



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

ZAMBIA'S Voluntary National Review — 2023 —

Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development at all levels





REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

© 2023

Ministry of Finance and National Planning

P.O. Box 50062, Lusaka, ZAMBIA

Tel: +260-211-252395

www.mofnp.gov.zm

This report is the Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Zambia on the implementation and progress towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.



Special message from the President of the Republic of Zambia



Mr Hakainde Hichilema

President of the Republic of Zambia

As a least developed country, Zambia faces many challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Poverty, inequality, and unemployment remain significant development issues in our country, with the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbating these problems. We are, however, of the firm belief that by working together as a people and with our partners, and focusing our efforts on the SDGs, we can create a brighter future for all Zambians.

One of my top priorities as President of the Republic of Zambia is to ensure that the country is on track towards achieving the SDGs. To do this, we are taking a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses the root causes of poverty and inequality. This includes promoting sustainable economic growth, creating jobs, investing in education and healthcare as well as protecting our environment. We are paying attention to ensure that no one is left behind in our efforts to achieve the SDGs. This includes marginalised communities, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and those living in rural areas. We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

We have increased funds for the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to address some of these development issues. The increased funding will allow communities to embark on initiatives that directly benefit them and address the most pressing development needs at the sub-national levels, such as the provision of quality education and health services.

Attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is not an easy undertaking. Building a more inclusive, prosperous, and equitable Zambia for all will require concerted effort from all state and non-state actors in the country. As a country, we cannot do this alone. We need the support of our partners in the international community to achieve the SDGs. We must also collaborate with other countries, organisations, and individuals who share our vision of a more just and sustainable world. I am confident that, working together, we can attain the SDGs.

To achieve the SDGs, we need to measure our progress regularly and hold ourselves accountable. As a country, this means setting clear targets and indicators, collecting data, and reporting on our progress to stakeholders. We must also be transparent and honest about our successes and challenges, and we must be willing to adjust our strategies as needed. Zambia's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) is an important step in that regard.

Opening statement from the Minister of Finance and National Planning



Hon. Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane M.P.

Minister of Finance and National Planning

Zambia is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our first Voluntary National Review (VNR), conducted in 2020, made this point very evident. This second VNR emphasises, even more, how determined we are to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, there can be no sustainable development when people's health and welfare is threatened. The unforeseen challenges driven by the unprecedented poly-crisis, which includes the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change variability, has affected Zambia's economy and society as a whole.

The pandemic has had a negative impact on manufacturing, tourism, and the majority of the service sectors. People's general well-being has also been impacted, including through loss of lives and livelihoods. The frequency and intensity of climate events have increased, resulting in the country experiencing droughts, floods, and high temperatures, which have led to reduced hydroelectricity generation capacity, food insecurity and access to clean and safe water for humans and animals.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate variability have further been compounded by high debt levels, which have contributed to reduction in fiscal space and slow growth, as the limited resources that could have been used for other national development priorities have been diverted. All of this undermines efforts towards advancing the 2030 Agenda.

It is within this context that Zambia has chosen to prepare and present its second VNR. The VNR preparation process has enabled us to reflect on the challenges and setbacks we continue to face and rethink our agenda to effectively respond and advance the country's development. We recognise that development is multifaceted and must be pursued in an environmentally sustainable manner, at the lowest total economic, financial, social and environmental cost, consistent with our national aspirations.

Under the leadership and guidance of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, an economic transformation

agenda anchored on strategic development areas, namely, economic transformation and job creation; human and social development; environmental sustainability; and a good governance environment have been prioritised. These priority areas form the bedrock of the Eighth National Development Plan, 2022-2026 (8NDP), which elaborates the structural and legal reforms aimed at addressing impediments to higher and more sustainable growth.

The 8NDP, which we launched on 2nd September 2022, has mainstreamed the SDGs. This means that we are implementing the 8NDP in an integrated development approach which is informed by the tenets of the SDGs.

