The 2013 national youth policy defines youth as persons between 15 and 35 years of age. This age range is stipulated in the new Constitution and is also in line with the continental definition of youth as defined in the African Youth Charter.

### DEFINITION OF YOUTH

A revised national youth policy was published in 2013.

### DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The 2013 national youth policy defines youth as persons between 15 and 35 years of age. This age range is stipulated in the new Constitution and is also in line with the continental definition of youth as defined in the African Youth Charter.

### SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

- **2013:** 0.46 (127 out of 170 countries)

#### LITERACY RATES

- **2015:** 91.73% (Both sexes: 89.96% Male, 93.49% Female)

#### NET ENROLMENT RATE

- **2003:** 35.40% (Secondary School: 36.74% Male, 34.06% Female)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **Minimum Age:** From 7-14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 7 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. Source: Criminal Law of Zimbabwe (2005)

### VOTING AGE

- **Male:** 18
- **Female:** 18

### MAJORITY AGE

- **Male:** 18
- **Female:** 18

### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

- **Literacy Rates:** 91.73% (Both sexes: 89.96% Male, 93.49% Female)
- **Net Enrolment Rate:** 35.40% (Secondary School: 36.74% Male, 34.06% Female)
- **Vote Unemployment:** Share of labor force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

Comparing the two versions of the youth policy, there appears to be no major difference in the texts. In 2013 the definition of youth shifted from ages 10-30 to 15-35, in line with the 2013 Constitution. The revised version places more emphasis on mainstreaming youth throughout all ministries. It principle guidelines are derived from existing national and international frameworks, such as the AYC, the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).

Other youth legislation includes the Decent Work Country Programme for Zimbabwe (DWCP), launched in 2013 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Services and the Social Partners. It aims to combat the high levels of youth unemployment through initiatives such as the Skills for Youth Employment and Rural Development programme.

### BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or education?
The Department of Youth of the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation & Economic Empowerment is in charge of “mainstreaming youth in all national development policies and programmes” and to oversee the implementation of the national youth policy. The Department’s website lists three main areas of responsibility:
- Vocational Skills training;
- Programming;
- National Youth Service.

The Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) assists government in the formulation of youth policies and monitors its implementation. It also supports youth organisations and clubs across the country.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) is a quasi-governmental organization administered by the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation & Economic Empowerment. It consists of 15 board members, of which seven are elected by registered Youth Associations, the remaining appointed by the Minister. It is responsible for registering youth organisations, clubs and trusts. The National Association of Youth Organisations is an umbrella body currently including 82 youth organisations. It promotes the role of youth in community and the development process.

BUDGET & SPENDING

The 2014 Estimates of Expenditure lists the budget for the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment as USD 44.5 million (figures given in USD only). However, there is no specific breakdown for youth expenditure. According to the World Bank, Zimbabwe spent 8.26% of its government expenditure and 2.50% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) assists government in the formulation of youth policies and monitors its implementation. It also supports youth organisations and clubs across the country.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

USD 44.5 MILLION

The 2014 Estimates of Expenditure lists the budget for the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment as USD 44.5 million (figures given in USD only). However, there is no specific breakdown for youth expenditure. According to the World Bank, Zimbabwe spent 8.26% of its government expenditure and 2.50% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

No Data

Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about Zimbabwe