

2011

Parliament

Research Department



[Zhombe Constituency Profile]

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1.0 Introduction

Zhombe constituency is found in Midlands Province and is a new constituency that was created out of the old Silobela and Chirumanzi constituencies. It comprises of 12 wards. The constituency is predominantly rural, comprising of communal areas such as Dendera, Runyararo, Vulamatshena and Empress Mine. In 2003, poverty levels stood at 73% of which 49% were found to be very poor. The main languages spoken in the area include Kalanga and Ndebele, (Zimbabwe Election Support Network, 2008)

2.0 Population Distribution

The constituency has 33 225 registered voters out of a population of 62 024 people, representing 53% of the total. On average each ward has at least 2768 registered voters. The proportion of male and female population is 47 and 53 percent respectively. The population is housed in about 11637 households with an average house hold size of 5 people.

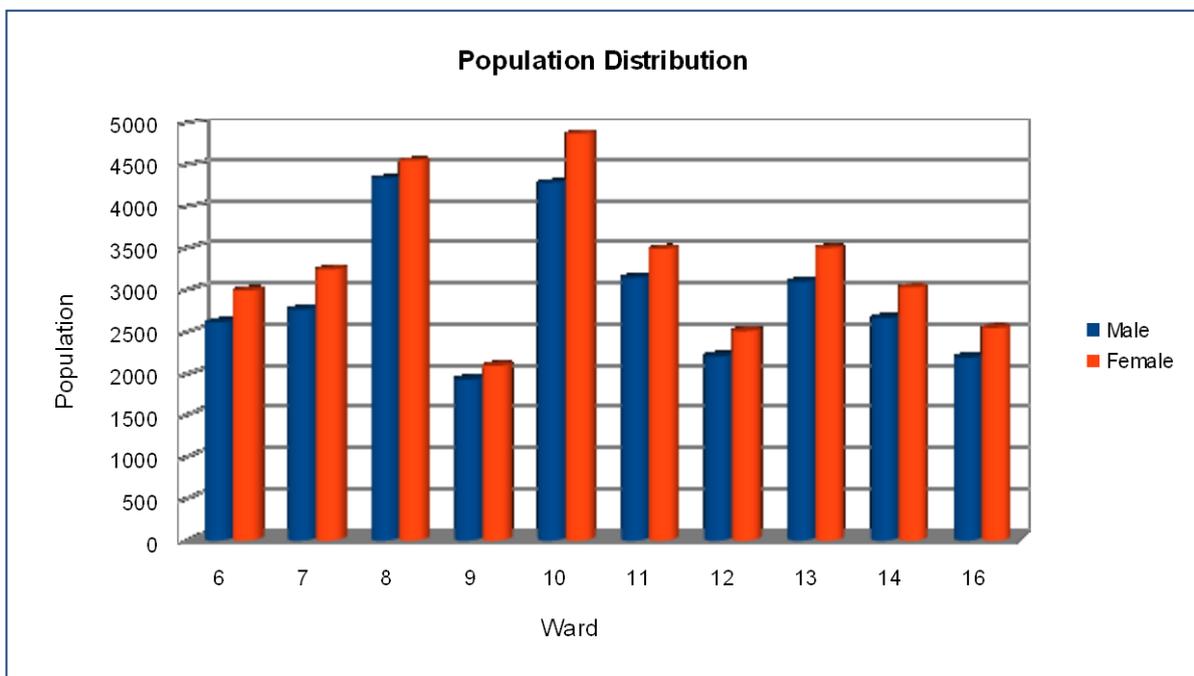


Figure 1: Population Distribution by Ward

The graph above shows that the distribution of population by gender. Only Wards 8 and 10 have the highest number of people.

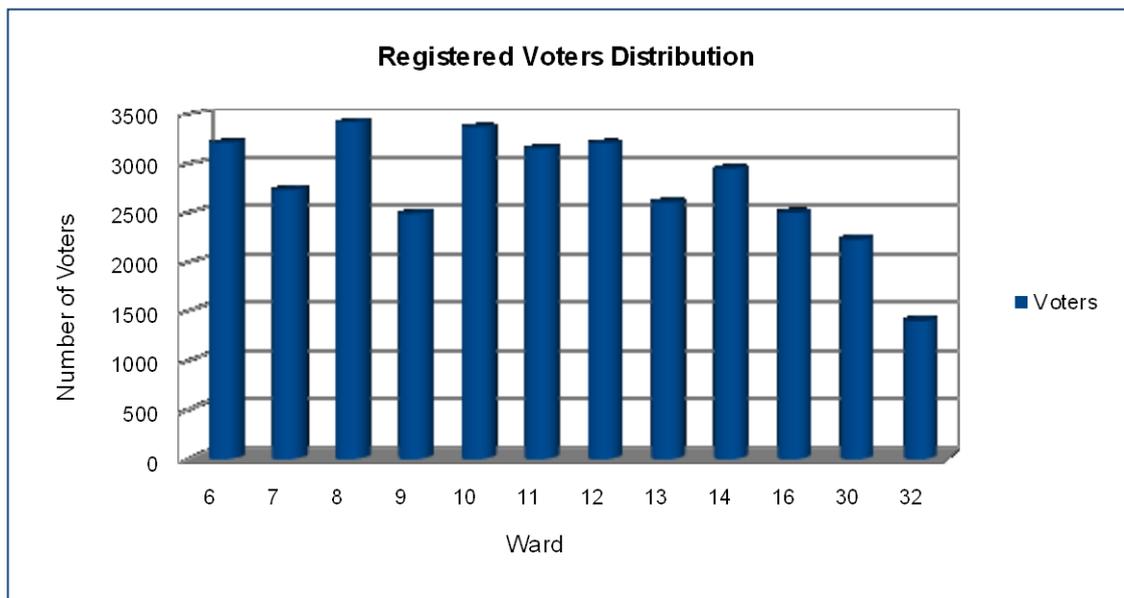


Figure 2: Registered Voters by Ward

Ward 32 has the lowest number of registered voters whilst the rest of the wards are almost evenly balanced. However, there is no link between population distribution and distribution of registered voters in the constituency.

3.0 Education

3.1 Primary Education

In Zimbabwe, there are high levels of primary school enrolments, net enrolment ratio (NER) increased from 81.9% in 1994, peaking at 98.5% in 2002. Council schools enroll about 61% of the population whilst government schools are the second largest enroller of about 24%. Gender equality at primary schools is also good. However, the quality of education deteriorated between 1990 and 2009 due to a number of socio-economic factors. About 17% of the pupils walk more than 5km to attain primary education in Midlands Province.

In Zhombe constituency, there are 43 primary schools with a total of 22 179 pupils. About 10 864 (48.9%) of the pupils are girls whilst boys constitute a total of 11 315 (51.1%) of the total

enrolment. There are 565 teachers of which only 1 is untrained. The pupil to teacher ratio is 1:39 which is slightly above the recommended national average of 1:34. There are also 2 satellite schools probably created in response to the land reform program which began in the year 2000. Four of the schools have hot sitting, an indication of shortage of infrastructure such as classrooms. Most of the wards have at least one school with the exception of wards 30 and 32 which have no schools.

