Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Zimbabwe

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Zimbabwe was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – late February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- The population of Zimbabwe increased from 3.7 million in 1960, via 10.4 million in 1990, to 14.8 million in 2020. Due to a political and economic crisis after Independence in 1980, 0.9 million Zimbabweans lived outside their country of birth in 2015, many of them in South Africa.
- Zimbabwe's literacy rate is high for African standards: 89% in 2014. The mean years of education for adults increased from 4.5 in 1990 to 8.3 in 2018.
- Net primary school enrolment is high as well, currently 94%, while net secondary school enrolment stood at 49%. The expected years of education for children only slowly increased: from 9.8 years in 1990 to 10.5 years in 2018.
- For most indicators capital city Harare shows the best performance, and Matabeleland (North and/or South) the worst. But for expected years of schooling the position of best region has shifted to Bulawayo (capital city of Matabeleland) in and after 2000.
- Gross enrolment for tertiary education was 10% in 2015, with slightly better enrolment figures for men compared to women. This means that 130,000 students study at Zimbabwe's higher education institutions. But there are also 17,000 students abroad, mostly in South Africa.
- There are currently 13 public and 6 private tertiary knowledge institutions in Zimbabwe, while there was only one (public) university in 1960, and only two in 1990.
- Bulawayo and Harare lead in terms of absolute and relative numbers of tertiary knowledge institutions, but between 1992 and 2017 the Zimbabwean government established at least one public university in each of the ten regions of the country.

Zimbabwe also has some think tanks (we listed six of them), and quite a lot of museums (we listed 23).

Part 1: The Story

Zimbabwe's demographic and education development

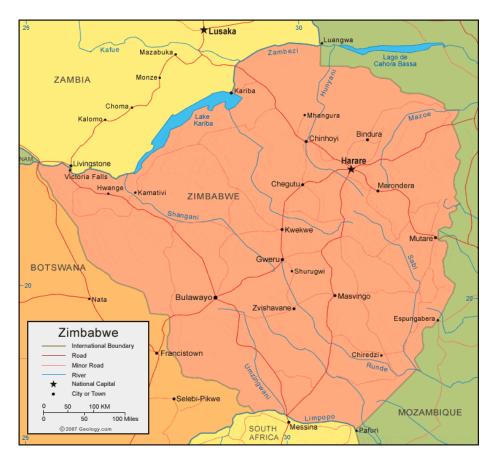
The Republic of Zimbabwe is located in the south of Africa, bordered by Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa and Botswana.

Zimbabwe was a British possession from 1890 onwards, first under the British South Africa Company, from 1923 as Southern Rhodesia, and between 1953 and 1963 as part of the British Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In 1965 White settlers declared unilateral Independence under the name of Rhodesia, after the Independence of Northern Rhodesia/Zambia, and Nyasaland/Malawi in 1964. After a war of liberation by the black majority, the country became fully independent in 1980 as Zimbabwe, but it was followed by a civil war between political groups based in Mashonaland with those in Matabeleland, and later by a severe economic crisis and political turmoil.

Zimbabwe's population increased from 3.7 million in 1960 to 14.8 million in mid-2020. In 1960, only 12.5% of the Zimbabwean population lived in cities (only 472,478 people), while the urban population has increased to 38.4% or 5,7 million nowadays. Zimbabwe's largest city is Harare.

Zimbabwe's life expectancy increased from 53 years for males and 56 years for females in 1960 to 61 years for males and 64 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 17.2 years in 1960 to 15.1 years in 1980. Since then, it started to increase and is presently 18.7 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 7 live-born children, which increased to 7.4 in 1970-1975. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 3.6 live-born children¹.

^{1 &}lt;a href="https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/zimbabwe-population/">https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/zimbabwe-population/



Source: Geology.com

Literacy and enrolment

Zimbabwe's adult literacy rate was 89% in 2014, more or less the same for men and for women. However, among the elderly, and among the youth, there still is an imbalance, with men being more literate than women for the elderly, and the other way around for the youth. Of the youth (15-24 years old) 167,959 males and 99,261 females were regarded as illiterate in 2014. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 386,376 for males and 497,856 for females.

