Gender Profile: Zambia

General

Health
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 440
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 66.62
Under-five mortality rate for males: NA
Under-five mortality rate for females: NA
Births attended by a skilled health professional (2007) (WHO, 2014b): 46.5%
Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 10.1%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 15%

Education
Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.08%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education: NA

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education: NA


Percentage of female graduates from tertiary education: NA

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 53.1%

Teachers in secondary education who are female: NA

Teachers in tertiary education who are female: NA

**Economic Activity**

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 81%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 61%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 19%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 23%

**Decision-Making**

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 12%

**Human Rights**


Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 27%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 49.5%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 51.9%
Gender Gaps

Health
• Women are more vulnerable to HIV infection in Zambia. For example, Women’s eNews reported in 2011 that “Nkandu Luo, a renowned Zambian HIV and AIDS researcher and social activist, says current prevention programming is too general and misses some of the cultural pathways of the epidemic. She says misconceived beliefs – such as thinking that having sex with a virgin can cure AIDS – must be targeted” (Mweetwa, 2011, para. 12).

Education
• Figures from the Central Statistical Office indicate that in 2010, girls were almost twice as likely to drop out of school as boys; the national dropout rates were 1.88% for males and 2.71% for females (Central Statistical Office, 2012, p. 6).

• The Zambian government reported that in 2013 there were 12,500 pregnancies among primary school pupils and 2,428 in secondary schools. . . . [O]f these, 4,492 pupils were readmitted at primary school level while 1,337 secondary school learners were readmitted after delivering, representing a re-admission rate of less than 50 per cent” (Lusaka Times, 2014).

• According to Irish Aid (a division of the Irish government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), “27% of women in rural areas have no education compared to 18% of males. Pregnancy, early marriage and poverty are intrinsically linked and are the main challenges Zambian girls face in staying in school, particularly in rural areas” (Irish Aid, 2015).

Economic
• Figures from 2010 indicate an adult (aged 15 and above) workforce participation rate of 61% for women, compared with 81% for men (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010, p. 202).

• A 2013 report issued by the International Labour Office indicated that among Zambian young adults aged 15–29, “[y]oung females, in particular, have a harder time finding employment in Zambia. A gap of 9 percentage points exists between the unemployment rate of young women (42.7 per cent) and that of young men (33.8 per cent)”; in addition, 47.2% of young women remain unemployed continuously for more than a year, compared with 35.5% of young men (Chigunta, Chisup, & Elder p. 3).

Decision-Making
• A 2011 report by the UN Human Rights Council found: “In October 2009 the Government reported that Parliament had 22 elected female members out of a total of 150. In 2009, at Cabinet level 3 out of 26 portfolios were held by women. At the local government level, out of 1,422 councillors, 94 are women; there are four female town clerks or council secretaries and a handful of heads of department in the 72 councils across the country” (UN Human Rights Council, 2011, p. 5).

• Women’s eNews interviewed Zambian women who shed light on the barriers that discourage women from entering Zambian politics. One interviewee in 2011 stated: “There are women like us who really would love to join politics, but because there is no one to support us, we fail. . . . I am [illiterate], poor
and, above all, a woman. I don’t think anyone would support me” (Katongo, 2011, para. 3). According to another interviewee, “As women we have been brought up believing that men are our leaders. I don’t expect a woman to engage in political issues” (para. 13).

**Human Rights**

- In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council examined domestic violence in Zambia and found: “the available official statistics do not appear to reveal the true extent of the problem of domestic violence. In 2009, the Victim Support Unit of the Police Force reported, inter alia, 244 cases of rape, 188 cases of indecent assault, 45 cases of threats of violence, and 53 cases of use of insulting language. Looking closely at the data on rape, for example, the majority of reported cases, i.e. 131 out of the 244 mentioned above, had not reached the court. A number of barriers impede higher rates of reporting of incidents of domestic violence. Women prefer to conciliate with the perpetrator mostly because of family and social pressures and because of economic dependence on the perpetrator. Access to the formal justice system is difficult for a variety of reasons, including the fact that women do not trust the system, as it has failed to hold perpetrators accountable” (UN Human Rights Council, 2011, p. 7).

- One NGO in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, reported in 2006 that each week, it received at least eight young girls who had been raped (IRIN, 2007).

**References**


