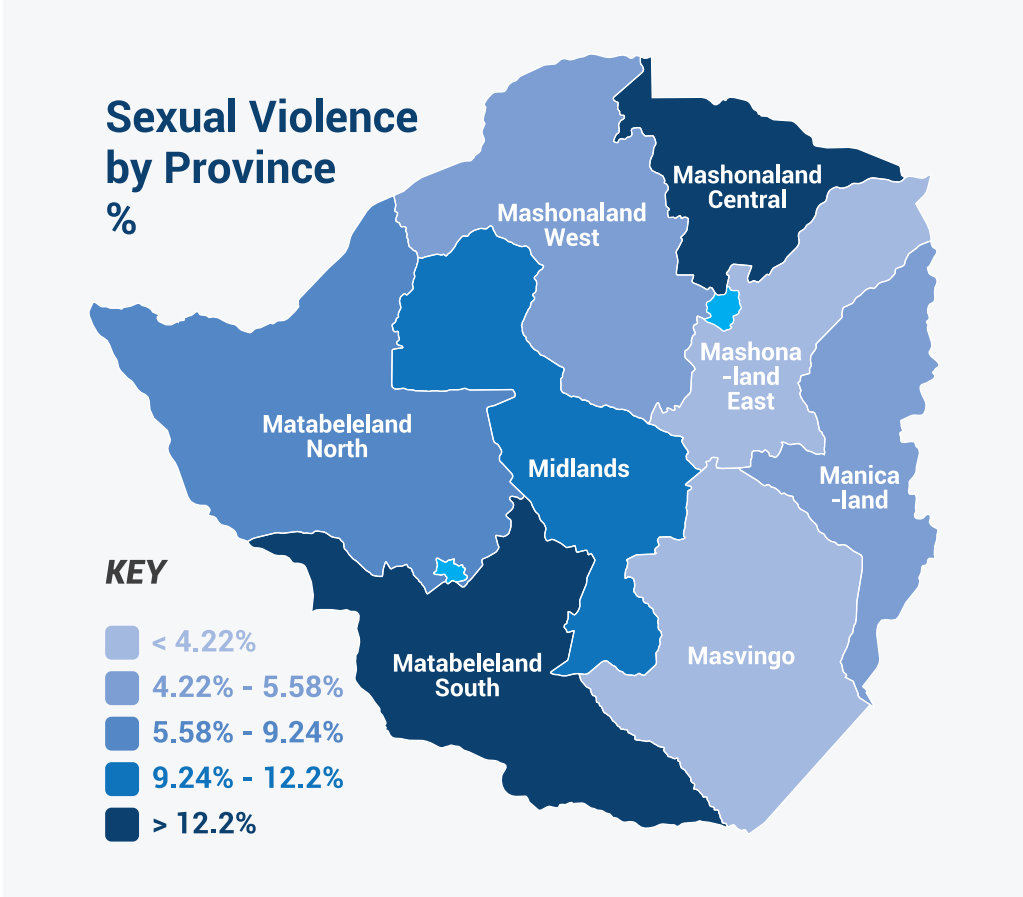
Figure 13: Ever Experienced Violence by Sex, Age, Residence and Province



EXPERIENCE & REPORTING OF VIOLENT CONFLICT BY AGE GROUP (OVERVIEW):

- 13% YOUTH AGED 35 YEARS
- 9% YOUTH AGED 30-34 YEARS
- 8% YOUTH AGED 25-29 & 20-24 YEARS
- <8% YOUTH AGED 15-19

Figure 13b: Ever Experienced Violence by Sex, Age, Residence and Province



Forty percent of youths who experienced violence had experienced domestic violence, 27 percent had experienced violence due to the scramble for resources, 14 percent had experienced school bullying, 9 percent had experienced political violence, while 10 percent had experienced gender-based violence. Fifty two percent of the participating females and 36 percent of males reported experiencing domestic violence.

Differences in the type of violence by gender were further reflected by 14 percent of females and 3 percent of males who had experienced gender-based violence. A higher proportion (21 percent) of males reported experiencing political violence compared to 6 percent of females. Youths in FGDs confirmed the higher involvement of males in political violence. This was attributed to the male-dominated nature of politics.

CHAPTER 4: YOUTH AND HEALTH

4.1 Sexual Activity

Over one third (36 percent) of the youths who had never been married reported ever having had sex.

There was a statistically significant difference between age and the possibility of ever having had sex ($p < 0.0001$). A larger proportion of males (42 percent) reported ever having had sex compared to the female sample (29 percent).

Bulawayo had the highest proportion of never-married youths who reported ever having had sex followed by Matabeleland North (43 percent) and Matabeleland South (43 percent). Manicaland had the lowest proportion of never-married youths who reported ever having had sex.

There were differences between self-reported sexual activity and perceptions around sexual activity among key informants and youths in FGDs. Key informants in rural communities, especially in Masvingo, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East, highlighted perceptions that youths were engaging in sexual activities from an early age. Youths in urban FGDs articulated perceptions that the onset of sexual activity was early

among female youths compared to male youths. The major reason provided was transactional sex and conscious decisions by females to engage in sexual activities, usually with older men with financial means.

The average age at the first sexual encounter for never-married youths was 18.29 among females and 18.33 among males. The average age at first sex for females was consistent with the Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), which reported an average age at first sex of 18.7 years.

There was no significant difference in the age at first sex between urban (18.51 years) and rural youths (18.33 years). However, the average age at first sex for males was lower than that found by the ZDHS (2015/16), which reported an average age at first sex of 20.5 years. The difference could be explained by social desirability bias with male youth overstating their levels of sexual activity.

"I think youths are having sex at an early age. This can be attributed to a lot of factors including the proliferation of sexual information and media content, including pornographic material. There are also other factors, like poverty, where girls especially are forced into transactional sex in exchange for money to buy basic necessities and in some instances to get luxuries."

**KEY INFORMANT,
VICTORIA FALLS**

The Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (ZNASP) 2015–2020 prioritises access to comprehensive HIV services for all groups with a focus on the youth, especially adolescents and young women.



4.2 Family Planning

Knowledge of family planning increased with levels of education.

The pill (oral contraception) was the most frequently cited family planning method known by youths, followed by the male condom (78 percent), female condom (58 percent), injectables (52 percent), implants and sterilization (17 percent). Knowledge of family planning increased with levels of education. Youths with tertiary education had the highest knowledge of all the different family planning methods as illustrated in the table below.

Table 15: Knowledge of Family Planning Methods by Education

Background Characteristics	Male & Female Sterilization	Injectables	IUCD (Intrauterine Contraceptive Device)	Contraceptive Pills	Implants	Female Condom	Male Condom	Emergency Contraception	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Education									
No Formal Education	6.7	34.5	10.3	65.5	24.1	34.5	58.6	0.0	29
Some Primary	6.3	38.0	16.2	69.8	27.2	42.0	67.3	2.7	364
Completed Primary	9.8	43.6	17.1	70.0	31.9	49.1	73.5	4.0	695
Some Secondary	12.1	48.6	20.3	75.5	35.7	53.8	75.3	6.6	1,880
Completed Secondary	17.9	53.8	26.8	80.3	45.8	60.0	76.1	15.0	2,109
More Than Secondary	38.2	58.4	39.5	84.3	55.0	71.1	84.7	38.1	472
TOTAL	15.8	50.0	23.7	76.9	40.1	56.2	75.6	11.9	5,550



FORMS OF CONTRACEPTION IN USE

81.2% OF YOUTHS ARE USING MODERN FAMILY PLANNING METHODS

4.3 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Five percent of youths reported ever having had an STI. The likelihood of ever having had an STI increased with age from 3 percent among those aged 15–19 years to 3 percent among those aged 20–24 years, 4 percent among those aged 25–29 years, 8 percent among those aged 30–34 years and 11 percent among those aged 35 years. Mashonaland West had the highest proportion of youths who reported ever having had an STI (11 percent), while Bulawayo had the lowest proportion (1.5 percent) of youths who reported ever contracting an STI.



Respondents with chronic illnesses had the highest proportion (12 percent) of those of respondents who reported ever having had an STI. Health providers reported treating STIs among specific sub-groups of youth, specifically sex workers, men who have had sex (especially in Harare) along with artisanal miners (Shurugwi, Kadoma and Kwekwe).

Sex workers in Zvishavane, Harare and Bulawayo confirmed contracting STIs and mentioned that these were occupational hazards. Some clients reportedly offered more money to have unprotected sex, and sex workers consciously accept, citing the precariousness of their circumstances.

Artisanal miners highlighted limited access to condoms, especially in Shurugwi where mining sites are far from the town, and miners camp for more than two weeks. Seventy nine percent of youths who reported ever contracting an STI reported seeking treatment.

The majority (83 percent) of those sought treatment at health facilities, while 4 percent consulted a traditional healer. An additional 3 percent consulted a community member with 2 percent consulting a prophet. Seven in ten youth reported ever receiving information on STIs, and the main source of STI information was the health facility (80 percent).

“There are a lot of people who contract STIs in this job. Most sex workers know about safe sex and protection because we get programmes from different organisations, including CeSSHAR, PSI and MAC [Matabeleland AIDS Council]. Unprotected sex is not because of any coercion but mostly clients negotiate and offer more money for it.”

FEMALE SEX WORKER, BULAWAYO

4.4 HIV and AIDS

Just over one third (35 percent) of youths reported ever being testing for HIV. Of those who reported ever being tested for HIV, 85 percent had been tested in the 12 months preceding the study.

Uptake of testing among youths was lower than reported by the ZDHS (2015/16) where 80 percent of women and 62 percent of men aged 15–49 reported ever being tested for HIV and receiving the result of their last HIV test. However, comparisons with similar age ranges in the ZDHS revealed similarities, especially as it reported that 38 percent of youth aged 15–19 had ever been tested for HIV.

Youth in qualitative interviews provided different reasons for not being tested for HIV, such as a lack of knowledge, financial decision, high cost of health services, family decision, stereotypes, fear of stigma and discrimination along with the fact that they were not sexually active.

Youths expressed negative attitudes towards traditional beliefs and traditional methods being able to cure HIV. There was near universal (98 percent) acknowledgement of the importance of testing for HIV and knowing one's status. Ninety seven percent of youths further concurred that knowing one's HIV status is key to seeking relevant HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

Youths in FGDs in both urban and rural areas affirmed the importance of HIV testing as well as knowing one's HIV status.

