

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN ZIMBABWE

1.* The current statistical picture of children in Zimbabwe is as follows:

- There are 5,631,274 children in Zimbabwe (census, 2002)
- 1.3 million Children are orphans (Survey on Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Rural & Urban High Density Zimbabwe 2004/2005)
- 12500 children are living and working on the streets (*Department of Social Welfare*)
- 5000 children live in institutions (*Department of Social Welfare*)
- There are 48223 child headed households in Zimbabwe housing 102 233 children (*Government of Zimbabwe , UNICEF National Strategic PLAN for the education of Girls, OVC 2005-2010*)
- 165 000 children are living with HIV and AIDS (*Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Estimates, 2003 (Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Centre for Disease Control and UNAIDS 2003)*)

2. Responses to the impact of HIV and AIDS on Children

2.1 International Context

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the CRC and national responses to the situation of particularly OVC are guided by the following Core principles of the Convention:

- Non-discrimination (article 2)
- Best interests of the child (article 3)
- Right to life, survival and development (article 6)
- Respect for the views of the child (article 12)

United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS) 2001

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the UNGASS declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS WHOSE GOALS 65, 66, and 67 directly target children orphaned by AIDS urging member states to develop national policies and strategies that build and strengthen the ability of governments, communities and families to support orphans and other vulnerable children by the year 2003.

2.2 Regional Context

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Zimbabwe is a signatory to this first regional child rights treaty which came into force in 1999.

2.3 National context

Child protection legislation

- Education Act
- Child Protection and Adoption Act
- Guardianship of Minors Act
- Maintenance Act
- Sexual Offences Act

Organisation	Province Covered	Programmatic Areas
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Child Care policies

The following are the policies governing child care:

- The Zimbabwe Orphan Care Policy-1999
- The Zimbabwe National AIDS Strategic Policy
- National Gender Policy
- National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (NAP for OVC)

Current Child Protection programmes

- Basic Education Assistance Module (Co- funded by the Ministry Of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare and NAC)
- National AIDS Trust Fund administered by the by the National AIDS Council
- Zunde Ramambo -a food security programme funded and monitored by NAC and implemented by Chiefs and their communities.
- Public Works Fund, Drought relief, Assisted Medical Treatment Order(Targets children among other vulnerable groups)
- National Strategy on children in difficult circumstances
- Programme of Support for the NAP for OVC
- Other programmes by NGOs, FBOS and CBOs

Programme of Support for the National AP FOR OVC

To complement on going work with OVC a basket fund has been mobilized for the implementation of the NAP for OVC. Implementation of programmes under the Programme of support is monitored by the Ministry of Public Service, NAC and UNICEF.

- So far has raised US\$70 Million
- So far funded by SIDA and DFID -still mobilizing other development partners to put money into the basket
- Initial funding period is three years
- Twenty one organisations to be funded for the next three years have been identified

Thematic Coverage

- Education assistance
- Health and nutrition
- Psychosocial support
- Birth registration
- Legal support
- Capacity development
- Water and sanitation
- Prevention of HIV transmission
- Economic strengthening
- Support to children living with disabilities
- Support Deported Child illegal immigrants
- Food security
- Early Childhood Development and Education

Approved Organisations for POS funding: Geographic and Thematic Coverage

1. Batsirai Group	Mashonaland West	Education, Health and Nutrition, PSS, Birth Registration, Legal Support, Treatment of Opportunistic infections, Capacity development
2. Mavambo Orphan Care	Harare	Educational support , Psychosocial support, Birth registration, Capacity development
3. Save the Children Norway - Zimbabwe	Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Mashonaland Central, Midlands,	Mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS on children, Support to deported child illegal immigrants
4. Christian Care	Manicaland, Midlands, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West	Nutrition support, Water and sanitation
5. CARE International	Masvingo, Midlands	Education, Food Security, Health and Sanitation, Psychosocial Support, and Economic Security
6. Action Aid International Zimbabwe	Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Matabeleland South	Access to food, health, water and sanitation, Birth registration, Psychological support, Prevention HIV transmission, Capacity development
7. Hospice Association of Zimbabwe (HOSPAZ)	National Coverage	Capacity Development in Home based Care and Palliative Care Training
8. Mvuramanzi Trust	Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West	Education, Access to food, health, water and sanitation
9. Family AIDS Caring Trust	Manicaland	Education, Access to food, health, water and sanitation, Psychosocial Support, Birth Registration,
10. Lutheran Development Service	Matabeleland South	Education, Psychosocial Support, Birth Registration, Income Generation
11. Biomedical Research and Training Institute (Girls)	Midlands, Mashonaland Central, Matabeleland North	Operations Research, Psychosocial Support, Income Generation, Programming for adolescent girls
12. GOAL Zimbabwe	Mashonaland West, Manicaland	Food Security, Education
13. Family Support Trust	Harare, Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Bulawayo, Matabeleland South	HIV/AIDS prevention, Protection from abuse, Psychosocial Support, Health Assistance,
14. World Vision International	Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, Midlands, Manicaland	Food Security, Health Assistance, Education
15. J:F: Kapnek Trust	Mashonaland West	Education, Early Childhood Development, ECD
16. Farm Orphan Support Trust of Zimbabwe	Mashonaland Central, Manicaland	Food Security, Psychosocial Support, Education
17. Midlands AIDS Service Organisation	Midlands	Education, Healthy Family Environment, Psychosocial Support, Access to food, health, water and sanitation
18. Save the Children (UK)	Matabeleland North, Mashonaland West	Access to food, health, water and sanitation, Child Participation, Psychosocial Support, Programming for adolescent children
19. National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped	National Coverage	Holistic support to children with disabilities
20. Hope for the Child in Christ	Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Bulawayo	Education, Food Security, Psychosocial Support

21. Catholic Relief Service	Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, Matabeleland North	Reproductive health, Food Security, Education, Psychosocial Support
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NAC - Coordinating the multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe