

# Costing Protection: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Child Protection System in Zimbabwe

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# Zimbabwe – a unique opportunity

- Baseline data exist – we know how many children need to access the system
- National Standards in place – we know what the system should look like
- National service delivery models in place or being scaled up – we know what it costs

Together, offer opportunity for 1st full-scale CBA of child protection in developing world

# CBA parameters

- Will be a narrow CBA that focuses on Case Management, Legal Assistance for Children; and Specialised Social Welfare Services.
- Why?:
  - Availability of data
  - Contribution to benefits is more clearly defined
  - More accurate analysis
  - More useful to decision-makers in the Ministry of Finance

# Why Cost-Benefit Analysis?

- Child abuse poses severe economic and social burden, but actual burden unknown
- Need in development community to justify spending
- Evidence elsewhere supports the investment case

# Costs of Child Abuse in Other Countries

- No large scale estimates for LDCs

	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>United States</b>
% of GDP	1.08	1.11	1.31	0.78
Cost per inhabitant	\$391	\$403	\$483	\$480

# Data Sources

- Micro-level Data
  - Zimbabwe DHS 2011
- High Level Summaries
  - National Baseline Survey on Experiences of Adolescents (NBSLEA)
  - National Child Labor Force Survey (NCLFS)
- Government/Civil Society Partnership budgets

# Zimbabwe-specific costs

- Victim- and child-friendly courts
- Specialized police and judicial training
- Social worker training and hiring

# How to Cost

- Inventory existing services
- Determine costs per child
- Scale up
- Assume relatively even take-up and costs across country



# Benefits

- Abuse prevention
- Recidivism prevention
- Reduced loss of school days and increased educational attainment
  - Increased returns to schooling
- Reduced maternal mortality
- Immediate value of children working in the home.

# But How to Measure the Benefits?

- Limited information on educational attainment and wages—estimate returns to education using ordered probit with DHS
- Depressed economy means few working for wages, harder to calculate returns to increased education
- Assume children's productivity is 75%-200% of Food Poverty Line

# Preliminary Estimates

## ● Benefits

- Potential immediate productivity gains from eradicating abuse: 0.7-2.6% of GDP (in line with US, NZ, AUS, CAN)
- Effect of three extra years of schooling (or equivalent gain in skills) could bring children into one higher wealth quintile

## ● Costs

- Scaling up programs already in place.

# What's Next?

- Still lots of work to be done
- Missing microdata could expand picture
- Benefits of implementing child protection system are wide and difficult to measure
- Despite challenges, we believe that benefits far exceed costs
  - Predicting multiplier effects into the future would increase projected benefits