

INCEPTION REPORT

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is a developing country found in Southern Africa. It largely thrives on an agro based economy; tourism and mineral resources have of late stood out as emerging pillars of the economy of the country.

AREA

Zimbabwe has an area of 390 757 sq km.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The general life expectancy in Zimbabwe stands at 56 years.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

The infant mortality rate stands at 26.55 deaths per 1000 live births.

LITERACY RATE

Literacy rate is 92%

POPULATION

According to the past immediate census (2012) the population of Zimbabwe stands at 13 777 721 million. Of this population women constitute 52% and men 48%. Children aged 10 constitute 38.4%. Generally, the Zimbabwean population is characterised by a youthful structure which is in the region of 60 – 70%.

See tables below for data on social services, major industries and employment:

PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	TOTAL POPULATION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 15	INCOME LEVEL (rich, middle, poor, poorest)	TOTAL No. OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS		
					Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
MANICALAND	1 752 698	770 321	middle	132 353	788	254	
HARARE	2 123 132	726 005	middle	179 431	208	80	
BULAWAYO	653 337	221 898	poor	65 972	128	48	
MIDLANDS	1 614 941	687 514	poor	124 435	658	234	
MATEBELAND NORTH	947 017	329 581	poor	42 350	576	149	
MATEBELAND SOUTH	683 893	296 745	poor	38 124	446	105	
MASH CENTRAL	1 152 520	493 153	poor	65 0509	381	126	
MASH EAST	1 344 955	561 283	poor	90 034	595	249	
MASH WEST	1 501 656	616 669	poor	100 817	494	169	
MASVINGO	1 485 090	669 112	poor	108 618	684	240	

ZIMBABWE'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES (Number of people working for each industry).

ZIMBABWE MAJOR INDUSTRY (Number of people working for each industry)

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	MALE(%)	FEMALE(%)
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	45.4	54.1
MINING AND QUARRYING	91.3	8.7
MANUFACTURING	77.1	22.9
ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	95.3	4.7
WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	73.3	26.7
CONSTRUCTION	90.6	9.4
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	43.3	56.7
TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	93.2	6.8
ACCOMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES ACTIVITIES	41.5	58.5
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	85.3	14.7
FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES	64.8	35.2
REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	59.4	40.6
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	55.8	44.2
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES ACTIVITIES	75.4	24.6
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE; COMPULSORY SOCIAL SECURITY	79.9	20.1
EDUCATION	45.0	55.0
HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	35.8	64.2
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	65.3	34.7
OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	38.2	61.8
ACTIVITIES OF HOUSEHOLDS AS EMPLOYERS	13.2	86.8
ACTIVITIES OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES	38.7	61.3
NOT STATED	41.6	58.4
TOTAL	49.8	50.2

2. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

(1) Laws concerned with persons with intellectual disabilities.

Generally, Zimbabwe does not have any specific laws that speak to persons with intellectual disabilities, rather she has omnibus pieces of legislation that have clauses on people with disabilities where persons with intellectual disabilities are cited as a category of persons with disabilities who should be treated with respect, decency and dignity.

(2) Financial Assistance for persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Persons with disabilities in general and persons with Intellectual Disabilities in particular receive a monthly grant of \$20 through the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. However, its disbursement as a social protection measure is irregular. This irregularity has, in the past caused people with disabilities to engage with the Ministry of Finance and that of Labour and Social Services through advocacy strategies such demonstrations.

3. ZIMCARE TRUST

(1) Background

Zimcare Trust is an apolitical and Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) that was founded in 1981. It is registered under the Private Voluntary Organisation Act [C 17.05]. Zimcare Trust has 14 centres through-out the country. 11 are centres specialising in the education of children with intellectual disabilities and the remaining three are responsible for equipping adults with intellectual disabilities with life skills. At one of the centres there is a section for old people. Ideally, children who graduate from the junior centres are enrolled in adult centres for vocational, practical and technical education. This is to enable them to graduate into independent and productive citizenry.

