



2023 WORLD POPULATION DAY STATEMENT

The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) joins the international community in celebrating World Population Day, a day that was established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The World Population Day is observed on 11th July every year to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health and human rights. This year's theme focuses on how to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now and putting the brakes on COVID-19.

Zimbabwe recently approved the Marriages Act which prohibits the marriage of children under the age of 18, and the Government has rolled-out a successful programme to protect girls and young women against sexual abuse and exploitation that is the Spotlight Initiative. Women and girls in Zimbabwe continue to confront many challenges to achieve their full potential.

Today, on the occasion of the World Population Day 2023, ZIMSTAT reflects upon the current demographic trends in Zimbabwe's population. Zimbabwe, continues to experience notable changes in its population. As of 20th April 2022, the total population of Zimbabwe was **15,178,957**, with a diverse mix of cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. Women constituted 52 percent of the population. The sex ratio stood at **92** males for every 100 females. This growing population presents both opportunities and various challenges that require attention and action.

One of the key demographic trends in Zimbabwe is the ongoing reduction in mortality rates which has been observed over the years. This positive trend emphasizes the importance of further strengthening healthcare systems and ensuring the well-being of all individuals. The 2022 Population and Housing Census revealed that the Crude Death Rate was 8.0 deaths per 1,000 persons down from 10.2 in 2012. The Infant Mortality Rate was 24.2 deaths per 1,000 live births down from 64 in 2012. Child Mortality Rate was 15.6 deaths per 1,000 live births down from 24 in 2012. Under 5 Mortality Rate was 39.7 deaths per 1,000 live births down from 84 in 2012. The Maternal Mortality Ratio was 362 deaths per 100,000 live births down

from 525 in 2012. Life expectancy at birth, was **64.7** years, an increase from **38** years in 2012.

Additionally, fertility patterns in Zimbabwe have witnessed significant changes. Although the total fertility rate has declined over the past years, it remains relatively high. The 2022 Population and Housing Census further revealed that the Crude Birth Rate for Zimbabwe was 28.9 births per 1,000 population down from 32 in 2012. The General Fertility Rate (GFR) for Zimbabwe was 115 births per 1,000 women of reproductive ages. The Total Fertility Rate was 3.7, down from 3.8 in 2012. The national Gross Reproduction Rate was 1.8.

Migration is another noteworthy demographic factor in Zimbabwe. Economic and social factors have led to both internal and external migration trends within the country. While some individuals seek opportunities elsewhere, others migrate to urban centres in search of better livelihoods. Understanding and managing migration patterns is crucial for effective planning and resource allocation, ensuring the equitable development of both rural and urban areas.

As we observe World Population Day 2023, it is essential to recognize the importance of responsible population management. By considering factors such as mortality, fertility, and migration, Zimbabwe can strive towards sustainable development, ensuring that every citizen enjoys a good quality of life and has access to essential services, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

On this day, we extend our gratitude to Government Ministries and Departments, Development Partners and individuals working tirelessly to improve population dynamics and promote sustainable development in Zimbabwe. Let us all come together to create a future where every individual can thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.

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