Zimbabwe's population of primary school age children (6-12 years) is about 2.8 million children². Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 12 (7 years). Currently, 94.1% of the primary school age group attend primary school. Children with the age to attend secondary school (13-18) are 2 million. 48.7% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2013): males 48.9% and females at 48.5%. Finally, 1.3 million people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 19 and 23). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education increased from 6.7% in 2010 to 10% in 2015 with females at 9.1%, and males at 10.9%. This means that 130,000 students study at higher education institutions in Zimbabwe. In addition, there are many Zimbabweans, who study abroad. We copy an assessment made by Paul Schulmann in 2017: "Zimbabwe sent 16,563 degree-seeking students abroad. More than 10,000 of those went to South Africa. The U.S., with 1,268

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² http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/zw

students, was Zimbabweans second leading destination"³. They are part of a large Zimbabwean diaspora community abroad, who left the country or fled because of the political and economic crisis. UN Migration data show that there were 168,000 Zimbabweans abroad in 1990 (62,000 in South Africa), and that has increased to 856,000 in 2015: 475,000 in South Africa, 133,000 in the UK, 50,000 in the USA, 39,000 in Australia, and tens of thousands each in the neighbouring countries. Many former White settlers and their children went back to the UK, or migrated in Australia and elsewhere.

Regional differentiation of education results in Zimbabwe, 1990-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (https://globaldatalab.org/shdi, 4.0) provides data for the period between 1990 and 2018, and uses ten regions. Between 1990 and 2018 the population of Zimbabwe as a whole increased with 138%, but regional differences are considerable: from 159% in Mashonaland Central to only 109% in Matabeleland North, 118% in Bulawayo and 119% in Matabeleland South, an area that is politically suppressed. See table 1 in part 2.

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of schooling, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools.

We present the data for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 2-4 in part 2.

Education index

The education index (one of the elements of the human development index) increased from .422 to .568 for Zimbabwe as a whole, and the improvements have been consistent throughout the 1990-2018 period, despite the economic and political crisis in the country. Also all ten regions experienced a consistent improvement, although with the fastest improvements in Mashonaland West, and the slowest improvements in the capital city Harare, always the best region, and as a result the regional inequality has somewhat diminished. The position of worst region shifted from Matabeleland North in 1990, to Mashonaland Central in 2000, back to Matabeleland North in 2010, and then to Matabeleland South, part of the politically neglected southwest of the country.

Mean Years of Education for Adults

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades"⁴. So it is an indicator of past education

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³ African Student Mobility: Regional Trends and Recommendations for U.S. HEIs March 7, 2017 Paul Schulmann, Senior Research Associate, World Education Services.

⁴ http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling

performance. For Zimbabwe that indicators shows considerable progress. For the country as a whole it goes from 4.5 years in 1990 to 8.3 years in 2018. Also all ten regions show a consistent improvement during this period, with Harare always leading, and Matabeleland North almost always in last position (with the exception of 2000, when Mashonaland Central had the worst score. During the 28-year period Masvingo showed the fastest progress, and Harare the slowest progress, but that region started at a relatively high level in 1990. Regional inequality continuously decreased.

Expected Years of Education for Children

UNDP defines the 'expected years of schooling' as the: "Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life"⁵. For Zimbabwe as a whole this indicator shows only meagre progress between 1990 and 2018 (from 9.8 years to 10.5 years, but these are relatively high figures for Africa), and for some regions stagnation (e.g. Mashonaland East, and Midlands), and ups and downs. The best region shifted from Harare to Bulawayo in 2000 and afterwards. The worst region was Matabeleland North and that shifted to Matabeleland South between 2000 and 2018. In 2000 also Mashonaland Central shared that worst position. Regional inequality is modest, and more or less stable.

Zimbabwe's tertiary knowledge development

Zimbabwe currently has 19 universities or other tertiary institutions. There are 13 public ones and 6 private ones; a few of them with a religious background. University education only started in 1952. The number of private tertiary institutions started to grow from 1995. There are also some think tanks (all in Harare) and museums in Zimbabwe (more spread out in the country). The 4icu ranking of African universities lists the University of Zimbabwe, the Africa University and the Midlands State University as among the 200 top universities of Africa.

Historically the development of the number of universities is as given in the following table.