There were high levels of knowledge around the effectiveness of correct and consistent use of

condoms for purposes of preventing STIs, HIV infection as well as unintended pregnancies. Youth in FGDs in urban areas demonstrated a better understanding of HIV, while exhibiting minimal negative attitudes towards people living with HIV. While rural youths reported the absence of stigmatising attitudes, most of them would not share a positive HIV test result with friends and community members.

Just over one in ten (11 percent) youths reported being open to dating someone who is HIV-positive while less than half (47 percent) knew that consistently taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) drugs by an HIV-positive person could reduce chances of transmitting HIV to an uninfected sexual partner.

Limited knowledge of treatment as prevention needs to be understood in the context of ART primarily being administered to protect the health of a person living with HIV. Its effect on reducing risk of HIV transmission is a benefit of effective adherence and primary protection for people living with HIV.

Less than half of youths (49 percent) knew about the protective potential of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), demonstrating knowledge gaps as well as weaknesses in introducing different prevention options to youths. The figure on the following page shows health-related perceptions among youths.

"HIV affects everyone and I do not personally discriminate against people living with HIV. However, if I am to test positive, I would not be comfortable sharing the results because people will obviously judge me."

FEMALE FGD PARTICIPANT, MATABELELAND SOUTH

35%+ YOUTHS HAVE GONE FOR HIV TESTING

85% TESTED IN THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THIS STUDY

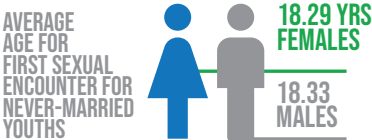
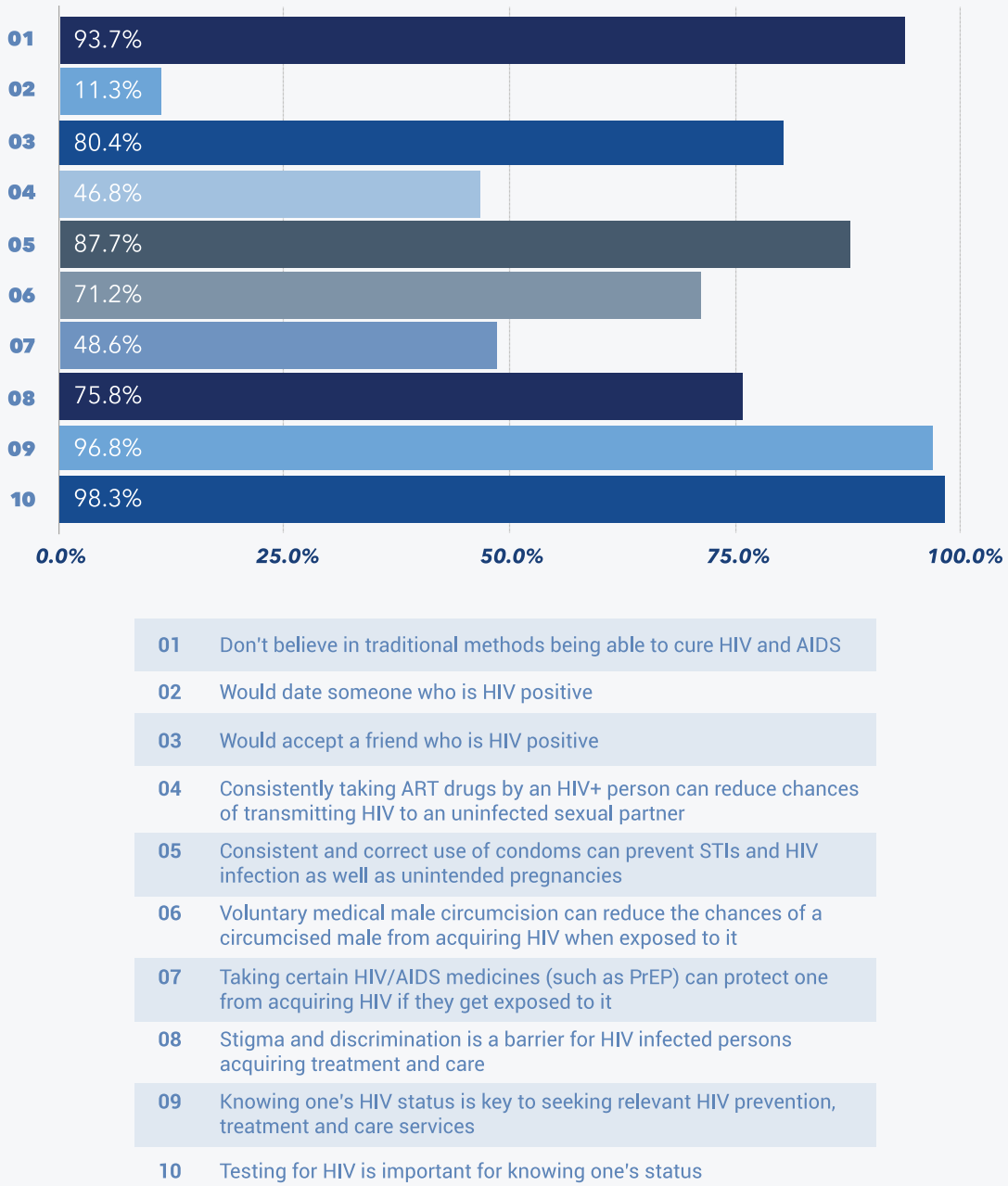


Figure 14: Current Health-Related Perceptions



4.5 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Fourteen percent of youths reported ever experienced GBV by an intimate partner.

There was an association between sex and experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) ($p < 0.0001$). Eighteen percent of females reported ever having experienced IPV, while 9 percent of males reported the same.

A further 36 percent of divorced or separated youth had experienced IPV, followed by 27 percent of youth living together. A further 25 percent of widowed youth had experienced IPV.

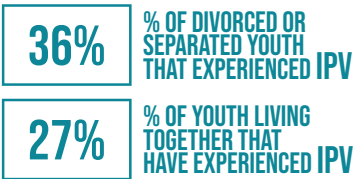
There were small differences in the experience of violence between urban (15 percent) and rural youths (14 percent). Mashonaland West had the highest proportion of youths who reported experiencing violence (18 percent), followed by

Masvingo (16 percent) and Harare (15 percent). One fifth (22 percent) of youths who had experienced IPV reported it, with the majority (64 percent) of them reporting to relatives, which demonstrates a strong belief that IPV should be discussed within family settings only.

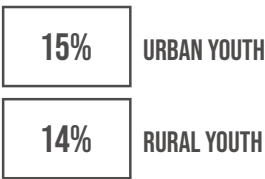
Key informants from the Police Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) as well as from CSOs working with survivors of IPV stated that reporting was still low due to social pressure, a lack of knowledge of where and how to report, fear of further violence along with the absence of youth-friendly staff. The table on the following page shows the experience of GBV.



Image Credit: Pexels.com



RURAL VS URBAN COMPARISON



PROVINCE COMPARISON
HIGHEST TO LOWEST %

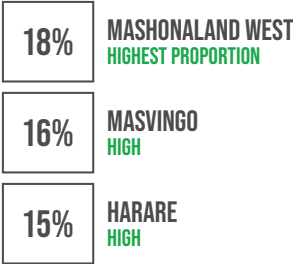
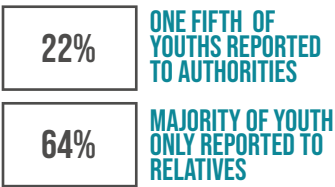


Table 16: Experience of Gender-Based Violence

Background Characteristics	Ever Experienced Violence				
	Employment Status	95% Confidence Interval		Number	P-Value
		%	Lower		
Sex					> 0.01
Female	17.8	16.4	19.1	3,182	
Male	9.0	7.8	10.1	2,394	
Age					> 0.01
15-19	6.1	4.9	7.2	1,701	
20-24	14.1	12.3	15.8	1,512	
25-29	19.4	17.1	21.6	1,167	
30-34	20.2	17.8	22.6	1,058	
35	17.3	11.0	23.8	139	
Marital Status					> 0.01
Never Married	6.7	5.8	7.7	2,730	
Married	18.3	16.8	19.9	2,349	
Living Together	27.4	16.3	39.3	62	
Widowed	25.0	11.7	36.9	48	
Divorced/Separated	35.9	31.0	40.7	379	
Other	--	--	--	8	
Residence					0.342
Urban	14.6	13.0	16.1	1,984	
Rural	13.6	12.5	14.8	3,591	
Province					> 0.01
Manicaland	11.1	7.7	14.7	314	
Mashonaland Central	14.3	11.8	16.7	785	
Mashonaland East	15.1	11.8	18.2	485	
Mashonaland West	13.3	10.6	16.0	611	
Matabeleland North	17.8	14.7	20.9	584	
Matabeleland South	12.3	8.7	16.0	318	
Midlands	7.9	4.6	10.8	280	
Masvingo	11.0	8.5	13.5	607	
Harare	15.9	13.0	18.8	623	
Bulawayo	15.3	13.0	17.6	969	
TOTAL	14.0	13.1	14.9	5,576	

% OF REPORTED IPV



CHAPTER 5: YOUTH, FOOD SECURITY, AND RESILIENCE

Forty six percent of youth cited food insecurity as a key humanitarian issue within their communities.

This was followed by limited access to clean water (32 percent), poor transport and communication infrastructure (27 percent) and recurrent droughts (25 percent) along with limited access to education opportunities (23 percent).

Food insecurity was cited by the largest proportion (34 percent) of rural youths, while the largest proportion of urban youths cited limited access to clean water (37 percent) as the key humanitarian issue.

Urban youths—especially in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo and Kadoma— confirmed challenges related to limited access to clean water. Youths from Harare pointed to repeated cholera outbreaks to illustrate the magnitude of

challenges linked to limited access to clean water.

