

# CHILD RIGHTS IN ZAMBIA - A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

## CHILD RIGHTS INFOGRAPHIC

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### WHO IS A CHILD?

For the purposes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child(UNCRC), a child means **every human being below the age of eighteen years** unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. (UNCRC Part I Article 1)



#### INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS OF CHILD PROTECTION

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)1989
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 (contains two articles that specifically refer to children)

#### ZAMBIAN LEGISLATION AND POLICIES FOR CHILD PROTECTION

- Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011
- Education Act No. 23 of 2011
- Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012
- Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008
- Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP)

### THE RECENT STATE OF CHILD RIGHTS IN ZAMBIA IS HIGHLIGHTED BY SOME OF THE STATISTICS PRESENTED

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

**53%**

Of children are breast fed within the **first hour** of birth

Feeding frequency, and diversity in **children 6-23 months**

**37%**

Source:UNICEF 2016

#### SOCIAL PROTECTION



In 2007, **46%** of girls **15-19 years of age** were married before the **age of 15**



**46%** of women 20-49 years of age were married **by age 18**

Source: UNICEF 2016

#### CHILD LABOUR



**46%** of the total child labourers were aged between **10 and 14 years in 2005**



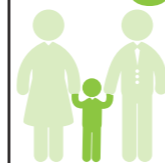
**28%** of child labourers were aged between **15 and 17 years old**

Source: Child labour force survey report. 2005

#### HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE



**160,000** Children aged **0 to 14** living with HIV ,(2012)



**670,000** Children orphaned by AIDS, (2012)

Source: UNAIDS, UNICEF, USAID, Children on the Brink 2002

#### MALARIA



Of all people who die from malaria in Zambia **50% or more** are **children under 5 years of age**



**50%** of **under-5** hospital admissions are due to **malaria**

Source: UNAIDS: 2014

#### MALNUTRITION



Prevalence of vitamin A deficiency: **54%** in children under five and **13%** among women of child bearing age



**46%** of **Children under 5** are stunted (Chronically Malnourished)

Source: DHS, MICS, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF

#### EFFECTS OF INEFFECTIVE CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEMS (LONG AND SHORT TERM)

- Adverse health effects such as illness and disease sometimes resulting in death.
- Emotional effects such as isolation, fear, and low self esteem.
- Unsatisfactory academic participation resulting in grade repetition and in some cases children do not have access to education.
- Juvenile delinquency that may later result in adult criminality.

#### POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF AN EFFECTIVE CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM

- Physically and emotionally healthy children.
- Satisfactory academic performance among children.
- Reduced or negligible child marriage incidences.
- Reduced juvenile delinquency cases.

#### PMRC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increased effective Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms of child rights protection initiatives. (Both Government and other stakeholders)
- Increased awareness and protection of the rights of the child.
- Strengthen follow up mechanisms to assist victims in full recovery from short and long term effects of ineffective child rights protection systems.