Zimbabwe's universities and other tertiary institutions 1960 – 2020

Туре	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	1	1	1	2	4	8	10	10	11	13
Private	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	5	6
Total	1	1	1	2	5	10	13	13	16	19

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (https://www.4icu.org/bj/, and https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/), World Higher Education Database

(https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Public and private universities in Zimbabwe

See tables 5, 6 and 7

⁵ http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years



University of Zimbabwe⁶



Africa University⁷



Midlands State University⁸

The regional distribution of Zimbabwe's tertiary knowledge institutions shows a dominance in absolute and relative numbers in Bulawayo and Harare, but after 1991 the Zimbabwean government established at least one public higher education institution in each of the ten regions, with Matabeleland South and Mashonaland East being the latest additions, in 2012 and 2017 respectively. Zimbabwe has relatively few private tertiary institutions, and the large majority of the Zimbabwean students study at public institutions.

⁶ https://www.uz.ac.zw/

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_University

⁸ https://www.africa-press.com/zimbabwe/tag/midlands-state-university

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Zimbabwe

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there are 26 think tanks or research institutes in Zimbabwe, outside the university system, but only for six of them further details have been given. See table 8.

UNESCO estimated the number of researchers in Zimbabwe at 209/million in 2012 (25% female), which would mean almost 3,000 scholars. The large majority (92%) worked in higher education institutions, and the remaining 8% in other government jobs⁹.

Museums in Zimbabwe

Most museums in Zimbabwe are historical cultural museums, and with locations in various parts of the country. In table 9 we give a list of 23 museums in Zimbabwe.



Great Zimbabwe Museum¹⁰

⁹ http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/zw?theme=science-technology-and-innovation

¹⁰ https://www.greatzimbabweruins.com/images/Great-Zimbabwe-Ruins.jpg

Part 2: The Data

Map and table 1: Regions and Population

Мар	Region / Région	Popula	tion x	'18/
		1000		'90
		1990	2018	
	Bulawayo	560	660	1.18
Mashona	Harare	1460	2050	1.40
Mashonaland Central	Manicaland	1510	2090	1.38
West Bindura (Market Last)	Mashonaland C.	880	1400	1.59
Mas Es	Mashonaland E.	1090	1470	1.35
Lupane Marpindera Mutare	Mashonaland W.	1170	1720	1.47
Midlands	Masvingo	1140	1770	1.55
Manical Manical	Matabeleland N.	700	760	1.09
	Matabeleland S	590	700	1.19
Gwanda	Midlands	1340	1820	1.36
Matabeleland Masvingo				
South				
Total		10400	14400	1.38

Source: https://globaldatalab.org 4.0

Map:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c9/Administrative Divisions of Zimbab we.svg/1200px-Administrative Divisions of Zimbabwe.svg.png

Table 2: Zimbabwe: Education index 1990-2018¹¹

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bulawayo	490	584	599	668	1.36
Harare	532	606	606	673	1.27
Manicaland	396	462	528	534	1.35
Mashonaland C.	353	422	477	508	1.44
Mashonaland E.	420	458	522	550	1.31
Mashonaland W.	381	436	498	568	1.49
Masvingo	407	463	493	559	1.37
Matabeleland N.	344	429	444	499	1.45
Matabeleland S	377	455	475	494	1.31
Midlands	437	479	520	558	1.28
Total	422	488	523	568	1.35
Inequality	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	

Table 3: Zimbabwe, Regional data for 'mean years of schooling for adults'

 $^{^{11}}$ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bulawayo	6.1	8.4	8.8	10.5	1.72
Harare	7.0	9.2	9.4	10.8	1.54
Manicaland	3.9	5.7	7.2	7.4	1.90
Mashonaland C.	3.3	5.1	6.3	7.0	2.12
Mashonaland E.	4.0	5.7	7.0	7.9	1.98
Mashonaland W.	3.9	5.6	6.9	8.3	2.13
Masvingo	3.6	5.6	6.3	7.7	2.14
Matabeleland N.	3.2	5.4	5.5	6.8	2.13
Matabeleland S	3.7	5.7	6.4	7.2	1.95
Midlands	4.7	6.4	7.0	8.3	1.77
Total	4.5	6.5	7.3	8.3	1.84
Inequality	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6	

