

Recent estimates suggest that between 2011 and 2017 extreme poverty (measured at the international extreme poverty line of US\$ 2011 PPP 1.9 per person per day) rose from 21 to 30 percent. Poverty measured at US\$ PPP 3.2 increased from 47 to 58 percent while the poverty gap at US\$ 1.9 increased from 5.2 to 8 percent. The national poverty rate (measured at the relatively high poverty line of US\$ PPP 4.7) decreased marginally from 72 to 70 percent).

The rise in poverty (using the 1.9 and 3.2 poverty lines) during 2011-2017 was caused by weak macro-economic management, exchange rate misalignment, and cash shortages, exacerbated by severe droughts during the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. Social safety nets are scattered across small programs and underfunded. Welfare inequality (measured by the Gini index) remained at 43 and is strongly influenced by large welfare differences between urban and rural areas: extreme poverty is more than 10 times higher in rural than urban areas. But inequality, while relatively high, remains among the lowest in the sub-region. Zimbabwe's high literacy rate, 89 percent in 2014, may contribute to the relatively low levels of inequality.

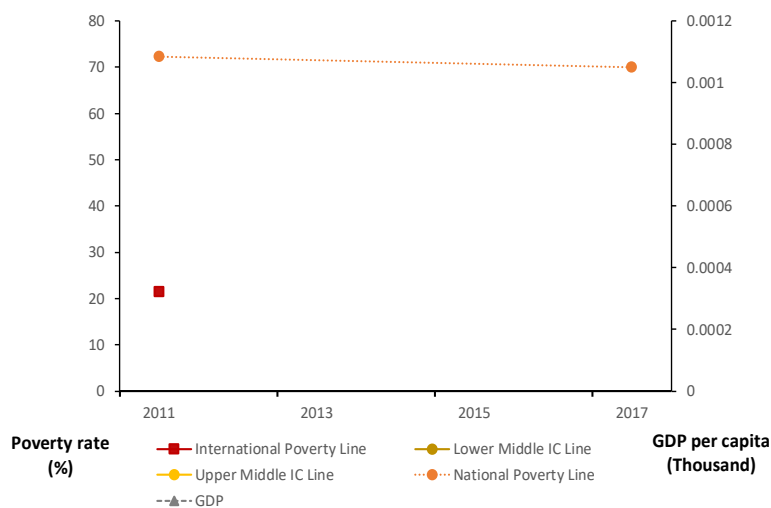
Poverty is likely to have risen further since 2017 given the sharp rises in food prices, which rose by 319% from June 2018 to June 2019. Together with poor rainfall in the 2018/2019 season, this increased the proportion of food insecure people to 51%, according to the ZIMVAC rapid assessment of January 2019. One tenth of rural households went without food for a whole day, about double the proportion of urban households, according to the mini-PICES 2019. Both the urban and rural population are affected. The Idai cyclone that impacted three provinces exacerbated the situation there. Food price inflation is driven by drought and depreciation of the local currency. Frequent electricity interruptions have started to negatively impacted mining, manufacturing, and agricultural production. Extreme poverty – measured at the national extreme poverty line of US\$ 2011 PPP 2.0 - is much higher in rural areas (41 percent) than urban areas (3.3 percent).

Extreme poverty is high in various remote and poorly connected but densely populated rural areas where agricultural production conditions are not optimal. These are mainly the 'communal lands' removed from main roads. Social service delivery outcomes in these areas are low, leading to severe spatial poverty traps.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	10.0	70.0	2017
International Poverty Line 3.5 in U.S. dollar (2011) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	3.0	21.4	2011
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 6 in U.S. dollar (2011) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	N/A	N/A	N/A
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 10.3 in U.S. dollar (2011) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	N/A	N/A	N/A
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		N/A	N/A
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		43.0	2011
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		N/A	N/A
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income		N/A	N/A

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

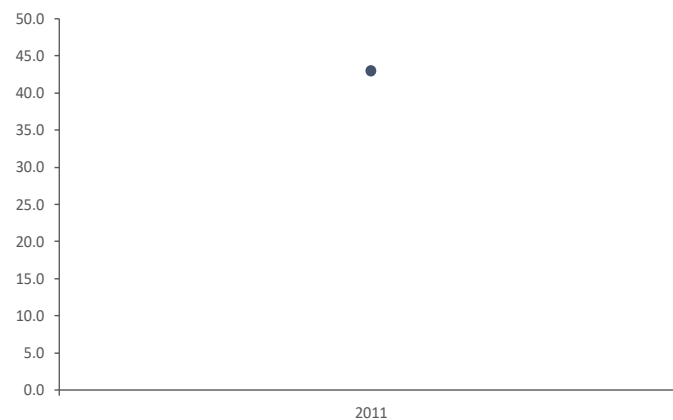
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2011-2017



Source: World Bank using PICES/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2011

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using PICES/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures (% of people):
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population				N/A	Monetary poverty
Rural population				N/A	Daily Consumption or income is less than US\$1.90 per person
Males				N/A	Education
Females				N/A	At least one school-age child is not enrolled in school
0 to 14 years old				N/A	No adult in the household has completed primary education
15 to 64 years old				N/A	Access to basic infrastructure
65 and older				N/A	No access to limited-standard drinking water
Without education (16+)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No access to limited-standard sanitation
Primary education (16+)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No access to electricity
Secondary education (16+)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Source: World Bank using PICES/SSAPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using PICES/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Household expenditure surveys were conducted in 1995, 2001, 2011, and 2017. Comparison of past official estimates of poverty should be treated with care, as there were some changes in methodology. The national general poverty line is relatively high (4.7 USD 2011 PPP), resulting in high poverty rates, while the national food poverty line is close to the international extreme poverty rate, suggesting that the non-food component of the poverty line requires further review. A new PICES survey was completed in 2017 with WB financial and technical support. A detailed agricultural productivity module was attached to the PICES and applied to a subsample of 2,500 farm households. New poverty estimates are likely to be released in March 2019 – based on the NSO's traditional approach - while a review of the poverty measurement methodology and robustness checks are foreseen for April/May 2019. In August 2018 a micro-data dissemination policy was gazetted, following an amendment of the Census and Statistics Act in 2017. Various anonymized microdata sets are likely to be released in spring 2019.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.