The total enrolment of both adults and children with Intellectual disabilities in Zimcare Trust at the time of writing this report stood at 1063. Out of this number 107 persons had additional health related impairments such as epilepsy. Over and above the health related challenges, some persons with Intellectual Disabilities also have additional sensory, visual and physical challenges which compound their execution of tasks given. Owing to the multiplicity of conditions that affect Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in

Zimcare Trust, the organisation has become a natural meeting ground for professionals coming from different disciplines such as health, education, psychology, counselling, and social work, among others. Zimcare Trust has received professionals from different disciplines into employment but has failed to retain some of them because of financial challenges.

Zimcare Trust is run by a Council. The council comprises councillors elected from the regions where the organisation has centres. The councillors are headed by a Chair. Councillors have a two year term in office and thereafter fresh nominations are done. The council is assisted to manage the organisation through a secretariat that is based at the Head Office in Harare. The key staff of the secretariat comprise the Director, a secretary, an Accountant, an Auditor and an Administrator.

Zimcare Trust's funders are Oak Foundations, the government of Zimbabwe and non -state actors that pay salaries for some categories of staff and fees for children in the centres. However, the complex needs of persons with intellectual disabilities in Zimcare Trust are far from being adequately addressed as staff may sometimes go without salaries and also some children sometimes go without their medication for epilepsy because of financial challenges.

Vision of Zimcare Trust

The vision of Zimcare Trust is to educate and care for persons with intellectual challenges. The education component embraces issues of rehabilitation and habilitation so that persons with intellectual challenges can lead meaningful and productive lives.

Mission

It is the mission of the organisation to be the leading organisation in the provision of education, care and support for persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Zimbabwe. Ultimately, Zimcare Trust aims to help persons with intellectual disabilities to do more and be more, and depend less on their communities.

Strategies

In order to realise its goals Zimcare Trust is actively involved in lobbying for the recognition of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. The lobbying is done through partnerships with other Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOS) and the desk on Disability in the President's office; this is done yearly through Disability Expo Functions. Lobbying, upstream engagements, public relations and negotiations with the powers –that- be constitute advocacy work for Zimcare Trust on behalf of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Education, rehabilitation and habilitation are other strategies that are being used by the organisation as the fulcrum to realise the success goals of the organisation.

4. Community Development Programmes

The organisation is involved in capital generating projects which involve persons with intellectual disabilities. Some of these projects are taking place in its adult centres which involve coffin making, carpentry, agriculture, gardening, poultry, pottery and sewing, among others. Persons with intellectual disabilities are actively involved in these projects as project participants and also as students. These projects help them to be capable and able where independent living is concerned.

5. Situation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis of persons with intellectual disabilities is done by psychologists with the assistance of the significant others of the persons with intellectual disabilities, for example, parents of children with disabilities.

Education

After psychologists have done their assessments of persons with disabilities they then recommend them for educational placement. The placement can be, depending on the severity of the impairment a special school, resource unit, special class or an ordinary school.

Vocational training

Vocational training for persons with intellectual disabilities in Zimbabwe is largely found in Zimcare Trust Adult centres and also in some agricultural colleges. The prospects for employment for people with intellectual disabilities are very slim because of negative attitudes by employers.

Government Agencies

The following ministries usually work in intimate cahoots where issues of people with disabilities are concerned, Health, Finance, Labour and Social Services, Primary and Secondary education and Higher and Tertiary Education. For example the ministry of finance disburses money to the ministry of Labour and Social Services for the disabled persons' grants. The latter ministry also administers laws to do with disability and further engages with the ministry of Primary and Secondary education where the disbursement of the Basic Education Assistance Module is concerned.

NGOs concerned with Intellectual Disabilities.

There are 70 DPOs in Zimbabwe. Of these DPOs, ZIMCARE Trust and Tose largely stand out as focusing on Intellectual Disabilities. There are, however organisations whose foci are not on intellectual disabilities but have areas that straddle intellectual disabilities like organisations that major on persons with epilepsy, autism, mental illness and multiple disabilities

6. Issues to solve in order to conduct effective supports for PWIDs

In order to solve issues that concern effective supports for PWIDs there is need for specific legislation on PWIDs, political will, funding and collaboration between and among state and non-state actors. Both actors should be under obligation to respect, promote, protect and fulfil the rights of PWIDs. In the absence of laws that speak to the rights of PWIDs and obligations on the part of governments for PWIDs it will be difficult to provide necessary resources for PWIDs and also to change societal attitudes towards PWIDs. Wide scale research has shown that legislation has the potential to change attitudes of society towards PWIDs.