Table 4: Zimbabwe, Regional data for 'expected years of schooling for children'

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Bulawayo	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.5	1.11
Harare	10.8	10.8	10.6	11.3	1.05
Manicaland	9.6	9.8	10.4	10.3	1.07
Mashonaland C.	8.8	9.0	9.7	9.9	1.13
Mashonaland E.	10.3	9.7	10.4	10.3	1.00
Mashonaland W.	9.1	8.9	9.7	10.5	1.15
Masvingo	10.3	10.0	10.2	10.9	1.06
Matabeleland N.	8.6	9.0	9.4	9.9	1.15
Matabeleland S	9.1	9.5	9.4	9.2	1.01
Midlands	10.1	9.5	10.3	10.1	1.00
Total	9.8	9.8	10.1	10.5	1.07
Inequality	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	

Table 5: Public universities in Zimbabwe

University	Year of	Location
	establishment	
University Of Zimbabwe (University College of Rhodesia &	1952	Harare
Nyasaland, University of Rhodesia) (https://www.uz.ac.zw/)		
(4icu rank: 1 in Zimbabwe, 72 in Africa (top 200 list))		
Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) (National Vocational	1988	Harare
Training Centre (NVTC)) (https://www.hit.ac.zw/) (4 icu		
rank: 10 in Zimbabwe)		
National University of Science and Technology	1991	Bulawayo
(<u>https://www.nust.ac.zw/</u>) (4icu rank: 4 in Zimbabwe)		
Africa University (http://africau.edu/) (4icu rank: 2 in	1992	Mutare
Zimbabwe, 106 in Africa (top 200 list))		
Bindura University of Science Education	1996	Bindura
(https://www.buse.ac.zw/) (4icu rank: 6 in Zimbabwe)		
Great Zimbabwe University (Masvingo State University	1999	Masvingo
(MASU))(https://www.gzu.ac.zw/work-related-learning-		
home/) (4icu rank: 7 in Zimbabwe)		
Zimbabwe Open University (http://www.zou.ac.zw/)	1999	Harare

Midlands State University (https://ww5.msu.ac.zw/) (4icu rank: 3 in Zimbabwe, 149 in Africa (top 200 list))	1999	Gweru
Chinhoyi University of Technology (Chinhoyi Technical Teachers' College) (http://cut.ac.zw/welcome/) (4icu rank: 5 in Zimbabwe)	2001	Chinhoyi
Lupane State University (http://www.lsu.ac.zw/) (4 icu rank: 8 in Zimbabwe)	2005	Lupane
Gwanda State University (http://www.gsu.ac.zw/) (4 icu rank: 15 in Zimbabwe)	2012	Filabusi
Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences (http://www.msuas.ac.zw/) (4icu rank: 18 in Zimbabwe)	>2015	Mutare
Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (https://muast.ac.zw/) (4 icu rank: 17 in Zimbabwe)	2017	Marondera

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (https://www.4icu.org/bj/, and https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/), World Higher Education Database

(https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 6: Private Universities in Zimbabwe

University AND ITS WEBSITE (IF AVAILABLE AND WORKING; CHECK!) AND 4ICU RANK, IF GIVEN	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation
Solusi-Universiteit (https://www.solusi.ac.zw/) (4 icu	1994 (1894)	Bulawayo	Yes
rank: 12 in Zimbabwe)			
Catholic University of Zimbabwe	1999	Harare	Yes
(http://www.cuz.ac.zw/) (4 icu rank: 13 in Zimbabwe)			
Women's University in Africa (http://www.wua.ac.zw/)	2002	Bulawayo	No
(4 icu rank: 9 in Zimbabwe)			
Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University	2012	Bindura	Yes
(https://www.zegu.ac.zw/) (4 icu rank: 11 in Zimbabwe)			
Reformed Church University (https://www.rcu.ac.zw/) (4	2012	Masvingo	Yes
icu rank: 14 in Zimbabwe)			
Arrupe Jesuit University (AJU) (formerly Arrupe College)	2018 (1994)	Harare	Yes
(https://www.aju.ac.zw/) (4 icu rank: 16 in Zimbabwe)			

