



MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT INFOGRAPHIC

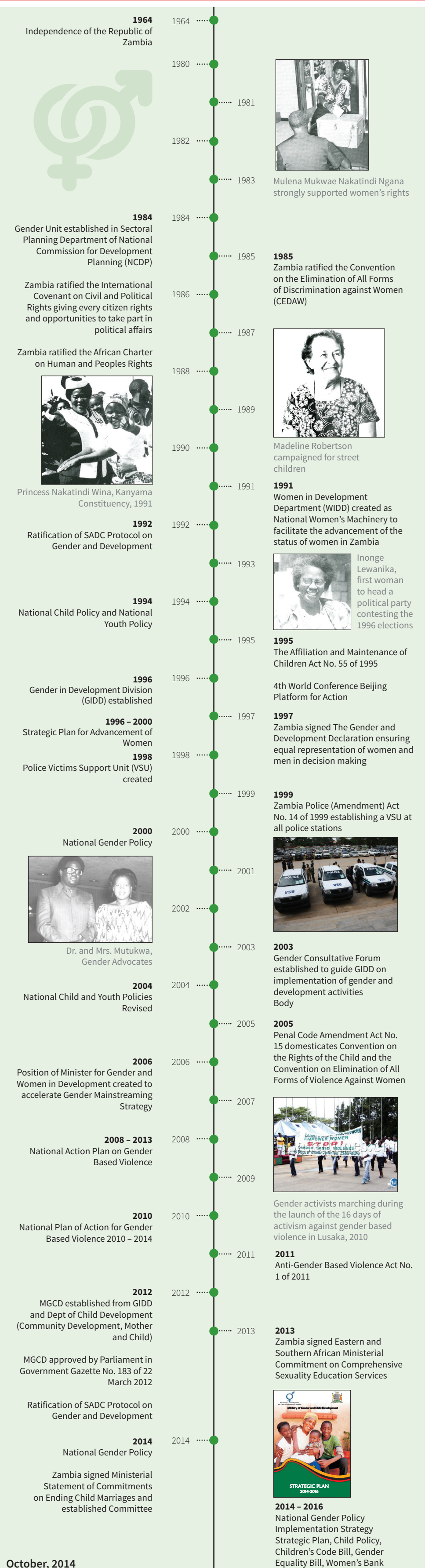
The Ministry of Gender and Child Development is responsible for matters relating to gender and child development in Zambia and has the mission 'To coordinate and monitor the implementation of gender and child development policies and programmes in order to ensure gender responsiveness and well being of a child'. The Government's vision is for 'A nation where there is gender

equity, equality and full realisation of children's rights for sustainable development'.

Gender sensitivity has significantly increased over the last fifty years; departments and institutions have developed to recognise the importance of gender equality in sustainable development. Legislation and policies have been introduced to

guide Government efforts, and Zambia has signed international treaties and conventions for the protection of female and child rights. Whilst considerable progress has been made, females are still under-represented across society, impacted by gender-based violence and early child marriages, and disadvantaged in health and education sectors.

TIMELINE - 50 YEARS OF GENDER AWARENESS IN ZAMBIA



CULTURE AND GENDER



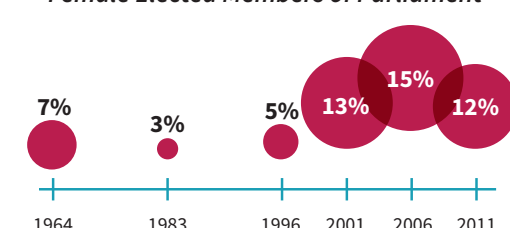
Gender in Zambia is strongly influenced by cultural traditions and practices. Customary practices such as puberty and initiation rituals, polygamy, widow inheritance, sexual cleansing and early marriage can impact on gender equality.

Zambia has two parallel legal systems; statutory law and customary law. Customary law prevails in cases of traditional marriage, pregnancy, inheritance and domestic disputes and is primarily used in local courts. Customary law provides significantly fewer rights to women and children and does not always protect them from abuse. Zambia has made strides to improve the status of women in matters of personal law however further action is needed to achieve gender equality and promote positive cultural practices.

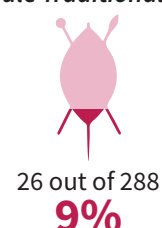
FEMALE REPRESENTATION

Women's participation in decision-making is critical to sustainable development. Women are still under-represented in decision-making at all levels although improvements have been made in the last decade.

Female Elected Members of Parliament



Female Traditional Chiefs



26 out of 288
9%

Female Permanent Secretary Positions



Female Local Governance: Councillors



Female Supreme and High Court Judges

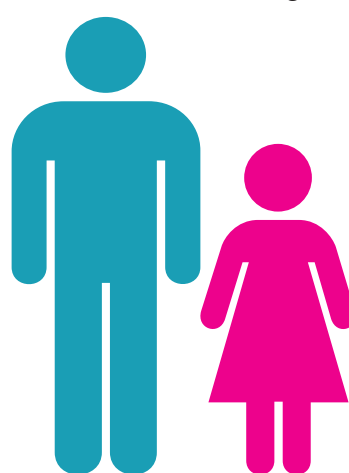


Labour Force Participation Rate 2012



EARLY / CHILD MARRIAGES

Zambia has one of the highest child marriage prevalence in the world. This is when any child is married before age 18.