This 2023 VNR coincides with the preparation of the Voluntary Sub-national Review by the Local Government Association of Zambia and an independent Chapter from a consortium of civil society organisations. This effort will contribute to integrating a more local dimension into the SDGs.

Zambia is committed to ensuring that we realise the targets of the 2030 Agenda by allocating sufficient financial, human and institutional resources. We are working with, and recognise the support, from our various partners in ensuring that we unlock resources to implement important development interventions. The Government is resolved to continue with a people-centred reform agenda that turns challenges into opportunities, while creating more sustainable and inclusive job-rich growth.



Acknowledgements from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning

The Ministry of Finance and National Planning wishes to acknowledge with gratitude all ministries, representatives of the public sector, private sector, civil society organisations, and the academia for their invaluable submissions that informed the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting process. Special thanks go to the Cluster Advisory Groups, Provincial Development Coordinating Committees and the National Development Coordinating Committee for their effective integration and coordination of the various sectors and development actors at national and sub-national level.



Lois Mulube

Acting Permanent Secretary
(Planning and Administration)
of the Ministry of Finance
and National Planning

The formulation of Zambia's second VNR has, yet again, demonstrated the spirit of collective responsibility and teamwork which is key in delivering development results. The tireless efforts of our stakeholders in providing the information that was required to inform the VNR cannot go unnoticed.

The Ministry extends appreciation to various development partners supporting the Government in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in the review of progress. Special gratitude goes

to the United Nations System for the support rendered throughout this process.

The Ministry would further like to thank civil society organisations and the Local Government Association of Zambia for their invaluable contributions to the VNR.

Lastly, I would like to thank the technical staff in the Ministry for their dedication throughout the process and ensuring that every stage of the VNR process was well coordinated.



Howing uko?
Vaccinated



Ministry of Health

UNITED NATIONS

Roll Up Your Sleeve
Fight COVID-19 and
the Vaccine!



Ministry of Health



UNITED NATIONS
ZAMBIA



ve,
I Take

I got my
COVID-19 vaccine



UNITED NATIONS
ZAMBIA

Highlights

For the 2023 VNR, Zambia has decided to report on 10 SDGs namely; SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 17. The 10 Goals were selected based on the data that was readily available, which further amplifies the need to strengthen the statistical system. In showing the progress made in the

identified areas since the first report, this VNR notes the persistent structural issues and emerging development challenges that have adversely impacted the attainment of national development objectives. **The follow are some of the SDG performance indicators.**



SDG3 — Good Health and Well-Being

3.1.2	Skilled birth attendance (69% in 2022 – 68% in 2021)	↗
3.3.1	New HIV Infections per 1,000 uninfected population (4.6% in 2021 – 3.7% in 2018)	→
3.3.2	Tuberculosis Incidence (319 deaths per 1,000 people in 2021 – 346 in 2018)	↗
3.3.3	Malaria Incidence (313 deaths per 100,000 people in 2021 – 312 since 2018)	↘
3.6.1	Road traffic-related death (9% in 2020 – 14% in 2016)	↗
3.8.1	National Social Health Insurance Scheme coverage (2,811,473 lives covered in 2020 – 12.54% total population)	↗
3.b.1	Fully immunization (77% in 2022 – 88% in 2020 for the under 1-year age group – under 2 years' age group – 62% in 2020 88% in 2020)	↘
3.c.1	Covid-19 (9,202,759 vaccinated of the total eligible population as of May, 2023)	↗



SDG4 — Quality Education

4.1.1	Reading and mathematics skills of grades 2/3 (41.5% and 43.5% in 2020)	→
4.1.1	Reading and mathematics skills of lower secondary (52.5% and 31.5% in 2020)	→
4.1.2	4.1.2 Completion rates (86% in 2020 – 97% in 2019)	↘
4.2.1	ECE (37.1% in 2020 – 35.2% in 2019)	↗
4.5.1	Gender Parity Index in primary education (GPI of 1.03 in 2020)	↗
4.b.1	Enrolment in TEVET institution (79,038 in 2022 – 32,358 in 2020)	↗



SDG5 — Gender Equality

5.2.2	Sexual violence Access (26,370 in 2020 – 25,121 in 2019)	↘
5.3.1	Child marriage (5.2% and 29% of women aged 20-24 years having been married by the age 15 and by age 18 in 2018)	→
5.5.1	Gender equality in politics (3.4 pp since 2002)	↘
5.6.1	Teenage Pregnancy (29.2% in 2018)	→
5.a.1	Females with title deeds (12,412 deeds representing 16% as at 28th February 2023)	↘



SDG7 — Affordable and Clean Energy

7.1.1	Access to electricity (32.8% of population in 2018: 70.6% in urban areas and 8.1% in rural areas)	→
7.2.1	Renewable energy-generating capacity (9.24 watts per capita per 19,610,769 people)	↗
7.2.1	Energy consumption (70% of total primary energy supply)	→
7.3.1	Energy intensity (7 MJ per dollar of GDP in 2019 – 13 MJ per dollar of GDP in 2000)	→



SDG8 — Decent Work and Economic Growth

8.1.1	Annual growth rate (4.7% real GDP in 2022)	↗
8.3.1	Informal employment (55.6% Men – 44.4% women in 2021)	→
8.5.1	Average Hourly Earnings of Employees (ZMW 9 in 2021)	↘
8.6.1	Youth NEET (47.2% in 2021 – 53.6% in 2018)	↗
8.9.1	Tourism as a proportion of total GDP (8.5% in 2021 – 31.3% in 2020)	↘
8.10.1a	Commercial Bank Branches per 100,000 (2.9% in 2021 – 4.6% in 2017)	↘
8.10.1b	ATMs per 100,000 Adults (2.9% in 2021 – 4.6% in 2017)	↘



SDG9 — Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

9.1.1	Population who live within 2 km of an all-season road (38% of the rural population)	↘
9.1.2	Passenger movements by aviation (434,364 in 2022 – 753,930 in 2021)	↗
9.2.2	Manufacturing employment (10.5% of total employment in 2021 – 8.1% in 2018)	↗
9.4.1	CO2 emissions per unit of value added (0.41 metric tons per thousand dollars)	→
9.1c1	Mobile penetration (97.1% in 2022 – 93.6 in 2015)	↗



SDG12 — Responsible Consumption and Production

12.3.1	Household food waste (1,391,729 tonnes per year in 2021)	→
12.5.1	National Recycling Rate (6.5 % tons in 2021)	→
12.a.1	Renewable energy-generating capacity (7.59 watts/per capita, a total percentage of is 4.21%)	↗



SDG13 — Climate Action

13.1.1	Disasters related deaths (8 deaths in 2022/2023 rainy season – 14 deaths in 2021/2022 rainy season)	↗
13.2.2	GHG Emission (126,758 GgCO2eq between 2010/2016 – 6,154GgCO2eq compared to the emission level in 2005/2010)	↘



SDG15 — Life on Land

15.1.1	Forest area (60.28% of the land total area in 2022)	↘
15.1.2	Terrestrial Protected Area (40% of the country's total land cover)	↗
15.3.1	Sustainable forest management (471 national and local forests cover 6,819,007.67 hectares of land)	↗
15.3.1	Land degraded (55,103.7sqkm representing 7.46% of total land in 2019)	↘
15.5.1	Red List Index (28 species were classified as threatened/endangered in 2022)	→



SDG17 — Partnerships for the Goals

17.1.1	Total Government revenue (21.4% of GDP in 2022 – 18% in 2019)	↗
17.2.1	Budget funded by domestic taxes (94.6% in 2022 – 72.8% in 2019)	↗
17.3.1	ODA (1% in 2022 – 1.35% in 2020)	→
17.3.2	Remittances (2,473.39 ZMW Millions in 2022 – 1,617.54 ZMW Millions in 2019)	↗
17.8.1	Internet Usage (25.2% in 2021 – 19.2% in 2020)	↗