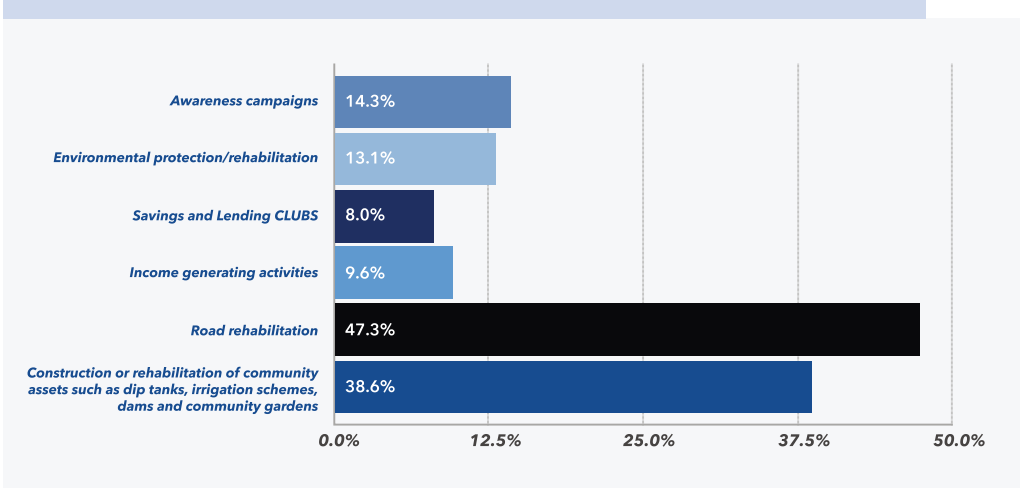
Youths reported being involved in humanitarian assistance programmes with the majority of them being involved in road rehabilitation (47 percent), followed by construction or rehabilitation of community assets, such as dip tanks, irrigation schemes, dams and community gardens (39 percent).

The lowest proportion of youths (8 percent) reported having been involved in savings and lending clubs. Low involvement in savings and lending clubs was linked to the absence of sustainable, stable income sources, since clubs are generally options for saving rather than for generating any money.

“There is a big problem of water in this town. In Ngezi suburb where I stay, for example, we have communal ablution facilities, which were built more than 30 years ago. They constantly malfunction and in the absence of water, we live with a constant risk of cholera or typhoid.”

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, KADOMA

Figure 15: Humanitarian Assistance Programmes in which Youths Participated



46% CITED FOOD INSECURITY WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES

42% SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ENTREPRENEURS (AFROBAROMETER 2016)

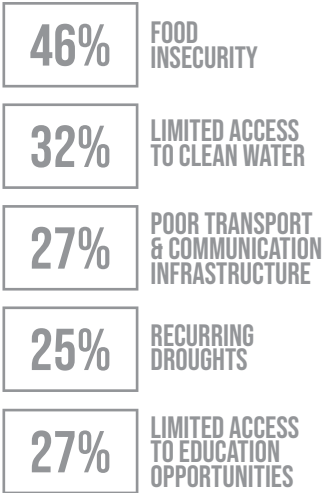
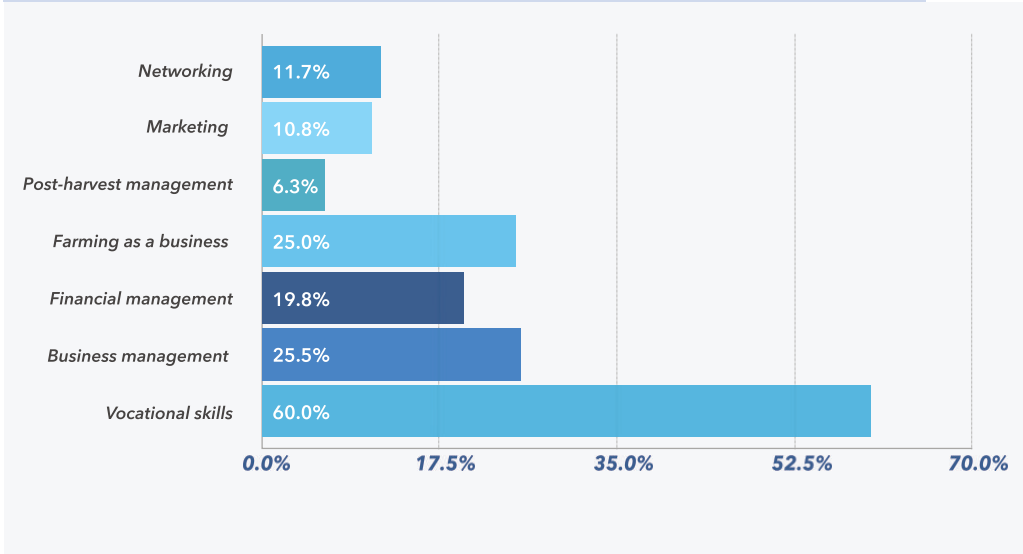


Enhanced youth participation in humanitarian assistance was reportedly affected by lack of information (51 percent), lack of capacity (38 percent), corruption (14 percent), and the absence of material benefits (13 percent).

Youth outlined skills they required in order to enhance their livelihoods, and vocational

training was the most cited (60 percent). Qualitative interviews revealed a preference for skills, such as hairdressing, carpentry, cookery as well as agriculture. All skills were preferred due to the presence of perceived community-based markets. The figure below shows vital but absent skills in terms of youth livelihood enhancement.

Figure 16: Vital Yet Absent Skills in Terms of Youth Livelihood Enhancement



5.1 Social Interaction and Engagement

Three quarters (76 percent) of youths reported that alcohol was affecting them, followed by drugs and substance abuse (66 percent) as well as sex work (42 percent). Other issues affecting youths were betting (31 percent), gambling (16 percent) and touting (12 percent). Key informants – mostly from Harare and Bulawayo – mentioned drug and substance abuse as key social issues affecting youths.

This was attributed to unemployment and the absence of opportunities for productive use of personal time. Youths from Harare reported that demand for drugs has resulted in the growth of a network of suppliers who sell cheap drugs, especially in high-density areas. The most commonly cited substance was cough syrup, which is preferred because of its affordability, as a 100-millilitre bottle can be purchased for RTGS\$5. Youths involved in artisanal mining in Manicaland, Midlands and Mashonaland West reported high levels of drug and alcohol abuse within their contexts. Substance abuse and dependency were motivated by a desire to cope with the violence and other risks associated with artisanal mining. Females involved in sex work in Harare, Bulawayo and Midlands reported abusing alcohol and drugs to cope with their

work circumstances, which sometimes involve violence.

Key informants working on optimizing youth participation in governance processes reported that alcohol and drug abuse were key roadblocks. In rural and urban communities, alcohol was reportedly used as an incentive for youths to engage in political violence. In addition, alcohol and substance abuse limited young people's capacities to engage constructively in governance processes. Youths across urban and rural locations linked alcohol and drug abuse to crime, especially as unemployment often means youths do not have money to buy alcohol and drugs. The figure below shows social issues affecting youths in different communities.

HIGHLIGHT OF ISSUES AFFECTING YOUTH

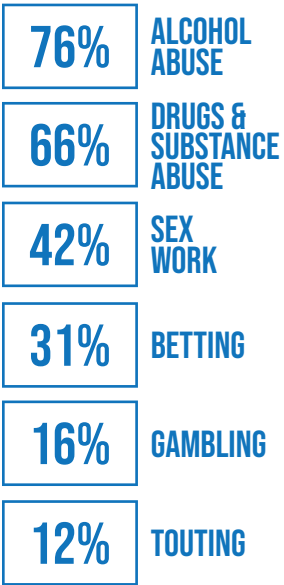
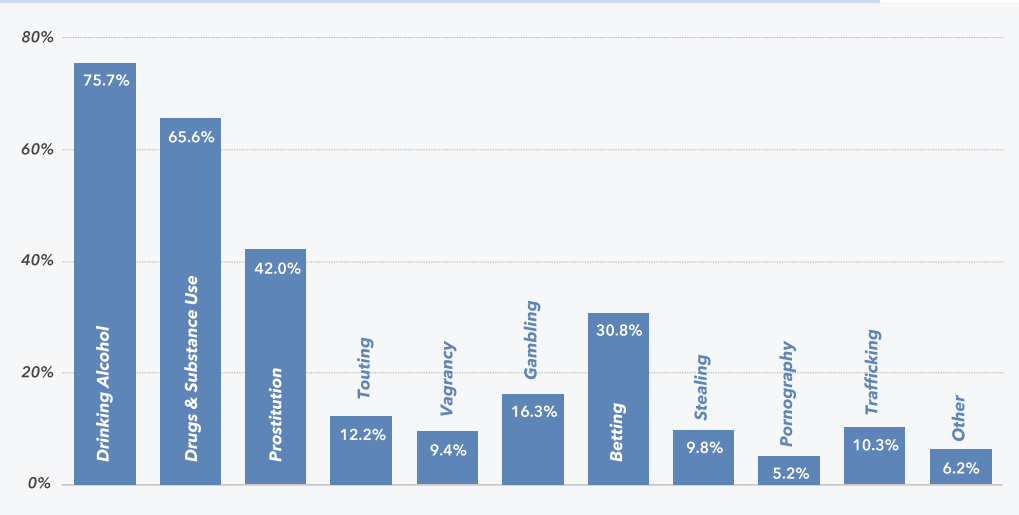


Figure 17: Social Issues Affecting Youth



CHAPTER 6: YOUTH, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 Ownership of a Smartphone

Less than half (42 percent) of youths reported owning a smartphone, while 14 percent reported having access to a smartphone. Forty four percent of youths did not own a smartphone.



Ownership of a smartphone was highest among urban youth where nearly two thirds (65 percent) owned a smartphone.

Less than one third (29 percent) of rural youths owned smartphones. This number is rather low compared to sub-Saharan Africa at large, where 81 percent of respondents in the Afrobarometer 2016 reported owning a smartphone.

Ownership of smartphones by urban and rural youths was consistent with household income levels where urban households had nearly three times the income of rural households.

Bulawayo had the highest proportion who reported ownership of a smartphone (70

percent), followed by Harare (63 percent). Manicaland had the lowest proportion of respondents who reported owning a smartphone (29 percent), followed by Mashonaland Central (30 percent) and Mashonaland East (31 percent).

