

# Zimbabwe Child-Safe AI Governance Toolkit (Lite)

Minimum Viable Governance Safeguards for AI Systems Affecting Children

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## Purpose

This Toolkit provides a minimum viable governance approach for child-safe use of AI-enabled systems in public services. It is designed for ministries, regulators, education stakeholders, and partners seeking practical safeguards that can be implemented before, during, and after deployment.

## When to Use This Toolkit

- Any AI-enabled system that processes children’s data or profiles minors.
- Education and learning platforms using automated recommendations, scoring, or monitoring.
- Health and social services where children are beneficiaries or subjects of assessment.
- Online safety systems, content moderation tools, or chatbots accessible to children.
- Any system that could influence decisions affecting children’s access to services.

## Minimum Standards (Non-Negotiables)

- **Child-first design:** protect safety, dignity, and best interests in system purpose and operation.
- **Data minimisation:** collect only what is necessary; define retention; prevent secondary use.
- **Human oversight:** ensure human review for high-impact outcomes involving children.
- **Accessible reporting:** provide child-friendly and caregiver reporting channels.
- **Transparency:** clear notice that AI is used, in simple language.

## Safeguards Checklist (Lite)

Safeguard Area	Minimum Requirement (Lite)
Data Protection	Lawful basis; minimised collection; clear retention; secured access; no uncontrolled sharing
Safety Controls	Age-appropriate interaction; harmful content prevention; abuse reporting; escalation to support
Bias & Inclusion	Check for exclusion across language, disability, rural access; review outcomes for disparities
Oversight & Accountability	Named system owner; named risk owner; approval gate for changes; audit logs enabled
Remedy & Redress	Complaint channels; response timelines; correction/reversal process; documented incidents

## Implementation Roadmap (30 Days)

- **Week 1:** identify child-related systems; assign owners; publish basic notice and reporting channels.
- **Week 2:** adopt intake questions and a simplified rights screen; confirm data protection controls.
- **Week 3:** stand up incident response (tiered); test escalation; confirm human review pathways.
- **Week 4:** run a governance review; document lessons; refine safeguards and monitoring.

## AGCIH Support (Optional)

AGCIH supports ministries and partners to operationalise child-safe AI governance through readiness diagnostics, tool deployment, training, oversight design, and implementation support.