COD-PS Zimbabwe
Update Year 2023 / Reference Year 2023

Objective of This Explanatory Technical Note

This explanatory technical note provides supplementary notes on the strengths and limitations of each Common Operational Dataset on Population Statistics (COD-PS) against the projections by the WPP 2022 Revision of the UN to enable informed humanitarian decision-making.

Structure of Supplementary Note

This supplementary note is organized into the following sections:
1. Metadata
2. Methodological Documentation
3. Intrinsic Population Growth Rates (ADM-0 & 1)
4. Population counts by age and sex (ADM-0)
5. Relative population size by age and sex (ADM-1)

1. Metadata

Item	Metadata
Country	Zimbabwe
Source(s)	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat) and UNFPA Zimbabwe
Source(s) Link(s)	https://zimbabwe.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/population_projection_1.pdf
Population Data Type (Census enumeration, Direct estimate, or Population projection)	Population projection
Baseline Population Year	2012
COD-PS Reference Year	2023
COD-PS Publication Year	2023
ADM-1 Name	Province
ADM-1 Number of Units	10
ADM-1 Sex and Age Disaggregation	Sex and age disaggregated by 5-year age groups
ADM-1 Open-ended Age Group	80+

Item	Metadata
ADM-2 Name	District
ADM-2 Number of Units	91
ADM-2 Sex and Age Disaggregation	Sex and age disaggregated by 5-year age groups
ADM-2 Open-ended Age Group	80+
ADM-3 Name	N/A
ADM-3 Number of Units	N/A
ADM-3 Sex and Age Disaggregation	N/A
ADM-3 Open-ended Age Group	N/A
General Notes	The population projections within this COD-PS contain underyling uncertainties, because it is unclear whether the NSO actually conducted PES after the 2012 census to adjust the census results accordingly. For the most recent census (2022 census) for which the NSO released the preliminary results in July 2022 (without subnational level sex and age disaggregated population data), the NSO reports that a PES was conducted in 2022. Results of the PES are expected to be published in 2023.
Data Limitations	The subnational projections within this COD-PS may not reflect the district level (ADM-2) population dynamics. It is because the NSO applied the cohort component method to first generate the national level (ADM-0) and provincial level (ADM-1) population projections, then simply split the provincial level (ADM-1) population projections by the respective share of district level population within the 2012 census (ratio method).
COD-PS Demographic Data Quality Assessment	The COD-PS was assessed against ADM-0 estimates and projections published by the World Population Prospects (2022 Revision) from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the 2017 Intercensal Demogramphic Survey. Projected fertility and child mortality trends, as well as interprovincial migration trends, were evaluated against the 2017 Intercensal Demogramphic Survey and 2015 Demographic and Health Survey, and found to be generally consistent at the ADM-0 and ADM-1 level.

2. Methodological Documentation

Item	Methodological Documentation
Methodology Used	The cohort-component method was applied to the 2012 census popualtion for computing the national and provincial (ADM-1) population projections.

Item	Methodological Documentation
	Then, the ratio method was used to compute the district population projections (ADM-2) mainly due to the difficulties associated with projecting internal migration.
Baseline Population	2012 census
Post-enumeration survey (PES)	None found in the public sphere, even though the NSO had scheduled PES for 2013 following the 2012 census.
Assessment and Adjustment of the Baseline Population	The NSO assessed the base year sex-age population data of the 2012 census to be of good quality and did not apply further adjustment prior to projection.
Fertility (births)	Fertility in Zimbabwe, as measured by both the census and the Zimbabwe DHS, has steadily been declining since 1982 until about 2005 after which it began to rise. Because there was a a decline of about 1.9 births during the 30-year intercensal period 1982-2012, it was assumed that the total fertility rate will decrease from 3.7 children per woman in 2012 to 2.7 children per woman in 2032.
Mortality (deaths)	Under-five mortality has been declining in Zimbabwe during the past three decades. But the high level of HIV in Zimbabwe also plays a factor for determining mortality assumptions. For the Zimbabwean situation with a rapid decrease in HIV prevalence, it was reasonably assumed that life expectancy will rise by about 2.9 years for males, and 2.5 years for females every 5 years during the projection period. Therefore, life expectancies at birth for males and females are expected to increase from 57.4 to 69.3 and from 64.0 to 73.8 respectively until 2032.
International migration (net migration)	The Zimbabwe censuses conducted so far have not captured satisfactory data on international migration. Hence, net international migration will be assumed to be zero. The NSO estimated a net international outmigration of 558,303 persons (4.3% of the 2012 census population) between 2002 and 2012, but this information does not come with sex and age disaggregation, therefore was not included in the projections.
Internal migration (migration within country)	The 2017 Intercensal Demographic Survey (ICDS) captured interprovincial migration trends, in which Bulawayo, Harare, and Matabeleland South experienced the highest level of net migration. This COD-PS assumes that the estimated migration trends from the 2017 ICDS are indicative of future expected internal migration trends in Zimbabwe.

3. Intrinsic Population Growth Rates (ADM-0 & 1)

At ADM-0, the implied postcensal (2012-2023) population growth rates of this COD-PS (2.46% per year: female 2.48%, male 2.44%) are generally consistent with the growth rates of the UN's population projections published in WPP 2022 (2012: 2.12% per year, to 2022: 2.05% per year).

At ADM-1, the CODPS projects the highest population growth rate for the current capital city, Harare (3.26% per year: female 3.59%, male 2.92%). The CODPS projects the lowest population growth rate for the second largest city, Bulawayo (1.38% per year: female 1.74%, male 1.02%) - which may reflect the economic centre moving from Bulawayo to Harare.

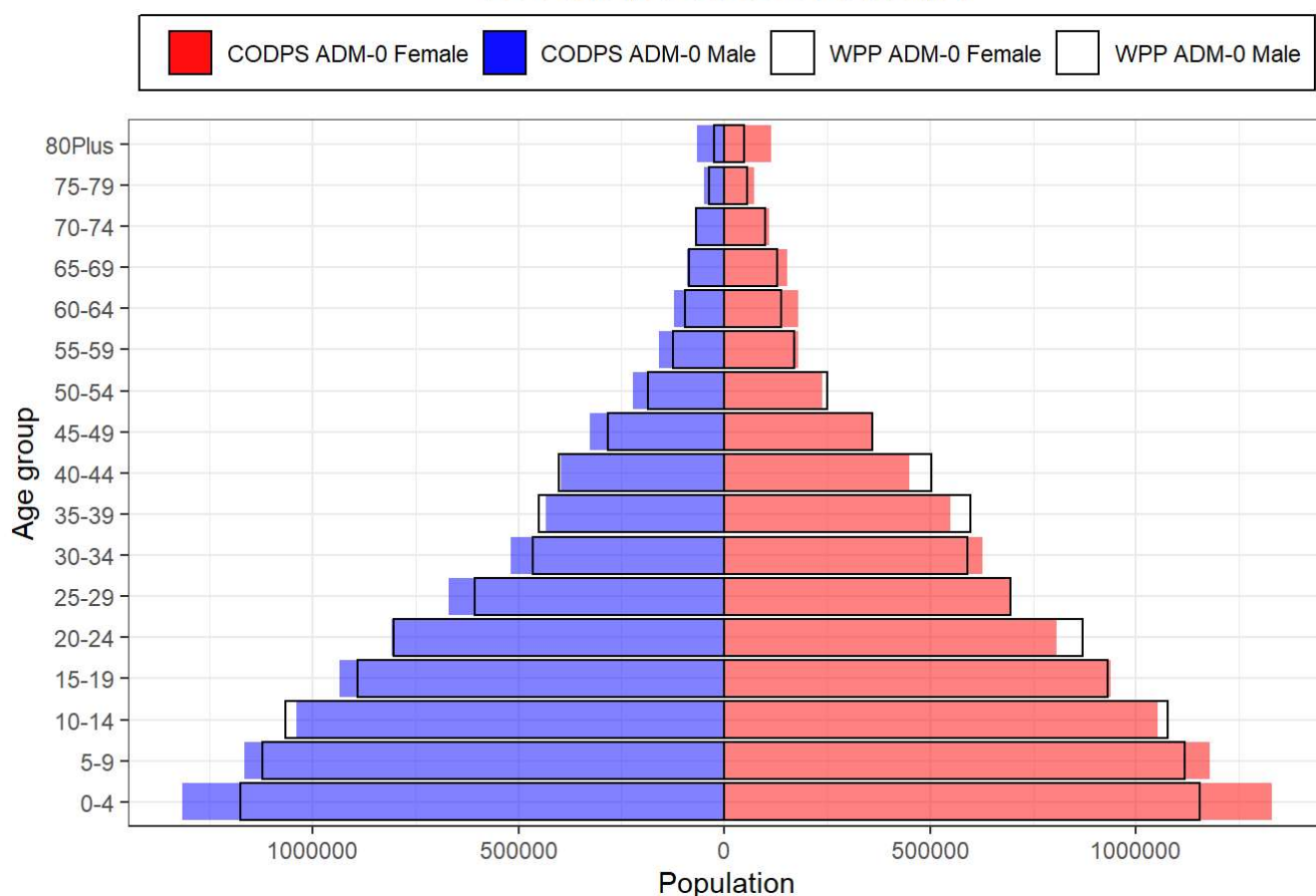| ADM-1	Last Census, Female	Last Census, Male	CODPS, Female	CODPS, Male	PGR(%), Female	PGR(%), Male	PGR(%), Both
Bulawayo	366,013	316,621	443,318	354,293	1.74	1.02	1.38
Harare	1,096,487	1,051,991	1,628,166	1,450,004	3.59	2.92	3.26
Manicaland	924,787	840,018	1,126,377	1,045,825	1.79	1.99	1.89
Mashonaland Central	597,819	581,809	799,804	795,652	2.65	2.85	2.75
Mashonaland East	697,191	658,882	917,659	885,497	2.50	2.69	2.59
Mashonaland West	758,104	751,991	1,025,409	1,021,771	2.75	2.79	2.77
Masvingo	805,447	703,563	1,028,362	903,456	2.22	2.27	2.24
Matabeleland North	398,832	371,951	496,566	468,040	1.99	2.09	2.04
Matabeleland South	368,189	337,671	450,704	426,183	1.84	2.12	1.98
Midlands	860,485	795,977	1,110,922	1,030,556	2.32	2.35	2.34
Total	6,873,354	6,410,474	9,027,287	8,381,277	2.48	2.44	2.46

4. Population Counts by age and sex (ADM-0)

Below, we compare the population structure across sex and age groups between the CODPS and WPP projections at the national level. At ADM-0, the age- and sex-specific population counts of this COD-PS are generally consistent with the WPP 2022 projection, where the greatest differences are found among the 0-4 years (CODPS > WPP, female 15.22%, male 12.07%).

	CODPS-WPP, Female	Difference(%)	CODPS-WPP, Male	Difference(%)
0-4	175,801	15.22	141,680	12.07
5-9	61,120	5.46	42,381	3.78
10-14	-24,064	-2.23	-26,356	-2.48
15-19	8,850	0.95	43,692	4.91
20-24	-63,953	-7.34	5,460	0.68
25-29	982	0.14	64,734	10.70

	CODPS-WPP, Female	Difference(%)	CODPS-WPP, Male	Difference(%)
30-34	35,851	6.06	54,027	11.62
35-39	-48,444	-8.12	-15,968	-3.56
40-44	-52,150	-10.38	-4,090	-1.02
45-49	-2,177	-0.61	44,053	15.55
50-54	-13,396	-5.36	36,310	19.60
55-59	10,780	6.39	34,557	27.77
60-64	41,074	29.92	24,881	25.81
65-69	22,913	17.68	4,800	5.56
70-74	7,798	7.79	293	0.43
75-79	15,604	27.88	12,019	33.28
80Plus	64,544	133.78	39,550	155.46

WPP ADM-0 vs CODPS ADM-0

5. Relative population size by age and sex (ADM-1)

Below, we compare the relative population proportions for 5-year age groups by sex between the CODPS ADM-1 projections and the WPP ADM-0 projection. The CODPS projects relatively higher proportions of working age adults for the two major cities, Harare and Bulawayo. In other provinces, the

CODPS projects similar sex and age distributions that are generally consistent with the WPP ADM-0 projection.