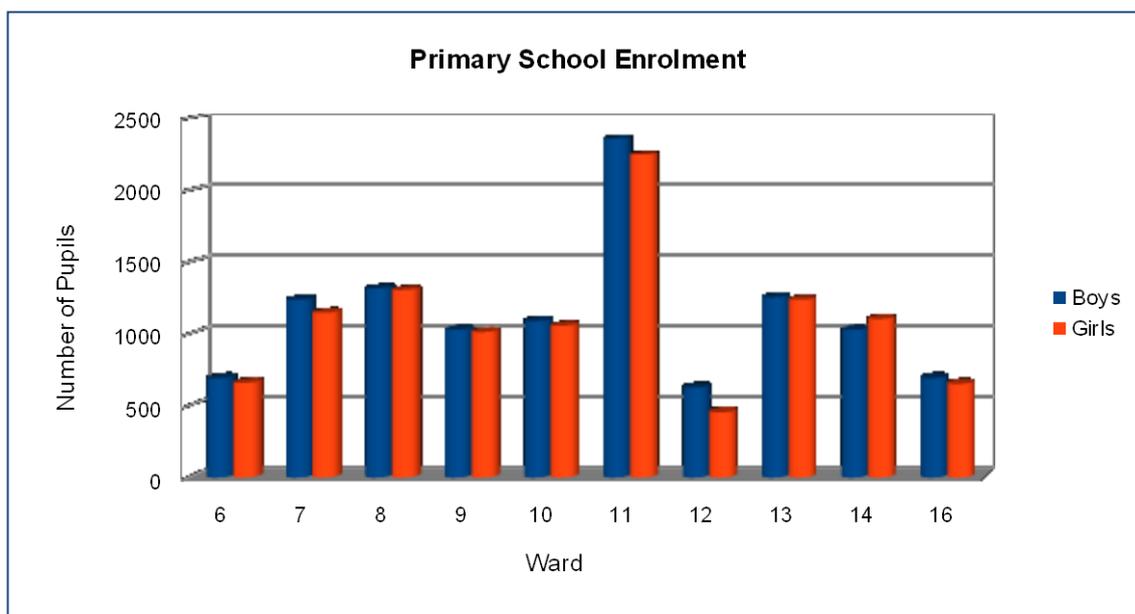


Figure 3: Primary School Enrolment by Wards

Generally, the graph above shows that more boys are enrolled at primary schools than girls, though the differences might be slight in other wards. Most of wards enroll at least 1 000 pupils.

3.2 Secondary Education

There are 12 secondary schools in the constituency and none of them have boarding facilities. 11 of the schools were built after independence, an indication of the government's drive to meet the needs of the majority of the people who were once disadvantaged by the colonial policies. All the schools are owned by council. The total enrolment of the secondary schools is 5 062 pupils and indication that very few of the children at primary school enroll at these schools. Girls account for 48% of the total enrolment. There are 207 teachers of which 19% are untrained. The average pupil to teacher ratio stands at 1:24 which matches the ideal national average for secondary schools.

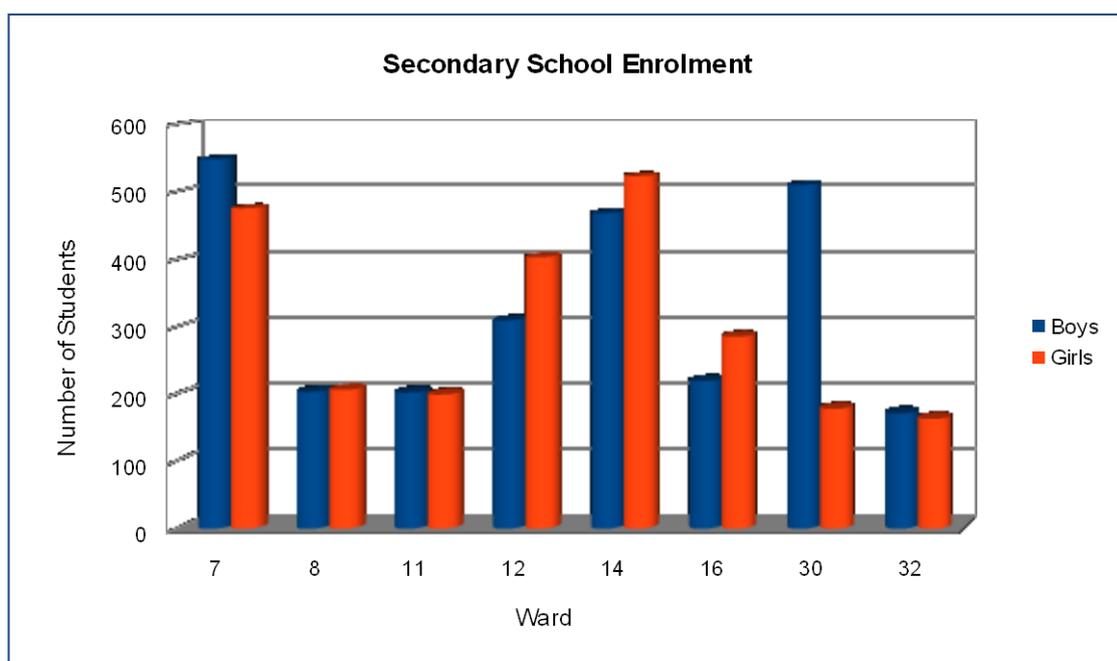


Figure 4: Secondary School Enrolment by Ward

4.0 Health

There are 8 health centres in the constituency of which 10 are clinics and the rest rural health centres. Most of the wards except for wards 12 and 32 have at least 1 health facility. Wards 9, 10, 14 have at least 2 health facilities each. Three of the centres are owned by the government, 1 is mission owned, 8 belong to the RDC and 1 is privately owned. Most of the centres have at least 1 general and 1 maternity bed. There is no doctor in the province but each centre has at least 1 nurse manning the centre. Dendera rural health centre has a problem with its water supply which is critical component for safe health service delivery.

5.0 Animal Health

There are 48 736 cattle, 13 Animal Health Centers and 26 dip tanks within Zhombe constituency. Ward 11 has the largest herd of cattle. Each ward has got at least one dip-tank save for ward 32, and each ward is also serviced by at least one Animal Health Centre.

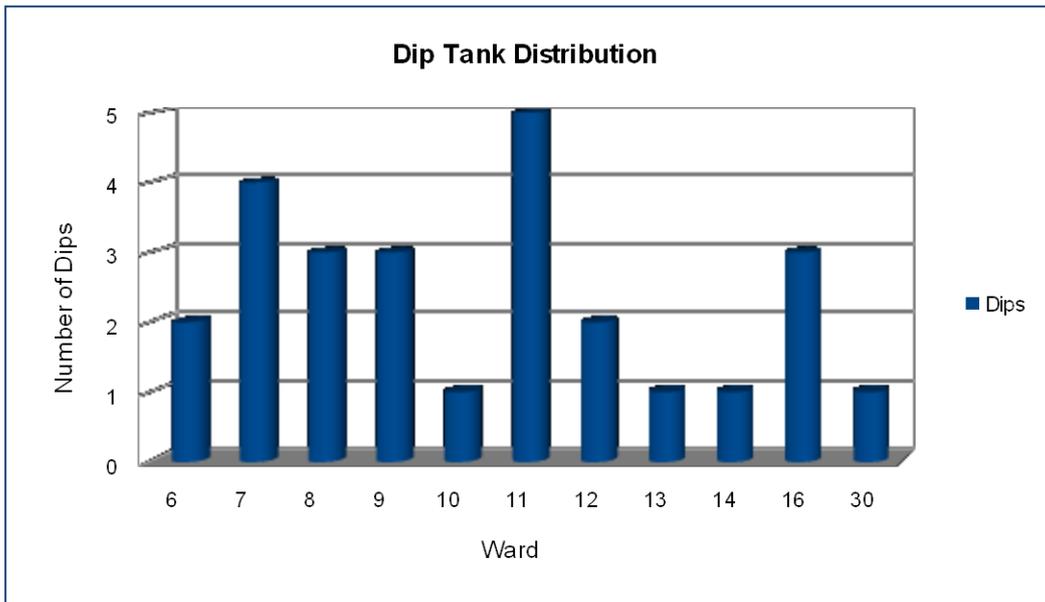


Figure 5: Dip Tanks by Ward

The graph below closely shows that there is no relationship that exists between cattle and dip tank distribution. Ward 11 with the highest number of cattle has 5 dip tanks whilst ward 7 which has one of the lowest herd has 4 dip tanks.