The possibility of owning a smartphone increased with educational attainment, as 85 percent of those with tertiary education owned a smartphone. More than half of the youths who had completed secondary education owned a smartphone, followed by 31 percent of those with some secondary education and 20 percent of those who completed only primary education.

None of the youths with no formal education

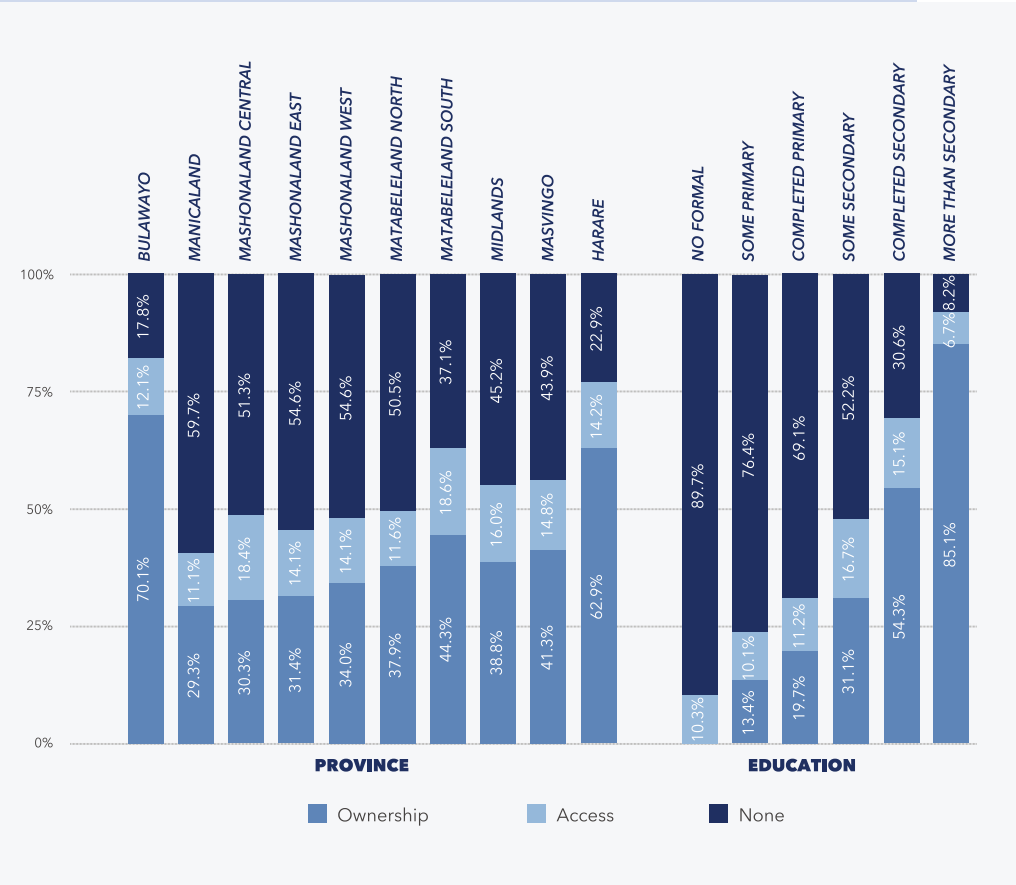
"I get information from WhatsApp through different groups and also on Facebook. Sometimes I watch TV or listen to radio but if I watch something, especially news on ZBC, I can also check on Facebook where I sometimes find different versions of the same story."

FEMALE FGD PARTICIPANT, HARARE

reported owning a smartphone. This illustrates linkages between literacy and/or educational attainment and the possibilities of owning and/or utilising a smartphone. On the other

hand, 40 percent of the youths with no formal education owned an ordinary phone. The figure below shows ownership of a smartphone by province and educational attainment.

Figure 18: Ownership of a Smartphone by Province and Educational Attainment




Less than half (43 percent) of youths had access to the internet. Internet access, like access to a smartphone, was much higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. Nearly two thirds (65 percent) of youths in urban areas had access to the internet compared to less than one third (30 percent) of youths in rural areas.

The likelihood of accessing the internet increased with wealth, as 66 percent of youth

in the highest wealth quintile had access to the internet.

A study by the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute noted challenges with limited access to the internet in rural areas, and concluded that this is a result of lack of infrastructure in rural areas, inadequate commercial electricity, low digital literacy levels, poverty and lack of ICT knowledge.

<42%
LESS YOUTH OWN A SMARTPHONE



URBAN VS RURAL
65% | 29%

43%
HAVE ACCESS TO INTERNET

HIGHEST % SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP:

- BULAWAYO **70%**
- HARARE **63%**
- MANICALAND **29%**

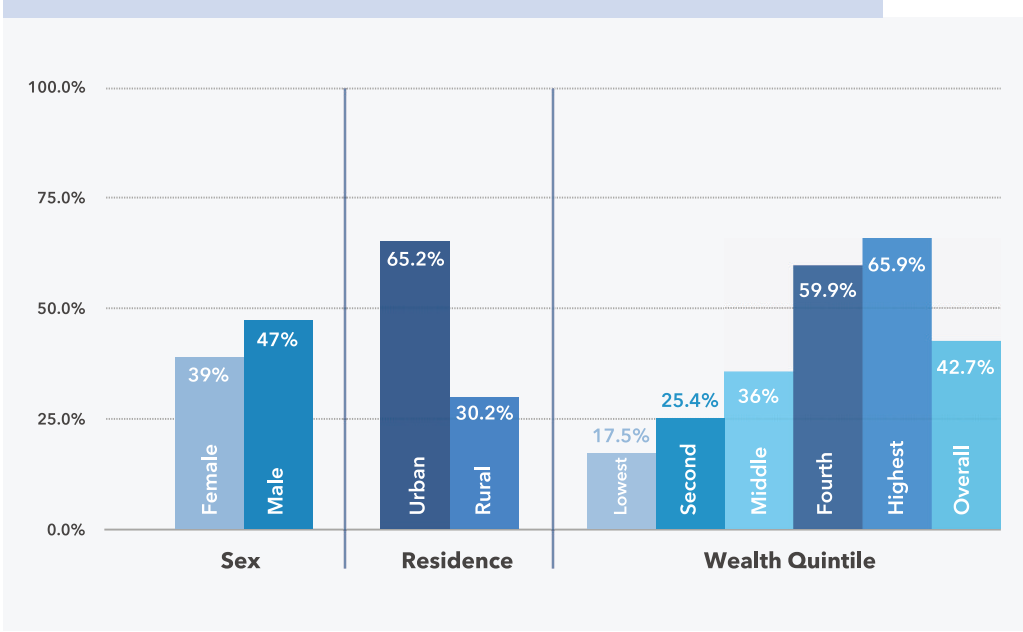
Findings from this study illustrated the urban–rural nature of the 'digital divide', and 25 urban-based key informants cited internet-based platforms as effective in communicating with youth.

Youths in urban FGDs further cited internet-supported platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram as potential platforms

for them to receive information. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the 2016 Afrobarometer found that, at the time of their study, 18 percent of young Africans accessed the internet daily, while 19 percent used social media daily.

By contrast, 60 percent of young respondents never use the internet and 61 percent never used social media.

Figure 19: Internet Access by Gender, Residence and Wealth



6.2 Uses of the Internet


Eighty five percent of youth reported using the internet for social networking followed by 20 percent who used it for employment opportunities.

Additional uses included online education (21 percent), news (20 percent), and business (9 percent). The prominence of internet use for social networking was corroborated by participants in all urban and some rural FGDs who reported using the internet to access Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, Skype, YouTube, Tinder and Telegram.

Youths involved in agriculture in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East reported using the internet to access information on prices, especially of their produce.

This reportedly provided them with guidance on whether or not to sell their produce on particular days. All key informants from youth-serving organisations, especially in Harare, Gweru and Bulawayo, reported using internet-aided platforms, such as social media, to engage with young people. A key informant from Bulawayo remarked that social media had become a key avenue for engaging young people, and features, such as WhatsApp groups, enabled easy communication with specific groups.

TOP USES OF
INTERNET
BY YOUTH


<https://www>

85%
SOCIAL MEDIA

21%
ONLINE EDUCATION

20%
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

20%
NEWS

9%
BUSINESS



6.3 Sources of Information

Of the participating youths cited community meetings as their main source of information, followed by social media (31 percent), friends and community members (25.2 percent), traditional leaders (21 percent), radio (19 percent), television (12 percent), bulk SMS messaging and print media, which were cited by 9 percent of respondents respectively.



There were rural–urban differences in sources of information with more than half of youths from urban areas (51 percent citing social media as their main source of information. This was in contrast to 20 percent of rural youths who cited social media as their source of information.

Urban youths in FGDs affirmed their reliance on social media as a source of information. An additional dimension from FGDs pointed to scenarios where youths use social media as a tool for triangulating and verifying information reported through traditional mediums, such as television, radio and print media.

The majority of rural youths (44 percent) cited community meetings as their main source of information, followed by traditional leaders (32

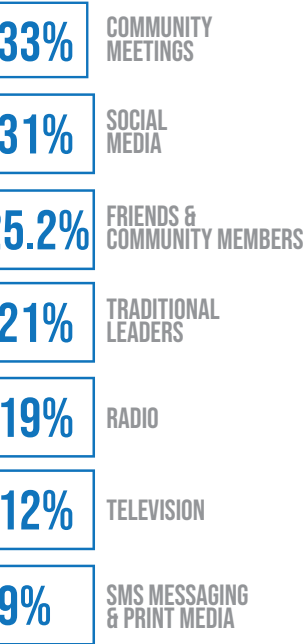
percent) as well as friends and community members (26 percent). Rural youths in FGDs predominantly cited receiving information about politics, distribution of inputs as well as NGO-related programmes.

Key actors in provision of information were the councillor, the village head and political party chairperson. Key informants from CSOs in Masvingo, Midlands, Manicaland and Mashonaland East confirmed the importance of different community structures as conduits of information in rural areas.

They also confirmed the conflation of political party structures with community development structures resulting in strict information control, which limits the diversity of perspectives

“The flow of information is very structured especially in rural areas. That is why it is difficult for organisations to use words deemed to be provocative to the government, especially ‘democracy’ and ‘human rights’.”

