REGIONAL BRIEF

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Children with Albinism in Southern Africa:

Priorities for Integrated Regional and National Action

African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)

2026

Table of Contents

1. CONTEXT 1
2. SITUATION OF CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM IN THE SADC REGION 3
   - 2.1. Ritual Attacks, Trafficking and Cross-Border Crime 3
   - 2.2. Stigma, Discrimination and Psychosocial Harm 3
   - 2.3. Limited Access to Health Care 4
   - 2.4. Barriers to Education 5
   - 2.5. Poverty, Social Protection and Participation 5
   - 2.6. Access to Justice and Accountability Gaps 5
3. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS: PROTECTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION GAPS 6
4. SADC REGIONAL COORDINATION AND ADDED VALUE 7
5. PROMISING PRACTICES IN THE REGION 7
6. KEY IMPLEMENTATION GAPS 8
7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SADC AND ITS MEMBER STATES 8
8. CONCLUSION 9
9. ENDNOTES 11

1. CONTEXT

This Regional Brief examines the situation of children with albinism across Southern Africa and sets out the regional and national action required from SADC and its Member States. It draws on ACPF's 2026 continental report, its Malawi country case study, documented attack data, national statistics and desk-review evidence from across the SADC region.

SADC comprises 16 Member States: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.[1] Southern Africa carries the largest documented concentration of attacks on persons with albinism in Africa. The March 2026 Under the Same Sun (UTSS) summary records at least 633 documented attacks across 12 of SADC's 16 Member States.[2] Tanzania records 214 attacks, Malawi 169, the DRC 74, Mozambique 62, Madagascar 42 and Zambia 38.[3] These figures are documented reports compiled by UTSS and should not be read as prevalence estimates or a complete record of all violence; UTSS notes that many attacks are never reported or documented.

The regional policy context changed significantly on 17 August 2024, when SADC Heads of State and Government adopted the Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism.[4] The Declaration recognises that persons with albinism in the SADC region are targeted by organised crime syndicates, kidnapping, abduction, grievous bodily harm, trafficking and murder, and commits Member States to preventive, protective and accountability measures.[5] The UN Independent Expert on albinism and Amnesty International welcomed the Declaration as a significant political commitment.[6] The priority now is implementation through a costed regional action plan, national alignment, budgets, common data standards and independent monitoring.

Population evidence is stronger in parts of SADC than in many other African regions but it remains uneven. Malawi's 2018 census counted 134,636 persons with albinism (0.8 per cent of the total population), including 53,304 children under nine, with 87 per cent living in rural areas.[7] Tanzania's 2022 mainland census counted 71,631 persons with albinism, including 18,549 children aged 0-18.[8] Zambia's 2022 census counted 64,026 persons with albinism.[9] A 2025 research paper estimated 6,818 persons with albinism in Angola, while South African research reports a local prevalence of approximately 1 in 3,900 rather than a national count.[10] For several other Member States, no reliable national figure was located.

KEY FIGURES: PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN SADC MEMBER STATES

Country	Latest available population figure and data status	Documented attacks (March 2026)
Angola	Approx. 6,818 (2025 estimate); approx. 2,000 monitored by national health service	No documented attacks[1] in UTSS database
Botswana	No reliable national figure located	4: 1 killing, 3 survivors
Comoros	No reliable national figure located	No documented attacks in UTSS database
DRC	Programme estimates exist, but no reliable national count located	74: 18 killings, 37 survivors, 1 missing, 11 grave desecrations, 7 asylum cases
Eswatini	No reliable national figure located	12: 4 killings, 8 survivors
Lesotho	No reliable national figure located	1 killing
Madagascar	No reliable national figure located	42: 13 killings, 6 survivors, 15 abductions, 8 missing
Malawi	134,636 (2018 census); 53,304 under age 9	169: 25 killings, 54 survivors, 32 abductions, 10 missing, 48 grave desecrations
Mauritius	No reliable national figure located	No documented attacks in UTSS database
Mozambique	No reliable national figure located	62: 22 killings, 18 survivors, 1 abduction, 6 grave desecrations, 15 missing
Namibia	No total located; 2011 prevalence reported at approx. 1 in 1,755	5: 2 killings, 3 survivors
Seychelles	No reliable national figure located	No documented attacks in UTSS database
South Africa	No national total located; local research prevalence approx. 1 in 3,900	10: 4 killings, 3 survivors, 2 missing, 1 grave desecration
Tanzania	71,631 mainland (2022 census); 18,549 aged 0-18	214: 79 killings, 102 survivors, 1 abduction, 1 missing, 27 grave desecrations, 4 asylum cases
Zambia	64,026 (2022 census)	38: 11 killings, 20 survivors, 7 grave desecrations
Zimbabwe	No reliable national figure located	2: 1 killing, 1 grave desecration

[1] "No documented attacks" means none recorded in the UTSS database and does not establish the absence of violence.

Sources: UTSS (March 2026); national census reports for Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia; research estimates for Angola, Namibia and South Africa; ACPF (2026). Population data types and years differ and should not be aggregated into a regional total; the table covers all 16 SADC Member States.

Several high-burden SADC Member States are also members of other Regional Economic Communities. Tanzania and the DRC also belong to the EAC, while Angola and the DRC also belong to ECCAS. This overlap strengthens the case for compatible cross-border alerts, referral pathways and investigative cooperation where trafficking routes extend beyond one regional arrangement.[11]

2. SITUATION OF CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM IN THE SADC REGION

2.1. Ritual Attacks, Trafficking and Cross-Border Crime

Violence is concentrated along corridors involving Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, but documented attacks also occur in the DRC, Madagascar, Eswatini, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe.[12] A 2026 AAN/UTSS analysis of cases in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia found that 49.1% of documented victims in Malawi and 26.9% in Zambia were under 12 at the time of attack.[13] Madagascar and the DRC also record asylum or refuge cases in the UTSS database, indicating that some persons with albinism flee threats or violence rather than seeking justice from systems in which they have no confidence.[14]

Attacks are recent and ongoing. In April 2025, a Mozambican national was reportedly intercepted while allegedly attempting to traffic a 15-month-old child with albinism from Tanzania into Mozambique.[15] In May 2026, AAN also condemned new attacks in Madagascar and Malawi, including the reported kidnapping of an 18-month-old child in Toliara and the killing of a man with albinism in Malawi, indicating that risks remain active.[16]

Cross-border trafficking is a defining crime within the SADC region. Networks linking Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia have been documented by the UN Independent Expert on albinism and by civil society monitoring.[17] The pattern of killings, abductions, missing persons, and grave desecrations points to criminal demand and facilitation that cannot be addressed through isolated national responses.[18] Malawi's newly enacted Trafficking in Persons Act (2025) explicitly classifies removal of body parts as an aggravated trafficking offence[19] which is a significant legislative step.

Grave desecrations which involve criminals removing bones from graves of persons with albinism for witchcraft purposes are documented across Malawi (48 cases), Mozambique (6), Zambia (7), Tanzania (27), Zimbabwe (1), South Africa, Botswana, and Eswatini.[20] This practice, driven by the erroneous belief that bones of persons with albinism contain gold or bring wealth, extends the threat from life to posthumous dignity.[21] The pattern of killings, abductions, missing persons and grave desecration points to criminal demand and facilitation that cannot be addressed through isolated national responses.

2.2. Stigma, Discrimination and Psychosocial Harm

ACPF's Malawi case study found that children experience name-calling, exclusion, fear and pressure to negotiate their identity and belonging in everyday community life.[22] Children described continuing fear at night, insecure housing and uncertainty about whether arrests had led to justice: "Sometimes when we sleep, we hear strange sounds around our house and this makes us feel in danger."[23] Parents reported that

mothers are routinely blamed for the birth of a child with albinism, contributing to paternal abandonment, female-headed households and economic strain.

Comparable patterns occur elsewhere in the region. South African research documents institutional barriers when frontline officials do not consistently recognise albinism as a disability for social-protection purposes.[24] Zimbabwean research identifies discrimination, school barriers and inadequate accommodation in rural education settings.[25] In Eswatini, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, the harmful myth that sexual contact with a woman with albinism can cure HIV/AIDS has driven sexual violence against women and girls.[26] Across the region, stigma compounds poverty and can lead families to conceal or overprotect children, limiting education, recreation, participation and access to services.

Harmful misinformation can intensify discrimination and protection risks. In South Africa, the Thembisile Madlala Albinism Foundation, supported by the National Albinism Task Force, brought Equality Court proceedings concerning online statements by an influential traditional healer that spread misinformation about persons with albinism. In August 2024, the Court found that the statements amounted to hate speech and unfair discrimination on the grounds of colour, disability and gender. It ordered their removal and the publication of an unconditional apology. [27] Before the judgment, Amnesty International and the National Albinism Task Force had called on the South African authorities to address the discriminatory misinformation underlying the proceedings and protect persons with albinism from advocacy of hatred, hostility and violence.[28] The case demonstrates how equality and anti-discrimination laws can be used to address harmful expression, alongside engagement with traditional, religious, community and media actors to prevent misinformation from reinforcing hostility and violence.

2.3. Limited Access to Health Care

Skin cancer remains a major preventable cause of mortality among persons with albinism in sub-Saharan Africa.[29] WHO included broad-spectrum sunscreen in its 2025 Model Lists of Essential Medicines for adults and children, creating a basis for national listing, public financing and procurement.[30] Yet no SADC Member State has yet incorporated this listing into routine public health procurement. Children with albinism require lifelong sun protection, routine skin examinations, low-vision assessment and accessible dermatological and ophthalmological care.[31]

ACPF's Malawi case study also found irregular sunscreen availability, long travel distances, limited trained personnel and insufficient access to assistive devices.[32] Standing Voice's 2024 programme reached 3,050 persons with albinism in Malawi, including children, and reported increases in daily sunscreen use and avoidance of peak sun exposure rising from 47.1% to 72.9%.[33] These gains show the value of outreach, but project-based coverage cannot substitute for reliable public health supply chains and nationwide primary-care integration.

In Mozambique and Madagascar, where attacks are frequent and health systems are under-resourced, access to dermatological care and protective supplies is even more severely constrained. In South Africa, which has the most developed health system in the region, structural barriers including the failure to formally classify albinism as a disability and the concentration of specialists in urban areas leave many with albinism without appropriate care.[34]

2.4. Barriers to Education

The Malawi case study found that most children with albinism had never received an eye examination or been prescribed glasses, despite living with lifelong low vision that affected their education and daily activities.[35] At least 11 learners with albinism in selected traditional-authority areas of Machinga had withdrawn from secondary school because of inadequate inclusive support and financial barriers. The same study documented shortages of large-print materials, limited teacher capacity, school-fee constraints and disrupted movement between mainstream and boarding schools.[36]

In Zambia, research found that learners moved from mainstream schools to schools for the blind because of bullying and inaccessible classrooms, even though albinism commonly involves low vision rather than total blindness.[37] Zimbabwean research documents long unshaded journeys, lack of reasonable accommodation and discrimination in rural schools.[38] A common and harmful misconception among teachers across the region is that children with albinism have subnormal intelligence, which directly suppresses educational aspiration and opportunity.[39] Regional minimum standards are needed for front-row seating, large print, magnification, appropriate lighting, shaded spaces, examination accommodation, safe travel and anti-bullying procedures.

2.5. Poverty, Social Protection and Participation

Poverty increases exposure to harm by limiting families' ability to obtain sunscreen, protective clothing, visual aids, transport and secure housing. In Malawi, parents and community leaders reported that households caring for children with albinism were often excluded from cash-transfer and agricultural-support programmes, while poverty pushed some persons with albinism into livelihoods involving prolonged sun exposure.[40] South African evidence similarly shows that inconsistent recognition of albinism as a disability can obstruct access to disability-related benefits.[41]

Children's participation remains weak. The Malawi case study found that persons with albinism participated in national coordination through APAM, but children were not adequately involved in developing or implementing the National Action Plan.[42] Regional and national responses should provide safe, accessible and age-appropriate ways for children with albinism to influence decisions affecting protection, education, health care and social support in line with the ACRWC and CRPD.[43]

2.6. Access to Justice and Accountability Gaps

Malawi's police data and the UTSS database use different sources and verification methods. The Malawi case study cites 223 police-recorded cases from 2014 to 2025, while UTSS recorded 73 documented attacks in the July 2025 database and 169 in the March 2026 summary.[44] These figures should not be treated as contradictory without reconciling definitions, dates and case categories. The Malawi evidence nevertheless shows prolonged investigations and unresolved cases, while children and community leaders reported declining trust when arrests produced no visible outcome: "We have trust in the police, but not fully."[45]

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights' 2025 judgment in *Centre for Human Rights and Others v. Tanzania* found systemic failures to prevent, investigate and prosecute attacks and ordered measures including compensation and law reform.[46] The judgment is relevant to SADC because it clarifies State duties on prevention, criminalisation, investigation, remedies and non-discrimination.[47] The regional challenge is to translate these duties into operational cooperation, including alerts, coordinated

investigations, evidence sharing, victim referral and protection of children and witnesses across SADC borders.[48]

3. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS: PROTECTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION GAPS

The 2024 SADC Declaration is the region's principal albinism-specific political commitment and should frame SADC's implementation agenda. It complements the African Children's Charter, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the AU Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa (2021-2031), the Pan-African Parliament Guidelines on Accusations of Witchcraft and Ritual Attacks and the ACERWC's 2025 Guiding Note on reporting on children with albinism.[49]

Albinism falls within the disability framework because it can result in long-term sensory impairments, particularly low vision, and physical impairments, including vulnerability to sun exposure and skin damage.[50] These impairments interact with attitudinal, institutional and environmental barriers that restrict equal participation. In Z v. United Republic of Tanzania, the CRPD Committee examined violence and discrimination against a person with albinism under the CRPD, reinforcing the application of disability-rights protections to persons with albinism.[51]

At national level, Malawi's framework includes constitutional protections, the Child Care, Protection and Justice Act, the Persons with Disabilities Act (2024), the Trafficking in Persons Act (2025), and the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism which is the most sustained domestically budgeted NAP in the region, with approximately MWK 1.94 billion allocated between 2018 and 2025.[52] Tanzania adopted a National Action Plan on Albinism for 2024/25–2028/29. Mozambique and Zambia have national planning instruments, while most other Member States rely primarily on general disability, child-protection, trafficking, and criminal laws without albinism-specific provisions.[53]

SADC's broader security architecture also matters. The Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation establishes the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and was amended to incorporate regional policing cooperation through SARPCCO.[54] These instruments provide a cooperation basis, but the albinism-specific response should be anchored in the 2024 Declaration and operationalised through SARPCCO, the transnational organised-crime strategy and child-protection systems.[55]

ACERWC ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The ACERWC has conducted investigative and fact-finding missions to two SADC Member States -Tanzania (2016) and Malawi (2022)- providing the most detailed child-rights accountability framework applicable to the region. Its investigative mission to Tanzania addressed the situation of children with albinism in temporary holding shelters and highlighted the need for community-based protection, family tracing and reintegration, adequate education and health care, and stronger accountability for attacks. Its 2022 fact-finding mission to Malawi addressed attacks, access to education and health care, justice, family support, participation and cross-border cooperation with an explicit focus on children with multiple vulnerabilities, including girls, unaccompanied children, refugees, and asylum seekers.[56] In its 2024 Concluding Observations on Malawi, the ACERWC recommended that financial resources be allocated and augmented for the NAP, that a comprehensive disaggregated data system be established for children with albinism, and that prosecution and conviction rates for attackers be increased.

In April 2024, the ACERWC convened a Day of General Discussion on Solutions to the Challenges Faced by Children with Albinism, resulting in an outcome declaration that called on governments to enforce anti-discrimination laws, fund national action plans, train service providers, and collect disaggregated data.[57] The ACERWC's 2025 Guiding Note on Reporting on Children with Albinism now requires all AU Member States to include disaggregated data on children with albinism in their periodic reports under the ACRWC.[58] SADC should engage with the ACERWC to use these missions and the 2025 Guiding Note as a monitoring framework for the 2024 SADC Declaration's implementation across all Member States.

4. SADC REGIONAL COORDINATION AND ADDED VALUE

SADC is not starting from zero. The 2024 Declaration already establishes a regional political commitment to prevention, protection, accountability, specialised services and cooperation. 2Implementation should now be organised through a costed regional action plan with indicators, timeframes, assigned institutions, a reporting cycle and meaningful participation by persons with albinism, including children.[59]

SARPCCO, the SADC Police Chiefs Sub-Committee, is responsible for preventing and combating cross-border and transnational organised crime, including trafficking in persons and crimes against women and children.[60] Its mandate includes information exchange, joint strategies, criminal-record management, INTERPOL cooperation and regional training. SADC can use this mandate to classify albinism-related abduction, trafficking, body-part trade, killing and grave desecration as priority manifestations of transnational organised crime.

The SADC Integrated Strategy to Prevent and Combat Transnational Organised Crime provides a regional framework for coordinated rule-of-law responses to organised criminal markets.[61] The Strategy provides a basis for a child-sensitive operational protocol covering missing-child alerts, common case coding, border notifications, evidence preservation, coordinated investigations, victim referral and safe return, while protecting privacy and personal data.[62]

SADC also has a comparative-learning role. Malawi offers lessons on census disaggregation, national budgeting, specialised judicial directions and government-civil-society coordination.[63] Tanzania offers lessons from national planning and continental litigation.[64] Zambia offers census data and justice-sector analysis, while health and education programmes across Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe offer transferable practice.[65] An annual SADC learning and accountability forum should document results, implementation failures and agreed follow-up rather than function only as an awareness event.[66]

5. PROMISING PRACTICES IN THE REGION

The adoption of the 2024 SADC Declaration is a significant regional practice because it creates a common political basis for prevention, protection, accountability and specialised services across all 16 Member States.[67] The Declaration is particularly important because it recognises organised crime, trafficking, stigma, discrimination, service gaps and skin-cancer risk in a single regional instrument.

Malawi has allocated approximately MWK 1.94 billion through national budgets between 2018 and 2025 for implementation of its albinism response, including education support, sunscreen, eye and skin services and capacity development.[68] The Chief Justice's 2016 direction assigning albinism-related cases to senior judicial officers offers a practical model for specialised case management.[69] APAM's participation in

national coordination demonstrates the value of involving organisations of persons with albinism, although children's direct participation remains limited.[70]

Malawi's community awareness work has contributed to reported reductions in name-calling and greater community response.[71] Standing Voice's health programme, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, demonstrates measurable improvements in sun-protection behaviour.[72] Zambia's census inclusion of albinism data and the AAN/Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam access-to-justice analysis provide an evidence base for national reform.[73] These practices provide practical material for SADC peer learning and adaptation across Member States.

6. KEY IMPLEMENTATION GAPS

The 2024 SADC Declaration has not yet been translated into a publicly available, costed regional implementation plan with indicators, assigned responsibilities and reporting arrangements.

- Existing SARPCCO and transnational-organised-crime mechanisms are relevant to albinism-related crimes, but there is no publicly available evidence that they are systematically or explicitly applied to crimes targeting persons with albinism.
- Population, attack and justice-sector data use different definitions, periods and verification methods, and are not routinely disaggregated by age, sex, location and case outcome.
- Cross-border referral, coordinated investigation, evidence-sharing and witness-protection procedures are not tailored to children with albinism.
- Access to sunscreen, dermatology, ophthalmology, low-vision services, reasonable accommodation and social protection remains project-dependent and geographically unequal.
- Children with albinism and their representative organisations are not consistently involved in designing, implementing and monitoring national or regional responses.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SADC AND ITS MEMBER STATES

For the SADC Secretariat and Relevant Organs

- Adopt a costed SADC Regional Action Plan to implement the 2024 Declaration, with targets, indicators, institutional responsibilities, annual reporting and an independent mid-term review.
- Establish an inter-directorate SADC coordination mechanism linking social and human development, health, education, gender, child protection, legal affairs, migration and the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Its terms of reference should guarantee formal participation by organisations of persons with albinism and children.
- Direct SARPCCO to incorporate albinism-related abduction, trafficking, killing, body-part trade and grave desecration into regional threat assessments, common case coding, alerts, training and coordinated operations.
- Develop a child-sensitive cross-border protocol for urgent alerts, victim identification and referral, coordinated investigations, evidence sharing, mutual legal assistance where applicable, safe return and witness protection, prioritising Tanzania-Malawi-Mozambique-Zambia corridors while covering all Member States.
- Create a SADC regional data standard and baseline covering population, attacks, missing persons, prosecutions, case outcomes, service access and budgets, disaggregated by age, sex and location

and aligned with the ACERWC Guiding Note. The baseline should distinguish census counts, administrative registers, research estimates and civil-society records.

- Adopt regional minimum standards for sunscreen procurement, ophthalmology, low-vision services, assistive products, inclusive education, psychosocial care and social protection.
- Convene an annual SADC peer-learning and accountability forum that reviews implementation data, documents transferable practices, identifies implementation failures and assigns time-bound follow-up actions.
- Issue practical guidance to Member States on applying the SADC Declaration in humanitarian emergencies, displacement settings and border areas, when children with albinism may face heightened protection and service-access risks.
- Coordinate with the EAC and ECCAS on compatible alerts, referrals and investigative cooperation involving Member States with overlapping regional membership, such as Tanzania and the DRC.

For SADC Member States

- Align national laws, policies and budgets with the 2024 SADC Declaration and the AU Plan of Action and adopt or renew costed national action plans with clear responsibilities and public reporting.
- Criminalise and effectively prosecute abduction, trafficking, possession or trade in body parts, grave desecration and related offences, and ensure that laws cover attempts, accomplices, instigators and cross-border conduct.
- Train police, immigration officers, prosecutors, judges, social workers and health personnel on albinism-related crimes, child-sensitive procedures, harmful-practice dynamics, evidence preservation and survivor referral.
- Include suitable broad-spectrum, high-SPF sunscreen in national essential-medicines lists and public procurement, and integrate skin screening, dermatology, ophthalmology and low-vision care into primary and referral services.
- Require schools to provide reasonable accommodation, including front-row seating, large-print and magnified materials, appropriate lighting, shaded spaces, flexible uniforms, examination accommodation, safe transport and enforceable anti-bullying procedures.
- Expand social protection to recognise the disability-related costs borne by children with albinism and their caregivers, including transport, sunscreen, visual aids and lost caregiving time.
- Collect, reconcile and publish albinism-disaggregated census and administrative data, clearly distinguishing police records, verified attack databases, service registers and population estimates.
- Invest in family- and community-based protection, trauma-informed psychosocial support, survivor rehabilitation and secure housing improvements where individual risk assessments demonstrate need, avoiding unnecessary institutionalisation.
- Ensure the meaningful, safe and age-appropriate participation of children with albinism in national action plans, budgets, monitoring and SADC reporting.

8. CONCLUSION

Children with albinism in Southern Africa experience a continuum of preventable harm, including killings, abductions, missing-person cases, grave desecration, trafficking, stigma, exclusion from education, unaffordable health care, weak access to justice and persistent data invisibility.[74] The March 2026 UTSS summary records at least 633 documented attacks across 12 SADC Member States, while recent reports

from Madagascar and Malawi show that risks remain active.[75] The 2024 SADC Declaration provides the political foundation for a regional response, but it must now be translated into implementation.[76]

SADC's role is not to replace national responsibility, but to make national action coherent, comparable and mutually reinforcing. Member States must finance and implement laws, services and protection measures. SADC must set standards, coordinate cross-border and conflict-sensitive action, enable learning, support inter-REC cooperation and monitor results. These actions can reduce violence, prevent avoidable skin cancer, strengthen accountability and ensure that every child with albinism in Southern Africa can live, learn and participate with dignity.

9. ENDNOTES

[1] SADC (2026). Member States. Available at: https://www.sadc.int/member-states
[2] Under the Same Sun (UTSS) (2026). Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism: Two-Page Summary, 3 March 2026. Available at: https://www.underthesamesun.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Attacks-of-PWA-2-page_03.03.2026.pdf
[3] Ibid
[4] Southern African Development Community (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf
[5] Ibid
[6] OHCHR (2024). UN Independent Expert Welcomes Adoption of the SADC Declaration, 22 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/statements/20240823-stm-IE-albinism-sadc.pdf; Amnesty International (2024). Southern Africa: SADC Declaration on Albinism a Long Overdue Intervention. Available at: https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/08/southern-africa-sadc-declaration-on-albinism-a-long-overdue-intervention/
[7] National Statistical Office, Malawi (2019). 2018 Malawi Population and Housing Census: Main Report; ACPF/Massah (2025), Malawi case study. Available at: https://malawi.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/2018%20Malawi%20Population%20and%20Housing%20Census%20Main%20Report%20%281%29.pdf
[8] Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (2024). 2022 Population and Housing Census: Basic Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile, Tanzania Mainland. Available at: https://sensa.nbs.go.tz/publication/02.%20Mainland_Demographic_and_Socioeconomic_Profile.pdf
[9] Zambia Statistics Agency (2025). 2022 Census National Analytical Report. Available at: https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2022-Census-National-Analytical-Report.pdf
[10] Pinto, F.J. (2025). Albinism in Angola as a Public Health Issue. Medical Research Archives, 13(4); Kromberg, J.G.R. and Kerr, R.A. (2025). Albinism research in a Southern African setting: unique findings. Journal of Community Genetics, 16, 107-116. See https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11979064/. Available at: https://esmed.org/albinism-in-angola-a-public-health-perspective/
[11] Southern African Development Community (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf
[12] Under the Same Sun (UTSS) (2026). Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism: Two-Page Summary, 3 March 2026. Available at: https://www.underthesamesun.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Attacks-of-PWA-2-page_03.03.2026.pdf
[13] de Vries, W. and Vissers, B. (2026). Factsheet: Attacks on Persons with Albinism in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. Africa Albinism Network / Under the Same Sun. Available at: https://africaalbinismnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Factsheet-AAN-UTTS-January-2026.pdf
[14] Under the Same Sun (UTSS) (2026). Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism: Two-Page Summary, 3 March 2026. Available at: https://www.underthesamesun.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Attacks-of-PWA-2-page_03.03.2026.pdf
[15] Ibid
[16] Africa Albinism Network (2026). Statement condemning recent attacks against persons with albinism in Madagascar and Malawi, 29 May 2026. Available at: https://africaalbinismnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/AAN-AS-2026-011-STATEMENT-BY-THE-AFRICA-ALBINISM-NETWORK-CONDEMNING-RECENT-ATTACKS-AGAINST-PERSONS-WITH-ALBINISM-IN-MADAGASCAR-AND-MALAWI.pdf
[17] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. ISBN 978-99990-1-103-7. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf
[18] Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf

[19] Republic of Malawi (2025). Trafficking in Persons Act. Lilongwe: Government of Malawi.
[20] Under the Same Sun (UTSS) (2026). Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism: Two-Page Summary, 3 March 2026. Available at: https://www.underthesamesun.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Attacks-of-PWA-2-page_03.03.2026.pdf
[21] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. ISBN 978-99990-1-103-7. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf
[22] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.
[23] Ibid
[24] Reimer-Kirkham, S. et al. (2024). Birth stories of South African mothers of children with albinism. International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences, 20, 100650. Available ata: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214139123001257
[25] Moyo, L. et al. (2024). The myth of universal education in rural Zimbabwe: Evidence of challenges faced by pupils with albinism. International Journal of Educational Development, 113, 102987. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2024.102987
[26] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf
[27] Equality Court for the Sub-District of eThekwini North (2024). Thembisile Madlala Albinism Foundation v. Bhongolethu Mzozo, Case No. 03/2023, judgment delivered 30 August 2024. Available at: https://www.justice.gov.za/EQCact/docs/2025-Judgment-KHALLIL-03-2023.pdf
[28] Amnesty International and National Albinism Task Force South Africa (2023). "South Africa: Authorities must take immediate steps to protect persons with albinism against discrimination and advocacy of hatred constituting incitement," 26 October 2023. Available at: https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/south-africa-authorities-must-take-immediate-steps-to-protect-persons-with-albinism-against-discrimination-and-advocacy-of-hatred-constituting-incitement/
[29] Ibid
[30] World Health Organization (2025). The Selection and Use of Essential Medicines: WHO Model Lists, 2025. Available at: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/B09474
[31] International Agency for Research on Cancer. Albinism: a neglected community with excessively high skin cancer risks. Available at: https://albinism.iarc.who.int/
[32] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.
[33] Standing Voice (2024). Annual Report 2024: Skin Cancer Prevention Programme in Malawi and Tanzania. Available at: https://www.standingvoice.org/
[34] Reimer-Kirkham, S. et al. (2024). Birth Stories of South African Mothers of Children with Albinism: A Critical Human Rights Analysis. International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences, 20, 100650. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214139123001257
[35] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.
[36] Ibid
[37] Mtonga, T., Kalimaposo, K. and Mandyata, J. (2023). Classroom Experiences of Learners with Albinism in Selected Regular and Special Education Schools in Zambia. International Journal of Social Science and Education Research Studies, 3(1), 120-129.
[38] Moyo, L. et al. (2024). The myth of universal education in rural Zimbabwe: Evidence of challenges faced by pupils with albinism. International Journal of Educational Development, 113, 102987. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2024.102987
[39] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. ISBN 978-99990-1-103-7. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf

[40] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.
[41] Reimer-Kirkham, S. et al. (2024). Birth stories of South African mothers of children with albinism. International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences, 20, 100650. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214139123001257
[42] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.
[43] African Union (2021). Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa, 2021-2031; ACERWC (2025). Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism in Africa. Available at: https://reporting.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2025-10/Guiding%20Note%20on%20Reporting%20on%20Children%20with%20Albinism_English_0.pdf
[44] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.
[45] Ibid
[46] African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (2025). Centre for Human Rights and Others v. United Republic of Tanzania, Application No. 019/2018, Judgment on Merits and Reparations, 5 February 2025. Available at: https://www.african-court.org/cpmt/storage/app/uploads/public/67a/352/f2e/67a352f2e80cc613846453.pdf
[47] African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (2025). Centre for Human Rights and Others v. United Republic of Tanzania, Application No. 019/2018, Judgment on Merits and Reparations, 5 February 2025. Available at: https://www.african-court.org/cpmt/storage/app/uploads/public/67a/352/f2e/67a352f2e80cc613846453.pdf
[48] Southern African Development Community (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf
[49] African Union (2021). Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa, 2021-2031; ACERWC (2025). Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism in Africa. Available at: https://reporting.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2025-10/Guiding%20Note%20on%20Reporting%20on%20Children%20with%20Albinism_English_0.pdf
[50] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf
[51] Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019). Z v. United Republic of Tanzania, Communication No. 24/2014, CRPD/C/22/D/24/2014. Available at: https://juris.ohchr.org/casedetails/3131/en-US
[52] Government of Malawi (2018). National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism in Malawi (2018–2022). Lilongwe: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare. Budget data: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Budget Statement 2019/2020, pp. 84 and 88. Available at: https://actiononalbinism.org/en/entity/7r4k221hi72?page=32
[53] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf
[54] SADC (2001). Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. The Protocol establishes the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and was amended to accommodate regional policing cooperation through SARPCCO. Available at: https://www.sadc.int/document/protocol-politics-defence-and-security-2001
[55] Southern African Development Community (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf
[56] African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2016). Report on Investigative Mission on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Temporary Holding Shelters - Tanzania; ACERWC (2023). Report on the Fact-Finding Mission on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Malawi report: Available at: https://reporting.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2023-02/17.23_Final%20Report%20on%20the%20fact-finding%20mission%20in%20the%20Republic%20of%20Malawi%20%281%29.pdf
[57] ACERWC (2024). Outcome Declaration: Day of General Discussion on Solutions to the Challenges Faced by Children with Albinism, 43rd Ordinary Session, April 2024. Available at: https://www.acerwc.africa

[58] ACERWC (2025). Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism in Africa. Available at: https://reporting.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2025-10/Guiding%20Note%20on%20Reporting%20on%20Children%20with%20Albinism_English_0.pdf

[59] OHCHR (2024). UN Independent Expert welcomes adoption of the SADC Declaration, 22 August 2024; Amnesty International (2024). Southern Africa: SADC Declaration on albinism a long overdue intervention. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/statements/20240823-stm-IE-albinism-sadc.pdf

[60] SADC. Police Chiefs Sub-Committee / Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO): mandate and objectives. Available at: https://www.sadc.int/pillars/police-sarpcco

[61] SADC (2021). Integrated Strategy to Prevent and Combat Transnational Organised Crime in the SADC Region. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/cld/uploads/res/treaties/strategies/southern_african_development_community/001s_html/EN-SADC_Strategy_to_Prevent_and_Combat_TOC_003.pdf

[62] Ibid

[63] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.

[64] African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (2025). Centre for Human Rights and Others v. United Republic of Tanzania, Application No. 019/2018, Judgment on Merits and Reparations, 5 February 2025. Available at: https://www.african-court.org/cpmt/storage/app/uploads/public/67a/352/f2e/67a352f2e80cc613846453.pdf

[65] ACPF (2026). Living in the Shadows: Children with Albinism in Africa. Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum. Available at: https://africanchildforum.org/resourcecentre/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Living-in-the-Shadows.Children-with-Albinism-in-Africa_En.pdf

[66] OHCHR (2024). UN Independent Expert welcomes adoption of the SADC Declaration, 22 August 2024; Amnesty International (2024). Southern Africa: SADC Declaration on albinism a long overdue intervention. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/statements/20240823-stm-IE-albinism-sadc.pdf

[67] Southern African Development Community (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf

[68] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.

[69] Amnesty International (2018). Towards Effective Criminal Justice for People with Albinism in Malawi. Available at: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr36/8634/2018/en/

[70] ACPF (2025). A Study on the State of Children with Albinism in Malawi. Unpublished country case study. Addis Ababa: ACPF.

[71] Ibid

[72] Standing Voice (2024). Annual Report 2024: Skin Cancer Prevention Programme in Malawi and Tanzania. Available at: https://www.standingvoice.org/

[73] Zambia Statistics Agency (2025). 2022 Census National Analytical Report. Available at: https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2022-Census-National-Analytical-Report.pdf

[74] Under the Same Sun (UTSS) (2026). Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism: Two-Page Summary, 3 March 2026. Available at: https://www.underthesamesun.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Attacks-of-PWA-2-page_03.03.2026.pdf

[75] Ibid

[76] Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2024). Declaration on the Protection of Persons with Albinism, adopted 17 August 2024. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/albinism/sadc-declaration-protection-persons-with-albinism-en.pdf