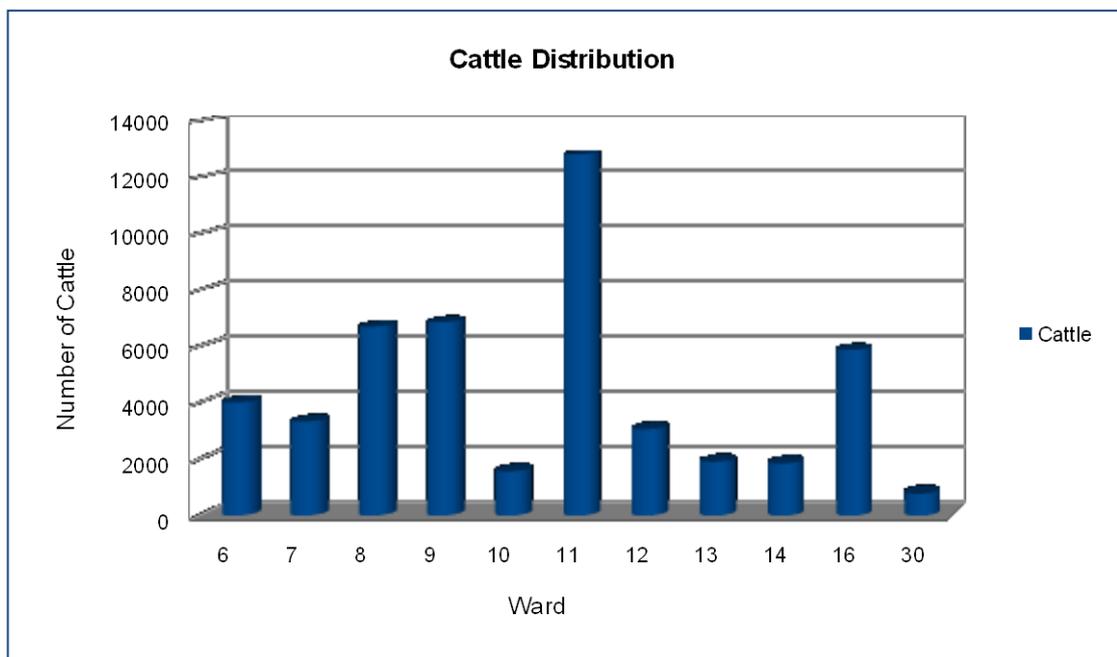


Figure 6: Dip Tank Based Cattle Distribution by Ward

6.0 Business Centres

There are 14 business centres in the Zhombe constituency. Ten of the business centers are electrified, an element which is critical for socio-economic development of rural areas. There are also 2 Rural Service Centres, namely Columbina and Zhombe. Out of the 12 wards, only 6 have business centres. There are also 3 CMB depots in the constituency, an indication that the constituency is a cotton growing area.

7.0 Water Points

The constituency has a total of 352 boreholes and 72 deep wells from which residents draw water. Of that figure, 257 boreholes and 57 deep wells are functioning. Increasing the number of boreholes and deep-wells within the constituency will help to ease pressure on the existing ones. Wards 6 and 13 contain most of the boreholes in constituency whilst ward 10 has most of the deep wells.

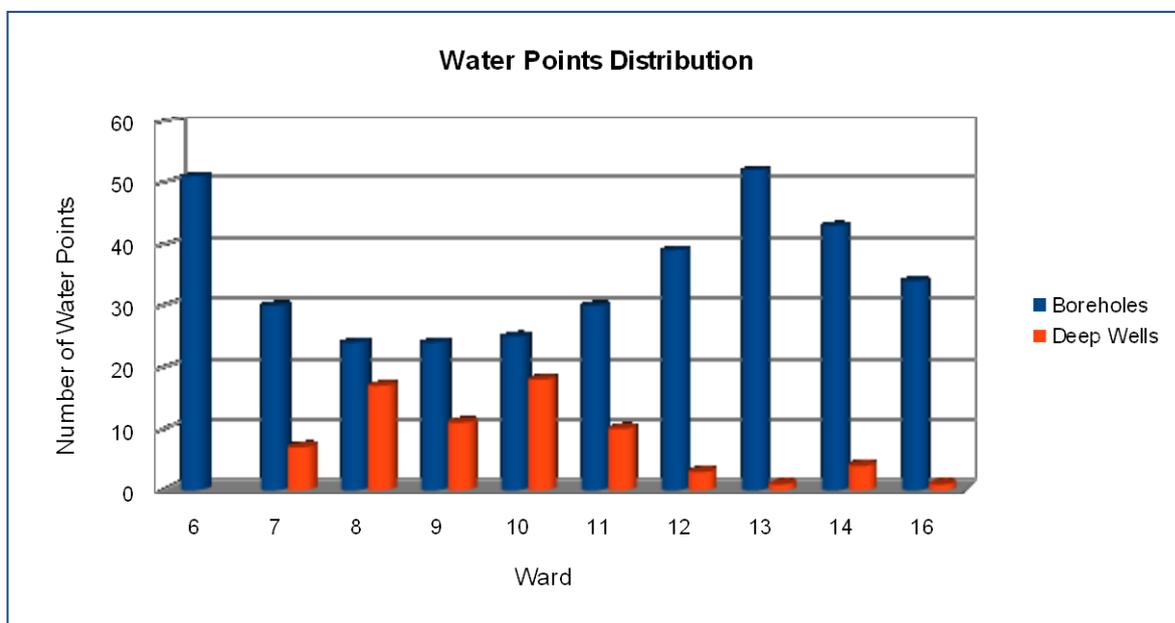


Figure 7: Water Points by Ward

8.0 Local Government

Zhombe constituency falls under Kwekwe Rural District Council. The constituency has 10 wards represented by 10 male councillors. This shows that there is need to address the gender imbalance in terms of women representation in local government structures.

9.0 Conclusion

The constituency lies in the province with high poverty incidence, there is need to improve food security, health facilities and community participation in key economic sectors such as mining.

10.0 Recommendations

- There is need to deploy more health personnel especially doctors into the constituency's health facilities.
- Some of the primary schools need more infrastructure and resources to avoid the problem of hot sitting
- There is need to reduce poverty incidence through small scale projects.

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