

Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

Zimbabwe

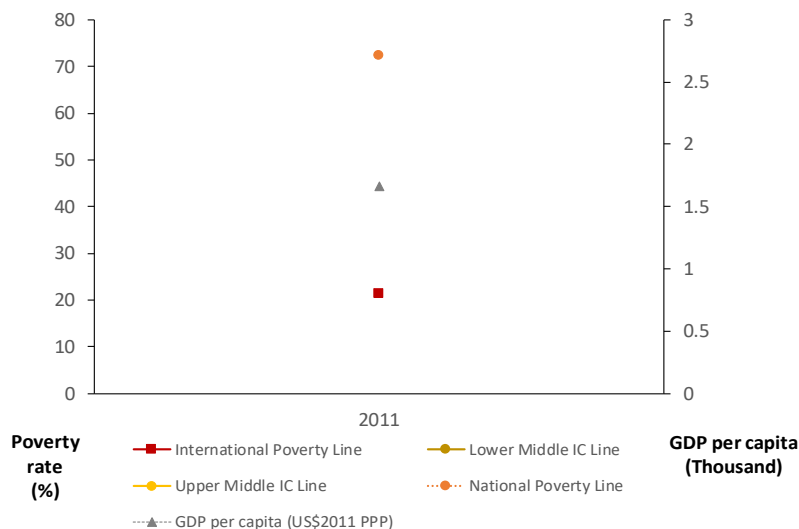
April 2019

Recent estimates suggest that between 2011 and 2017 extreme poverty – measured as those living under the national extreme poverty line of PPP US\$2.0 a day - may have risen by half: from 22.5 percent to 33 percent. Extreme poverty is much higher in rural areas (45 percent) than urban areas (6.5 percent). Poverty impacts caused by weak macro-economic management, exchange rate misalignment and cash shortages were exacerbated by severe droughts in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 which appear to have mostly impacted rural households. Welfare inequality (measured by the Gini index) went up from 43 in 2011 to 45 in 2017 and is strongly influenced by differences between urban and rural areas. The Gini index however remains among the lowest in the sub-region. Zimbabwe's high literacy rate, 89 percent in 2014, may have contributed to the relatively low levels of inequality. The 2012 extreme poverty map and population census data show that the highest ward level extreme poverty rates are found 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. Recent economic and political events in late 2018/early 2019 may have led to further impoverishment of the population. Rapid food price inflation (grain prices rose by 40% since October, and cooking oil by 100%) may have significantly increased the proportion of food insecure people to 51%, according to the ZIMVAC rapid assessment of January 2019. No significant difference between rural and urban areas was found. The same assessment suggests that poor and vulnerable households increasingly resort to negative coping strategies, such as taking children out of school (school attendance has dropped from 88% in 2017 to 72% in 2018). Growing difficulties to deliver public services, driven by high transport costs and a severe contraction in public servants' real wages, and demand from some providers (health) to be paid in US\$ is excluding a growing share of population from essential services.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	10.4	72.3	2011
International Poverty Line 3.5 in U.S. dollar (2011) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	3.1	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
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		1.0	2006-2011
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A

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

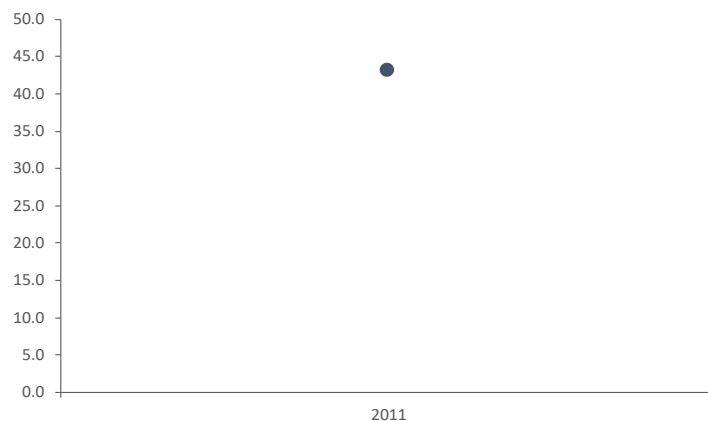
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2011



Source: World Bank using PICES/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2011

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using PICES/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population					n.a
Rural population					n.a
Males					n.a
Females					n.a
0 to 14 years old					n.a
15 to 64 years old					n.a
65 and older					n.a
Without education (age 16 and older)					n.a
Primary education (age 16 and older)					n.a
Secondary education (age 16 and older)					n.a
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)					n.a

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

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 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 NSOs 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 44 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.