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (https://www.4icu.org/bj/, and https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/), World Higher Education Database

(https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 7: Regional distribution of tertiary knowledge institutions in Zimbabwe

Region	Public	Private	Total	Number per
				million
				inhabitants
Bulawayo	1	2	3	4.5
Harare	3	2	5	2.4
Manicaland (Mutare)	2	0	2	1.0
Mashonaland C. (Bindura)	1	1	2	1.4
Mashonaland E. (Marondera)	1	0	1	0.7
Mashonaland W. (Chinhoyi)	1	0	1	0.6
Masvingo (Masvingo)	1	1	2	1.1
Matabeleland N. (Lupane)	1	0	1	1.3

Matabeleland S (Filabusi)	1	0	1	1.4
Midlands (Gweru)	1	0	1	0.5
Total	13	6	19	1.3

Table 8: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Zimbabwe

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) (https://www.acbf-	1991	Harare
pact.org/) Institute of Environmental Studies (IES)	1994	Harare
(https://www.uz.ac.zw/index.php/faculties-units/institutes- units/1023-institute-of-environmental-studies)	1994	Пагаге
African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) (https://www.afrodad.org/index.php/en/)	1996	Harare
Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI) (http://mefmi.org/)	1997 (1994)	Harare
Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS) (http://aiastrust.org/)	2002	Harare
Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU) (http://www.zeparu.co.zw/)	2003	Harare

(Sources; https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report); https://africathinktanks.org/think-tanks

Table 9: Museums in Zimbabwe

Museums	websites	Location
Bulawayo Railway Museum	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulawayo_Railway_Museum	Bulawayo
Discovereu m	http://www.discovereum.org/	Harare
EAG Art Museum	https://www.lonelyplanet.com/zimbabwe/masvingo/attractions/eag-art-museum/a/poi-sig/1551008/1328080	Masvingo
First Floor Gallery Harare	https://www.firstfloorgalleryharare.com/	Harare
Gallery Delta	http://zimfieldguide.com/harare/gallery-delta	Harare
Great Zimbabwe Museum	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Zimbabwe_Museum	Masvingo
Joshua Nkomo	https://joshuankomolegacy.org/portfolio-item/joshua-nkomo-revolutionary-house-museum-in-phelandaba-township-bulawayo/	Bulawayo

Museum		
Jafuta Heritage Center	http://www.elephantswalk.com/heritage.htm	Victoria Falls
Kambako Living Museum	https://singita.com/lodges-and-camps/kambako-living-museum/	Masvingo
Mutare Museum	http://zimfieldguide.com/manicaland/mutare-museum	Mutare
National Gallery of Zimbabwe	https://web.archive.org/web/20070717003315/http://www.nationalgallery.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=57	Harare
National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Bulawayo	http://www.nationalgallerybyo.com/	Bulawayo
National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Mutare	http://zimfieldguide.com/manicaland/mutare-national-gallery-zimbabwe-kopje-house	Mutare
National Mining Museum	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National Mining Museum, Zimbabwe	Kwekwe
Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe	https://naturalhistorymuseumzimbabwe.com/	Bulawayo
Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition	https://www.lonelyplanet.com/zimbabwe/eastern-zimbabwe/nyanga-national-park/attractions/rhodes-nyanga-historical-exhibition/a/poisig/1282026/355725	Nyanga
Utopia House	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia_House	Mutare
Zimbabwe Military Museum	http://www.mygweru.com/what-to-do/zimbabwe-military-museum/	Gweru
Zimbabwe Museum of Human	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zimbabwe Museum of Human Sciences	Harare

Sciences		
Paper House	http://zimfieldguide.com/midlands/paper-house-including-national-mining-museum	Kwekwe
Old Bulawayo	https://naturalhistorymuseumzimbabwe.com/old-bulawayo/	Bulawayo
Aviation	?	Gweru
Landa Nkomo Museum	?	Bulawayo

(source: Wikipedia:	Museums, and other sources, like https://www.arts-store.com/mus%C3%A9es
museums-world-1/)	. Not included: cultural centres

This report was made by Anne van Gent, African Studies Centre Leiden, and extended by Ton Dietz (ASCLeiden as well).