CSO KEY INFORMANT, MASVINGO



available to youths in rural areas. Nearly one third (30 percent%) of youth preferred social media as a source of information. This was followed by radio (19 percent), community meetings (13 percent), bulk SMS messaging (9 percent), television (8 percent) and traditional leaders (6 percent). Preference for social media as a source of information was still highest

among urban youths (44 percent). The largest proportion of rural youths preferred radio as a source of information, although one in five (22 percent) also expressed their preference for social media as a source of information. The table below shows current sources of information and preferred sources of information.

Table 17: Current Sources of Information and Preferred Sources of Information

Sources Of Information	Current Source of Information (%)	Preferred Source of Information (%)
Print Media	9.3	3.7
Radio	19.1	19.0
TV	11.6	7.6
Social Media	30.7	29.6
Political Party	3.5	0.4
Educational Institutions	7.9	2.5
Community Meetings	33.6	12.5
Traditional Leaders	21.1	5.9
CSO or Association	1.0	0.1
Friends and Community Members	25.2	5.7
Church Platforms	5.4	0.8
Bulk SMS Messaging	9.3	9.0
Other	4.9	3.2

CHAPTER 7: YOUTH AND MIGRATION

Twenty percent of youth expressed a desire to move from rural to urban areas. A further 25 percent had intentions of migrating to another country, while 23 percent did not intend to move. Twelve percent intended to move from urban to urban, 9 percent from rural to rural, and 2 percent had intentions to move from urban areas to rural areas.



Findings were consistent with Afrobarometer (2018) findings, which concluded that one third of respondents had considered emigrating, including 16 percent who had given it “a lot” of thought. The proclivity to emigrate was highest in Malawi, (where 28 percent said they had thought “a lot” about leaving), Zimbabwe (22 percent), Benin (20 percent), and Ghana (20 percent).

Youths who expressed the desire to move from rural to urban areas expressed a desire to move to cities and towns, mostly Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare, Marondera, Masvingo, Gweru, Kwekwe and Chinhoyi. The most cited destinations for youths who had intentions to move to other countries were South Africa, Botswana, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Most youth who expressed a desire to move between urban areas wanted to move to Harare.

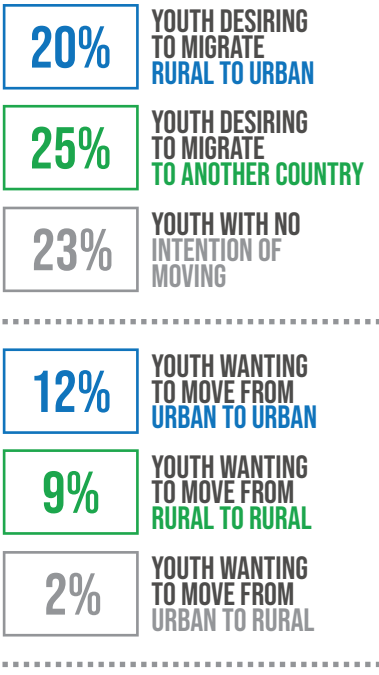
Safety¹² was the most cited reason behind intentions to migrate, as was mentioned by

40 percent of respondents, followed by employment opportunities (38 percent), entrepreneurship opportunities (7 percent) and education (6 percent).

Youths in FGDs affirmed a desire to move in order to seek opportunities for a better life. The opportunities were expressed as employment, education or business or entrepreneurship. Urban youths mostly mentioned education as a factor behind the desire to migrate, while rural youths predominantly outlined the need for better opportunities.

South Africa was the most cited destination by both urban and rural youths. Reasons provided for South Africa being an attractive destination included having friends and family there, the absence of visa requirements, affordable transport costs and the possibility of coming home easily in the event of difficulties.

The table on page 96 shows reasons behind intentions to migrate.



12. Data collection took place in January and February 2019 after violent protests. This could explain youth prioritising safety.

Table 18: Reasons Behind Intentions to Migrate

Background Characteristics	Employment Opportunities	Entrepreneurship Opportunities	Safety and Security	Better Living Conditions	Educational Purposes	To Be With Family	Other	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Sex								
Female	32.4	7.3	44.7	4.0	6.5	2.7	2.4	2,398
Male	45.6	7.3	32.8	5.5	4.4	2.2	2.2	1,900
Residence								
Urban	34.8	6.5	42.3	5.3	4.5	4.4	2.2	1,529
Rural	40.2	7.7	37.9	4.3	6.1	1.4	2.4	2,770
Province								
Bulawayo	39.6	5.3	33.6	6.8	5.7	6.0	3.0	265
Manicaland	40.5	13.7	32.2	5.6	5.4	1.1	1.4	553
Mashonaland Central	29.1	7.0	44.9	4.5	7.8	2.4	4.3	374
Mashonaland East	40.1	8.3	38.6	4.5	5.2	2.3	1.0	484
Mashonaland West	39.7	7.8	38.6	4.3	5.2	0.9	3.7	464
Matabeleland North	32.5	6.4	50.9	1.1	6.0	1.9	1.1	265
Matabeleland South	43.2	5.6	30.8	6.0	8.1	2.6	3.8	234
Midlands	51.0	3.1	35.5	4.3	2.1	1.2	2.9	420
Masvingo	37.8	7.5	40.7	3.9	8.3	0.6	1.2	492
Harare	32.5	5.6	45.3	5.1	4.0	5.5	2.0	750
TOTAL	38.3	7.3	39.5	4.7	5.6	2.5	2.3	4,298



CHAPTER 8: EMERGING ISSUES FOR KEY POPULATIONS

8.1 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual, Intersex and Queer/Questioning (LGBTIQ)

Young people expressed negative attitudes towards diversity. The study developed a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 represented highly positive attitudes while 5 represented highly negative attitudes.

Overall, youths had an LGBTIQ attitude score of 3.88.



Negative attitudes were higher among rural youths with an attitude score of 3.95, while urban youths had an attitude score of 3.75. Attitude scores are in line with estimates from the Afrobarometer 2016, where 62 percent of respondents strongly disliked the idea of having homosexuals as neighbours – a number that is as high as 73 percent in Zimbabwe.

Key informants from the LGBTIQ community attributed negative attitudes to limited understanding of the community. Ignorance around LGBTIQ among communities was

reportedly aided by the absence of institutionalised efforts to try to provide information about the community.

This would be a key step towards de-stigmatising the community. Negative attitudes have reportedly contributed towards LGBTIQ persons refusing to disclose and, in the process, missing opportunities for support.

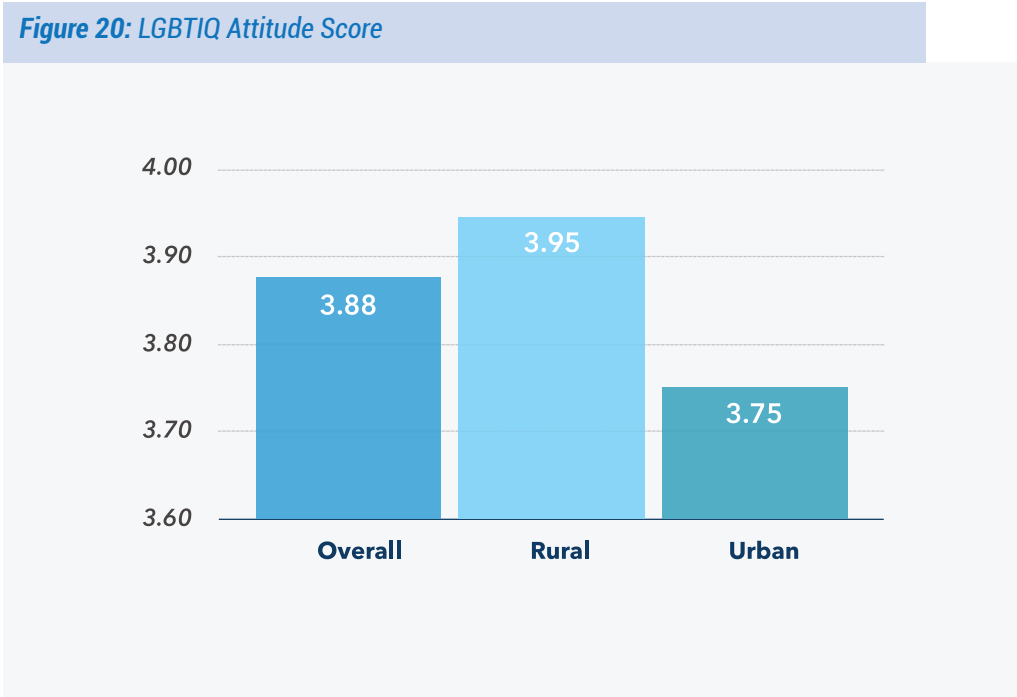
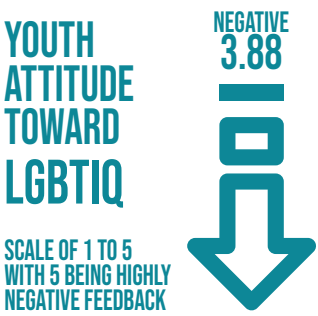
Male sex workers reported that most of their clients were males who were married to females and who maintained marriages or relationships

“There are a lot of men who have sex with men. As a male sex worker, most of my clients are married men, some of them very prominent. I think the environment is still very difficult for LGBTIQ persons to disclose. I was brave to disclose but I have also suffered because I have been subjected to verbal as well as physical violence sometimes. There are many wrong perceptions, especially about MSM [men who have sex with men] where men who claim to be heterosexual assume that all MSM are always looking for sexual partners.”

MALE FGD PARTICIPANT, KADOMA

with females in order to conform to societal expectations. Focus group discussions with LGBTIQ persons revealed that health was used as an entry point towards transforming negative societal attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons. Organisations cited included CeSSHAR, GALZ, SAfAIDS, PSI, SRC, Trans Smart Trust, Wilkins Hospital along with CAL.

The National AIDS Council (NAC) has reportedly engaged a key population coordinator, which signalled some progress towards prioritizing access to services for LGBTIQ persons. The figure below shows the LGBTIQ attitude score based on study findings.



8.2 Youth with Disabilities

A small proportion (0.03 percent; N=156) of youths had disabilities. The majority (60.1 percent) of those with disabilities had physical disabilities followed by mental disabilities (8.5 percent), cognitive disabilities (6.7 percent) and chronic illnesses (24.7 percent).