2 out of 5 girls are married before 18 yrs old

Of those married, **65%** have no education and only **28%** use contraceptives to space births

Girls in the poorest **20%** of households are **5 times** more likely to be married before 18 yrs than in richest **20%** households

EARLY / CHILD MARRIAGE CAN RESULT IN:

- Complications which may result in death of girls age 15-19 due to early pregnancies
- Contraction of STD's or HIV/AIDS
- Girls becoming victims of violence or sexual abuse
- Social isolation and restricted social mobility
- Loss of education opportunities

Progress was made in 2013 and 2014 in signing commitments to end child marriage and revise national laws to meet international standards on minimum age for marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Gender-based violence means any physical, mental, emotional, social or economic abuse against a person because of that person's gender. GBV is still a significant problem in Zambia, although awareness and reporting is increasing.



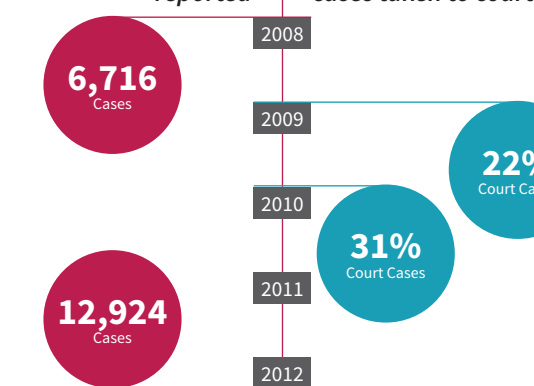
1 out of 5 women have experienced sexual violence



47% women have experienced physical violence since age 15yrs

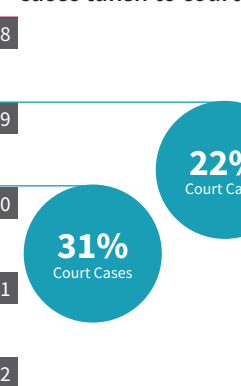
The number of GBV cases reported to the Zambia Police Victims Support Unit (VSU) increased by 92% between 2008 and 2012. Awareness and reporting is improving with the introduction of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act in 2011. A high number of cases are still withdrawn, although the number of cases taken to court is improving.

Number of GBV cases reported



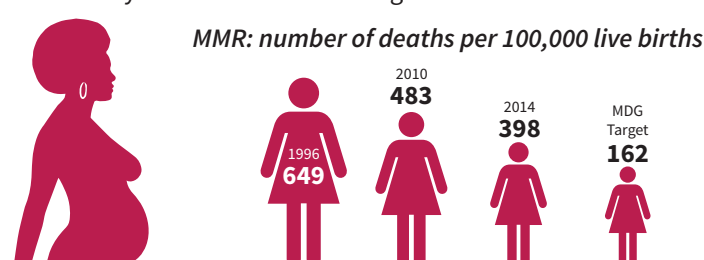
NOTE: 8699 GBV cases reported Jan-Jun 2014

Percentage of GBV cases taken to court

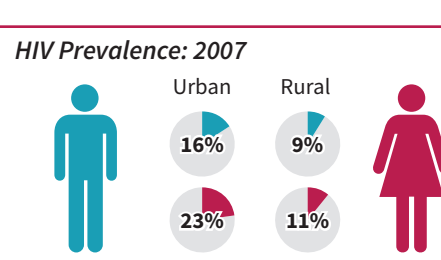


HEALTH

High Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR) relate to child / teen pregnancies, prohibitive cultural practices and lack of female decision powers. MMR has reduced by 39% since 1996 although is still below the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target.



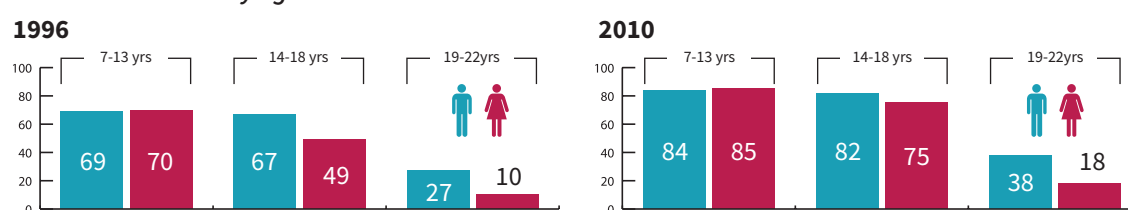
HIV prevalence is higher amongst women than men. There is need for improved gender-sensitive HIV/AIDS workplace policies and more gender experts and capacity building.



EDUCATION

Education levels have improved in recent years for both males and females. Female attendance above age 14 has improved significantly however, females are still more likely not to attend school in teenage years than males. Only 39% of students at Zambian public universities are female.

School Attendance By Age



Literacy Levels



GENDER POST - 2014

The National Gender Policy 2014 focuses on achieving the following objectives:

- Facilitate research on current gender issues
- Mainstream gender in all national policies, programmes and legislation
- Increase the participation of women in decision-making
- Curb traditional and cultural practices which inhibit the advancement of women,
- men and children
- Reduce extreme poverty amongst vulnerable groups especially women and girls
- Reduce all forms of GBV
- Increase access to quality education, gender responsible health care, affordable energy, clean and safe water, and sanitation

Post - 2014 initiatives will be implemented in a comprehensive and decentralised manner. The cross-cutting nature of gender means implementation will involve the participation of multiple government ministries, as well as statutory bodies, religious organisations, political parties, and civil society. A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will help track implementation and performance of this policy to ensure movement towards gender equality and equity in the future.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH POLICY MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTRE (PMRC)

CHILD HELPLINE TOLL FREE 116

