



# Zimbabwe



## Introduction to ZIMBABWE

THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE's recent history has been dictated by President Robert Mugabe, the nation's only ruler since independence in 1980. Mugabe's controversial land-distribution policies caused nearly all of the nation's white population to flee and threw the nation into economic upheaval. The political situation shows signs of stabilizing, though it is too early to tell when life will improve for the citizens of this landlocked nation in southern Africa.

## The ZIMBABWEAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	11,392,629
<b>Children under 15:</b>	4,997,047
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	45.77 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$200
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	87.8%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	9 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	90.7%
<b>Internet users:</b>	1.421 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	1.655 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	English, Shona, Sindebele, others

## Risk issues impacting children:

- The HIV/AIDS epidemic has assumed staggering proportions. Approximately one-fifth of Zimbabwean children have lost a parent; most orphaned by AIDS.
- More than half the population lives on less than \$1 a day.
- Zimbabwe's educational system has recently deteriorated, with attendance falling by about 25%.

## More about ZIMBABWE

<b>Capital city:</b>	Harare
<b>Type of government:</b>	Parliamentary Democracy
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	390,757
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly high plateau with higher central plateau, mountains in east
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Agriculture, mining, steel
<b>National motto:</b>	"Unity, Freedom, Work"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Harare

## Reaching ZIMBABWE

Currently classified as World C: Christian

### Major religions:

- Syncretic (Christian and Indigenous) - 50%
- Christian - 25%
- Indigenous - 24%
- Muslim - 1%

### Christian groups:

- Independent - 50.8%
- Protestant - 24.5%
- Roman Catholic - 12.2%
- Other - 8.7%
- Anglican - 3.8%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	3 (0.1% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.061
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	222,258
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	2,900
<b>Per million:</b>	221.04
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	6,000
<b>Per million:</b>	457.33
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	22,748

## Children's ministry in ZIMBABWE

**Overview:** • There is a small but well-established group of children's leaders and churches doing holistic children's ministry.

- However, convincing all church leaders that children's ministry is important is difficult, as the concept does not always line up with the culture.
- There is a lack of training opportunities and resources necessary to reach all children in the country for Christ.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**22,748** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**4,997,047** children for Christ