Qualitative discussions with young people with disabilities revealed existence of structural exclusion, which constrained their potential to participate fully in social, economic and political life. Access to education was limited owing to financial constraints and a lack of disability-friendly infrastructure.

Young people with disabilities also face challenges and barriers in accessing information, especially youth with hearing impairments. This is compounded by the high prices of assistive devices as well as the absence of interpreters in public institutions.

In addition, young people with disabilities are affected by limited access to and availability of tailored skills development programmes. Limited opportunities for developing skills limit the potential of youth with disabilities to be economically engaged and fulfill their own potential.

Political and civic participation is limited among youth with disabilities. This was attributed to weak representation along with physical

limitations associated with different forms of disability. In addition, access to health facilities or services was reportedly limited despite some disabilities requiring constant and sometimes specialist health services.

Challenges in accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services further affected the overall wellbeing of young people with disabilities.

Although participation is limited, there are various civil society organizations, such as the Deaf Zimbabwe Trust, Deaf Women Included and Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe, that are lobbying for respect for the rights of people with disabilities.

Despite these challenges, young people with disabilities are involved in a variety of livelihood activities, such as retail businesses, village savings and loans clubs (mikando), carrying luggage at bus termini (hwindi), assisting money changers/forex dealers, and selling snacks at market places.

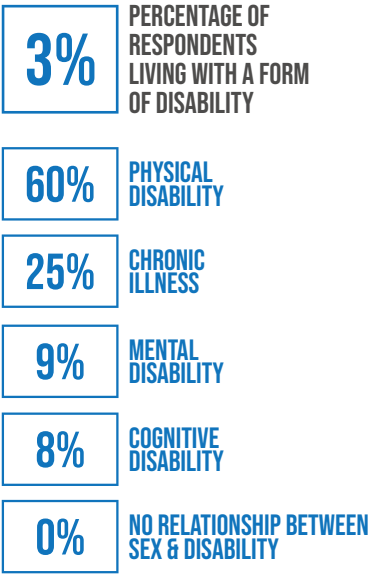


Image Credit: Father visits son at Jairos Jiri



Image Credit: Source



Image Credit: Source



CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS





CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

In Zimbabwe, youths constitute the majority of the country's population and most are confronting individual and collective challenges that exclude them from the political and economic spheres.

Although these challenges manifest at a social and individual level, most are the result of macro-level and policy challenges. In terms of their individual and collective aspirations, youths in Zimbabwe require access to employment opportunities, access to loans, support towards skills training and mentorship along with a stable macroeconomic environment.

Politically, youth want a quota system, which prioritises their participation at all levels of governance. There are also expectations of deliberate steps by government to eradicate violation of youth rights, promotion of freedom of expression along with the removal of violence from political contestation.

Youths further aspire for a society free of arbitrary arrests and torture of civilians who express views that differ from those in charge of administering the state.



Image Credit: Ralph Chikambi

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Youths in Zimbabwe remain at the margin of the formal economy with limited access to land as a means of production.

This includes limited access to land for residential stands, agriculture plots with legally regularised offer letters or mining claims. Young women are affected even more by the limited access to the means of production, and this constrains their capacity to be productive. In the absence of structures to promote youth access to the means of production, there are minimal entry points for enhanced participation of youths in economic activities.

Employment and entrepreneurship have the greatest propensity to provide pathways to youth empowerment. However, there are weak structures for promoting employment and entrepreneurship. This has resulted in an unstructured focus on self-employment.

The prevailing macroeconomic conditions characterised by currency instability, erosion of earnings, barriers in accessing capital along with prohibitive terms for those who manage to borrow, have constrained the potential for profitable self-employment.

As a result of multiple barriers to entry into the formal economy, youths in Zimbabwe are concentrated in low-capital and low-profit enterprises, specifically retail. Sectors such as manufacturing and financial services have significantly larger economic potential.

However, the prospect of exploiting potential is constrained by financial, technical and regulatory barriers to entry, which consign youths to survivalist ventures that are vulnerable to shocks. Tertiary education traditionally enhances pathways to better-paying employment opportunities but predominantly within a formalised economy. Wholesale, unregulated and involuntary informalisation has resulted in youths graduating with skills that are not in demand while being ill-equipped to participate productively in the informal economy.

There is a misalignment between national skills development priorities and demands within the labour market.



Image Credit: Shutterstock.com



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Traditional, institutionalised communication mediums are giving way to newer, interactive ones.

Urban youths are less reliant on television, radio and print media as sources of information than rural youths. Internet-aided platforms, such as social media, have become major sources of information predominantly because of their capacity to provide users with the ability to interact with the content, to triangulate facts as well as to facilitate engagement irrespective of time, space, designation and wealth.

Even where infrastructure and cost factors restrict utilisation of internet-aided platforms as sources of information, such as in rural areas, there are aspirations of utilising these as major

sources of information. There are strong opportunities for mobilising youths to vote but their participation in broader civic processes is highly limited. Limited capacity, restrictions in accessing civic spaces, and low programming to motivate participation beyond voting constrain youth participation.

Voting predominantly focuses on the presidential vote with minimal interest in local government, which restricts opportunities for organic, youth-driven transformation at community level.



Image Credit: Harare Gardens - Human Rights Day

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Although it has assumed the status of being the preferred channel for receiving information amongst the youth, internet access is still predominantly urban.

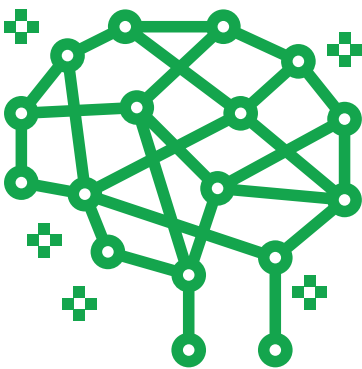
The urban-centric nature of internet access is driven by inadequate rural infrastructure, high costs of data and, to a lesser degree, educational attainment.

The cost of accessing the internet is a barrier to rural proliferation but presents opportunities as there are aspirations by rural youths to access internet-aided opportunities, platforms and content.

There are hardware-related challenges to internet access, as few youths own smartphones, especially in rural areas. Linkages between place of residence, income, level of education and ownership of a smartphone validate the conclusion that internet access is

still the preserve of a few, especially compared to continental trends where smartphone ownership is estimated to be above 80 percent.

In urban spaces with high internet access, there are possibilities for using it as a platform for enhanced participation in political, social and economic life. This is due to the predominant uses of the internet, mostly searching for employment, and social networking. The internet is preferred as there is potential to triangulate information as well as to engage in ways that transcend time, space and social status. There are ICT-related opportunities especially as more youths, including those who presently do not have access, express a preference for social media as a source of information.

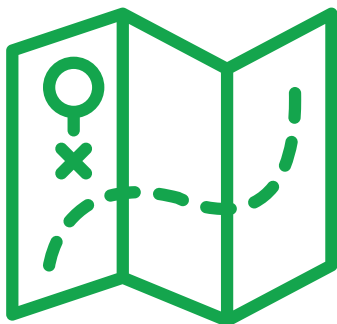


MIGRATION

Youths increasingly feel that opportunities for a better future lie beyond their current geographical stations.

This translates into high intentions to migrate to other urban areas or other countries. Intentions to migrate are predominantly driven by the need for better opportunities as well as safety considerations, especially as data collection for the study was conducted in February 2019

after the country had experienced violent protests. High migration intent translates into limited focus on participating in processes within current areas of residence, which are viewed as temporary or transitional.



HEALTH

There are high levels of knowledge of family planning methods among young people.

Levels of education correspond with knowledge of family planning methods, and educated youth are more likely to have more knowledge of family planning than those with limited or without education. There are inconsistencies between knowledge of family planning, and there is limited information around factors behind the disconnect between knowledge and use.

There is low uptake of HTS, which results in missed opportunities as testing is an entry point to other HIV services. High prevalence of HIV-related stigma has the potential to curtail uptake of services, positive health-seeking behaviours,

disclosure along with positive health and dignity for people living with HIV.

Youths have high levels of knowledge around the effectiveness of correct and consistent use of condoms for purposes of preventing STIs, HIV infection as well as unintended pregnancies.

Urban youths are likely to have a better understanding of HIV than rural youths, while exhibiting minimal negative attitudes towards people living with HIV. Youths, especially females, still experience IPV, and there are low rates of reporting, which perpetuates the cycle of violence.



Image Credit: Ralph Chikambi

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

Food insecurity, limited access to clean water, poor transport and unreliable communication infrastructure, recurrent droughts and limited access to education opportunities are key humanitarian threats affecting youth.

Challenges manifest differently between urban and rural youth with some intersections, especially around food insecurity. Limited access to water is predominantly exemplified by constant outbreaks of water-borne diseases, especially in Harare.

Youths participate in humanitarian assistance programmes, both as recipients as well as

through providing labour. Enhanced youth participation in humanitarian assistance is affected by lack of information, lack of capacity, corruption and the absence of material benefits. There is a strong preference for skills, such as hairdressing, carpentry, cookery as well as agriculture. Skills preferences are primarily influenced by perceived availability of community-based markets.



Image Credit: Source

EMERGING ISSUES AMONG SPECIFIC POPULATION GROUPS

Youths have low tolerance for and negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons.

Negative attitudes are reflected in restrictions in accessing health services, harassment in public and private spaces along with intolerant law enforcement processes. Low tolerance is not intrinsic among youths but reflects broader negative social, structural and political intolerance. Young people with disabilities are affected by structural exclusion, which constrains their potential to participate fully in social, economic and political life. Access

to education is limited owing to financial constraints and lack of disability-friendly infrastructure. Political and civic participation is limited due to weak representation along with physical limitations associated with different forms of disability. Access to health facilities or services is limited for youths with disabilities since they require constant and sometimes specialist health services.

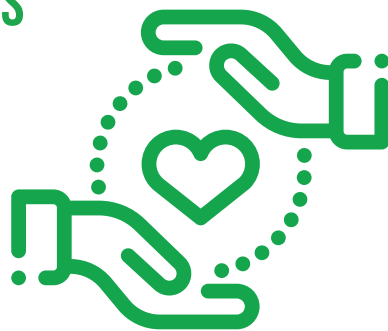
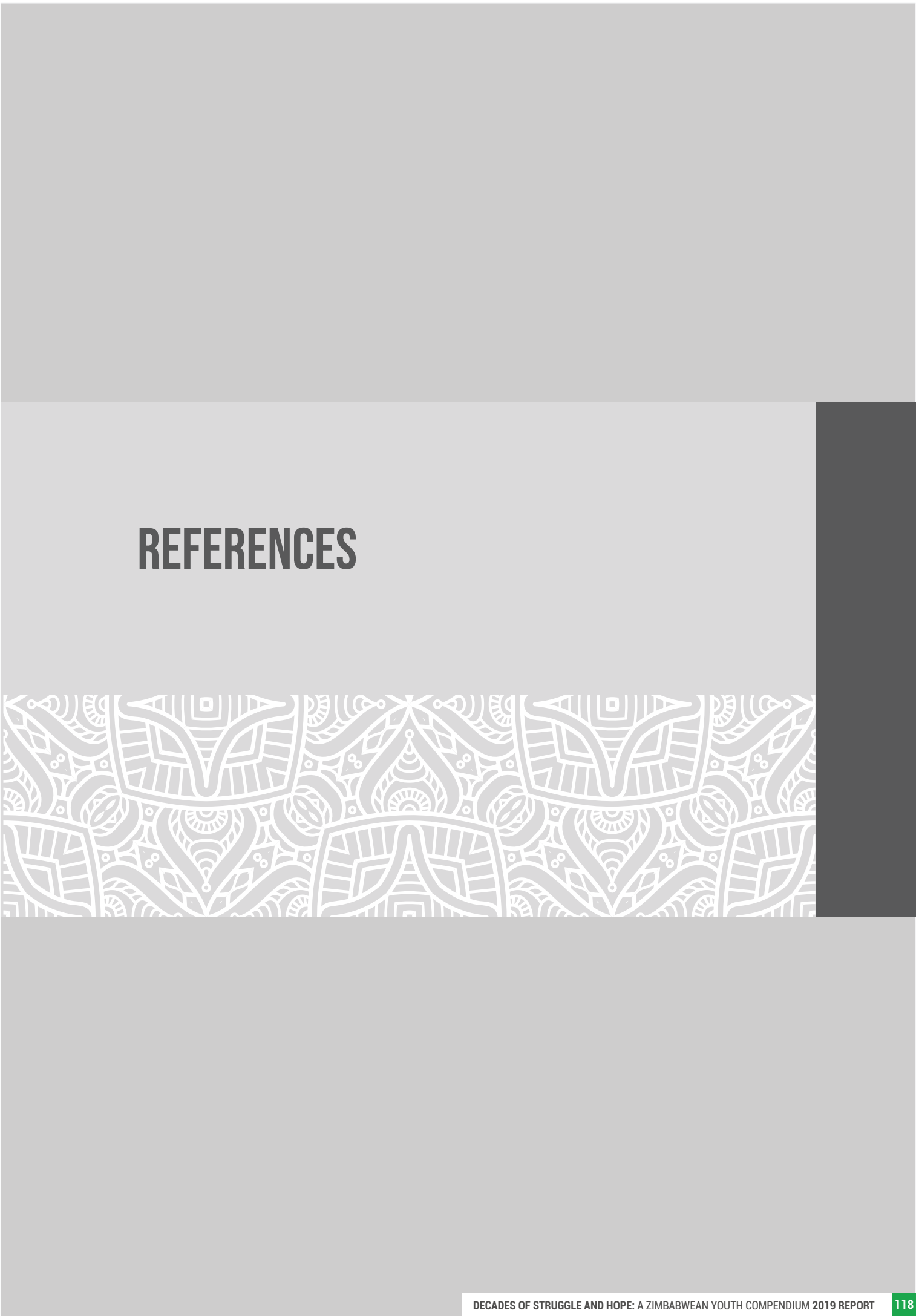


Image Credit: Rawpixel.com

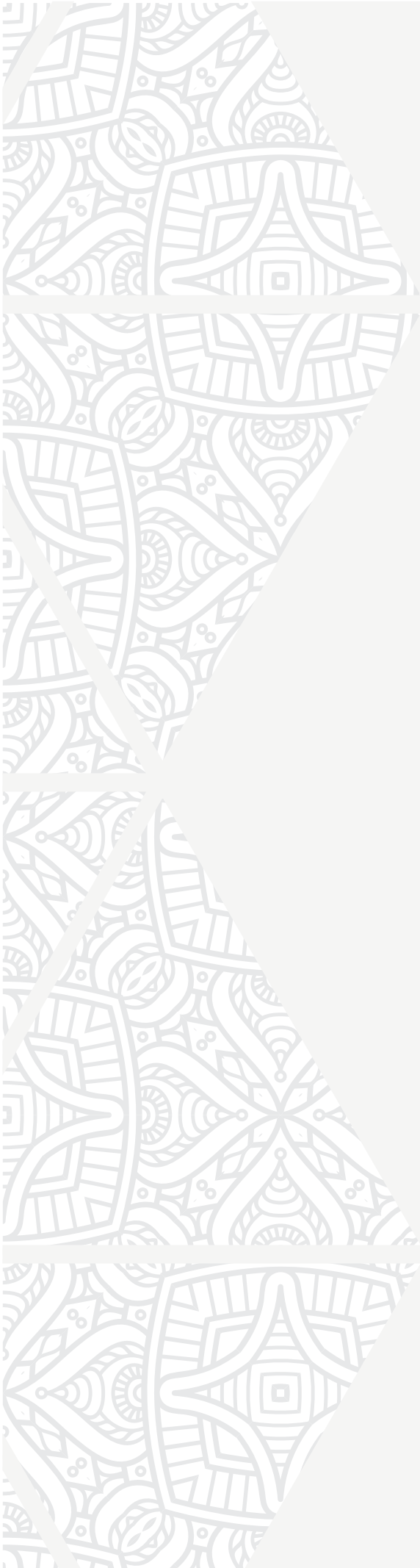
RECOMMENDATIONS

DOMAIN	FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
OVERALL	In the different domains that affect youth wellbeing, the key challenge emanates from weaknesses within the macro-environment, specifically restrictive policies and legislation, policy inconsistencies along with weak policy implementation.	Intensifying advocacy to transform and ensure implementation of policies, regulations and practices inhibiting broader political and macroeconomic development.
	The country does not have a national youth employment action plan or policy, despite unemployment being the biggest challenge facing youth.	Activating the Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network and supporting its mandate to develop a national youth employment action plan and implementation framework focusing on optimum utilisation of the youth workforce as part of developing an inclusive economy.
ECONOMIC GROWTH	The country's economy is over-self-employed as wholesale, unregulated and involuntary informalisation has resulted in youths graduating with skills that are not in demand while being ill-equipped to participate productively in the informal economy.	Engaging government, the business community and universities in creating an environment conducive to developing decent and waged employment to offset challenges emanating from the over-self-employment currently being experienced; Investing in growing locality-specific enterprises and value chains, including agribusiness and agro-processing along with structured involvement of artisanal miners through support towards registration, access to equipment and equitable markets; and Supporting processes of up-skilling, re-skilling and developing new learning opportunities that have a link to the economic reform agenda at national level.
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	Information in rural areas usually flows through community structures and opinion leaders, including councillors and political party representatives. Community structures in rural areas are highly politicised, which limits the extent to which diverse opinions and preferences can be promoted.	Considering investing in alternative community-based information provision structures, such as community information hubs as well as NGO-led information-sharing platforms and workshops. Strengthening the capacity of community structures (e.g. through training and mentorship) to focus on developmental issues as well as agency of the community to demand inclusivity from the local representatives.
	There are strong opportunities for mobilising youths to vote, but their participation in broader civic processes is highly limited. A lack of experience and capacity, restrictions in accessing civic spaces, and low programming to motivate participation beyond voting constrain youth participation. These factors further reduce the quality of participation when youths are afforded opportunities. Voting predominantly focuses on the presidential vote with minimal interest in local government, which restricts opportunities for organic, youth-driven transformation.	Supporting processes of enhancing youth participation in civic activities, including at local government level. These should focus on both the demand side (increasing youth agency) and the supply side (mainstreaming youth inclusion in local governance).
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	Internet access is still predominantly urban. The urban-centric nature of internet access is driven by inadequate rural infrastructure, high costs of data and to a lesser degree the cost of educational attainment. The digital divide between urban and rural areas constrains levels of participation, leading to missed opportunities to broaden access to information for youths.	Engaging government, the private sector and civil society to collaborate in democratising internet access through different models, including development of community hubs and open access centres.
	Traditional, institutionalised communication mediums are giving way to newer, interactive ones. Urban youths are less reliant on television, radio and print media as sources of information. Internet-aided platforms, including social media, have become major sources of information, predominantly because of their ability to provide users with the capability to interact with the content, to triangulate facts as well as to facilitate engagement irrespective of time, space, designation and economic status.	Exploring opportunities for supporting youths to be co-creators of participation-oriented content to allow optimal utilisation of internet-aided information-sharing platforms (such as social media) with a focus on supporting the creation and sharing of factual, democracy-oriented content.

DOMAIN	FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
MIGRATION	Youths increasingly feel that opportunities for a better future lie beyond their current geographical stations. This translates into high intentions to migrate to other urban areas or other countries. High migration intent translates into limited focus on participating in processes within current stations, which are viewed as temporary or transitional.	Supporting continued advocacy for devolution to increase opportunities for localised development of economic opportunities that motivate youths to participate and to aspire to contribute towards development within their current settings.
HEALTH	Low uptake of HIV testing services (HTS) translates into missed opportunities as testing is an entry point to other HIV services. High prevalence of HIV-related stigma potentially curtails uptake of services, positive health-seeking behaviours, and disclosure along with positive health and dignity for people living with HIV.	Supporting intensification of demand-generation activities aimed at providing youths with information on HTS while motivating them to get tested. Investing in enquiry to understand factors behind low uptake of HTS despite high levels of knowledge about its benefits as well as places where testing services can be found. Prioritizing interventions, which transform structural attitudes that sustain HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE	Rural youths are predominantly affected by food insecurity while urban youths are mostly concerned with limited access to clean water and the related health challenges posed.	Prioritising interventions towards catalysing transitioning of households from humanitarian crises towards some development and resilience characterised by food security. Exploring possibilities of supporting emergency access to clean water as well as response mechanisms for areas prone to water-borne diseases. Intensifying advocacy for government to plan for medium- to long-term investments in infrastructural factors that currently contribute towards limited access to water for urban households.
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	Youths have low tolerance for sexual minorities, and there are negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons. Negative attitudes are reflected in restrictions in accessing health services, harassment in public and private spaces along with intolerant law enforcement processes. Low tolerance is not intrinsic among youths but reflects broader negative social, structural and political intolerance.	Supporting a multi-pronged approach toward inculcating tolerance for sexual minorities with a focus on policies, community/ institutional attitudes along with institutions of socialisation. Utilising entry points, such as health, where interventions are being designed to facilitate access to comprehensive, quality services for sexual minorities in non-discriminating ways.
	Young people with disabilities have limited access to education, which is compounded by a lack of supportive infrastructure.	Investing in disability mainstreaming focusing on policy and operational levels. This includes advocacy towards ensuring disability-friendly infrastructure in all public spaces.
	There are limited skills training programmes for young people with disabilities despite the transformational potential linked to the possession of skills.	Collaborating with organizations coordinating constituencies of people with disabilities to design skills development interventions using vocational skills training as an entry point.
	Sex workers face multiple challenges, including HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), violence by their colleagues, harassment by law enforcement agents, stigma and discrimination by community members along with ostracization by families. The illegal status of sex work restricts the extent to which sex workers can access services, such as justice and health.	Intensifying advocacy towards decriminalisation of sex work and utilise entry points, such as health, to facilitate access to services as well as respect for the rights of sex workers.



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ANNEXES: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY





ANNEXES: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. RESEARCH DESIGN STUDY

The study initially used the cross-sectional prevalence study design that allows generalizability of population-based samples, which will be followed by the longitudinal panel study design.

The panel study will be conducted over two periods, i.e. mid-term (2021) and end-term (2023).

Baseline information for the panel study will be drawn from the cross-sectional study (only using data from panel study participants).



Image Credit: Cynthia R Matonhodze

B. SAMPLING

Sample Size and Calculation

In order to ensure a sufficient level of precision of the survey results, a large sample was drawn from Zimbabwean youth aged 15–35 years.

To calculate the sample size needed, the following factors were taken into consideration:

- Desired level of confidence of the survey results;
- Acceptable margin of error of the survey results;
- Design effect of the sampling methodology; and
- Estimated baseline levels of the behaviours or indicators we wanted to measure.

Additionally, the sample size was adjusted for anticipated non-response. It was the first time for this type of survey to be conducted.

There were thus no variables from previous surveys to use. Hence, the study had to use the

recommended standard variables. The formula used to calculate the sample size is provided below.

$$n=Z^2 [P(1-P)/e^2]$$

Where
z=level of confidence
p=baseline level of indicators
e=margin of error

The resulting sample size was adjusted for non-response and design effect. Lastly, the sample size was multiplied by the total number of domains in which the survey was to be conducted. Using a 95% confidence interval, a margin of error of 0.05 and a baseline level of indicator of 37%, an anticipated response rate of 95%, a design effect of 1.2 and 10 provinces (domains), a sample size of 5,653 households was calculated as shown in the table below.

Table 19: Sample Size Calculation

Z	Z²	P	1-P	e	e²	n	Design Effect	Anticipated Response Rate	Domains	Final n
1.96	3.8416	0.369612	0.630388	0.05	0.0025	358.0355	1.5	0.95	10	5,653

Not all households in each enumeration area (EA) could be reached due to budget constraints.

Given random sampling, this was not of inferential concern. The study selected 29

households per EA using a random systematic method. Twenty-nine (29) is not exactly divisible by 5,653; hence, a slight oversampling of 2 households resulted in a sample size of 5,655 households with 29 households per EA.



Sample Allocation

The design used a three-stage sample, with EAs as the primary sampling units, households as secondary sampling units, and persons as tertiary units.

The population aged 15–35 years per province according to the Zimbabwe Population Census was used as a measure of size to allocate the sample.

Out of the 195 EAs, 77 were urban and 118 were rural. The urban–rural stratification was done using youth population proportions in rural and urban areas of each province.



Table 20: Sample Allocation

Province	Rural	Urban	Total	Sample EAs	Urban EAs	Rural EAs	Urban Proportion
Bulawayo	—	274,932	274,932	11	11	0	1
Manicaland	470,043	127,507	597,550	24	5	19	0.213382981
Mashonaland Central	382,702	31,342	414,044	17	1	15	0.075697269
Mashonaland East	393,524	78,938	472,462	19	3	16	0.167077987
Mashonaland West	407,930	163,460	571,390	23	7	16	0.28607431
Matabeleland North	216,479	31,310	247,789	10	1	9	0.126357506
Matabeleland South	189,268	40,008	229,276	9	2		0.174497113
Midlands	403,136	178,450	581,586	23	7	16	0.306833383
Masvingo	418,756	66,812	485,568	20	3	17	0.137595558
Harare	46,649	906,342	952,991	38	37	2	0.951049905
TOTAL	2,928,487	1,899,101	4,827,588	195	77	118	0.393385061

Having allocated the sample to the 10 provinces, probability proportional to size was further used to pick the required EAs within each province and rural–urban strata, using the total number of households per EA as the measure of size.

The EAs were selected from the Zimbabwe Sampling Frame provided by the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency according to the 2012 population census and mapping.



Primary Sampling Units (PSUs)

The first stage sampling frame was made up of EAs, which were the smallest geographical unit that consisted of about 80–120 households.

Each EA had a unique 10-digit geo-code that reflected the province, district, ward and land use sector in which it was located. For purposes of the survey, the sampling frame excluded the non-household population, people residing on state land (national parks, safari areas, etc.) or in institutions. The selection of EAs (PSUs) was done using the following formula.



$$P_{hi} = \frac{A_h M_{hi}}{\sum M_{hi}}$$

Where

- P_{hi} = the selection probability for EA number i in stratum h
- A_h = the number of EAs selected in stratum h
- M_{hi} = the number of households in EA number hi according to the population census
- $\sum M_{hi}$ = the number of households in stratum h according to the population census

Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs) – Households

Typically, prior to each survey, a list of households in the selected EAs is established.

However, for this study, such a listing was not feasible, and selection of households was therefore done using random systematic sampling methods.



Tertiary Sampling Units (TSUs) – Persons

In every household, all eligible individuals were identified, and one was randomly selected to respond to the questionnaire using the Kish Grid.



Boosting Factors

The sampling weight is given by the reciprocal of the selection probability.

$$W_{hij} = \frac{1}{P_{hi}} \times \frac{M_{hi}}{A_h}$$

Sampling for Qualitative Data Collection

Qualitative data was collected through FGDs and key informant interviews.

The study used non-probability sampling techniques and relied on saturation (the point at which no new information or themes are observed in the data).

Literature on saturation suggests that between three and six FGDs are likely to capture 90% of important themes.^{7,8}



Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Based on the literature cited above,^{7,8} the study developed the following criteria for youth to participate in FGDs:

- Young people between 15 and 35 years (males and females separately for 15–24 years and 25–35 years);
- Young people who reside in the selected communities;
- Young people who are unemployed;
- Young people who are formally employed;
- Young people in informal employment;
- Young people with a disability;
- LGBTIQ youths;

- Sex workers;
- Artisanal miners (gold and diamond separately);
- Youth in agriculture; and
- Youth in the informal sector.

A total of 50 FGDs were conducted with young Zimbabweans across the country covering the above categories. A total of 139 key informant interviews were conducted with strategic respondents. Key informants were selected through expert case sampling to ensure that all those selected provided value-adding information to the situation analysis.



Key Informant Interviews for Special Interest Groups

For this study, expert respondents were used for spaces such as institutions representing LGBTIQ youths, sex workers, people with disabilities, and the informal sector.



7. Guest, G., Bunce, A., & Johnson, L. (2006). How Many Interviews Are Enough?: An Experiment with Data Saturation and Variability. *Field Methods*, 18(1), 59–82. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X05279903>

8. Hagaman, A. K., & Wutich, A. (2017). How Many Interviews Are Enough to Identify Metathemes in Multisited and Cross-cultural Research? Another Perspective on Guest, Bunce, and Johnson's (2006) Landmark Study. *Field Methods*, 29(1), 23–41. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X16640447>

C. RESPONSE RATE

A total of 5,582 youths were reached through the individual survey in all 10 provinces of Zimbabwe. This gave a response rate of 98.7 percent which was above the minimum expected response of 95 percent.

5,582
YOUTH REACHED

10 PROVINCES
50 FOCUS GROUP
DISCUSSIONS

98.7%
RESPONSE RATE

D. ETHICS

The study had a well-defined ethics plan that specifically focused on ensuring all protocols, including notifying structures such as the President's Office were observed while young people's rights were safeguarded. The ethics plan included the following:

Training on Ethics: The research team was trained on ethics and respondent protection. Focus was put on consent, confidentiality, beneficence and voluntary participation.

Providing SoPs: The research team was provided with standard operating procedures (SoPs), which were used to guide how enumerators responded to emerging ethical issues.

Providing referral details and procedures: The research team was provided with procedures for providing referrals, especially if they were to encounter young people with urgent challenges, such as abuse.

E. LIMITATIONS

Data collection was conducted after the country had experienced violent demonstrations, which resulted in deaths.

Young people were suspicious of enumerators, particularly because some of the survey questions focused on politically sensitive information, such as those requesting information on the youth's history of participation in political activities and demonstrations. To mitigate this concern,

enumerators were trained to provide information about the study as well as to assure respondents about the voluntary nature of their participation.

Households in low-density areas, especially in Harare, were not open to allowing enumerators to interview eligible respondents. To mitigate this challenge, enumerators had to return to the household three times ('callbacks') to try to conduct interviews.



Image Credit: YETT Stand at ZITE



Image Credit: Going Home after school in Zimba



Image Credit: Phill



Image Credit: YETT



Image Credit: Phill



Image Credit: YETT



NOTE SPACE