Table of contents

Special message from the President of the Republic of Zambia	03
Opening statement from the Minister of Finance and National Planning	04
Acknowledgements from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning	05
Highlights	08
Chapter 1 Introduction	12
Chapter 2 Methodology	14
VNR Process and Methodology Data Collection	15
Stakeholder Consultation	16
Limitations of the 2023 VNR	16
Chapter 3 Policy and enabling environment	17
Priority Focus Areas - Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development	18
Collective Ownership	22
Mainstreaming the SDGs into National Development Frameworks	24
Implementation of the Principle of Leaving No One Behind	24
Data to Make Sure that No One Is Left Behind	26
Institutional Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms	28
Systemic Issues and Policy Response	29
Chapter 4 Local government and Sustainable Development Goals	30
People	31
Planet	32
Prosperity	33
Peace	33
Partnerships	34
Challenges faced by local authorities in meeting the SDGs	34
Chapter 5 Civil society: a significant partner in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda	35
Civil society, a partner in policy formulation, monitoring and accountability	36
Civil society, a partner in service delivery	36
Civil society, an advocate for the SDGs	36



Chapter 6 | **Progress on goals and indicators and evaluation of policies and measures taken so far** **37**

SDG3 — Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	38
SDG4 — Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	44
SDG5 — Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	53
SDG7 — Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	59
SDG8 — Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment with decent work for all	63
SDG9 — Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	71
SDG12 — Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	77
SDG13 — Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	81
SDG15 — Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	87
SDG17 — Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	93

Chapter 7 | **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** **100**

Selected Sector Effects and Impacts	101
Policy Response to the Pandemic	102
Progress Towards Recovery from the Pandemic	104
Russia-Ukraine War	105

Chapter 8 | **Means of implementation** **107**

Accelerating Economic Recovery and Resource Mobilisation	108
Improving Data and Evidence	110
Improving Capacity Building	111

Chapter 9 | **Conclusions and next steps** **112**

Annexes | **List of good practices and success stories** **115**

List of tables	126
List of boxes	126
List of figures	127
Abbreviations and Acronyms	128
References	129



— 01 —

Introduction





In 2015, Zambia committed itself to implement the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment was reaffirmed in the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented at the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Zambia's second VNR has been prepared against the backdrop of multiple crises that affect the country's pace towards attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs. It shows the current situation and efforts to gain traction and serve as a springboard for renewed commitment and to explore partnerships to drive recovery and development in key areas to achieve the SDGs.

The VNR coincides with the transition between national planning cycles with the expiry of the Seventh National Development Plan and the launch of the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP). The 8NDP which covers the period 2022–2026, is 87 percent aligned to the SDGs. To support implementation of the Agenda, the country has fostered an inclusive, whole-of-society approach to development, with an institutional framework for monitoring national development plans towards the national Vision 2030. This will enable more targeted and efficient allocation of government expenditure to achieve the national priorities and the SDGs.

In recognition of the transformative actions to achieve the SDGs, the VNR aims to comprehensively assess progress between 2019 and 2022, building on the previous review, as well as identify challenges in implementing the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The engagement of key partners has, therefore, informed the process and the preparation of the Report, demonstrating the importance of participation and home-grown solutions to address the implementation gaps and facilitate for sharing of experiences and lessons learnt at the local and national levels.

For the 2023 VNR, Zambia has decided to report on 10 SDGs namely; SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 17. The 10 Goals were selected based on the data that was readily available, which further amplifies the need to strengthen the statistical system. In showing the progress made in the identified areas since the first report, this VNR notes the persistent structural issues and emerging development challenges that have adversely impacted the attainment of national development objectives. It outlines policy recommendations and strategic interventions that are being undertaken to address the shortcomings and improve outcomes.

The Report also goes a step further by presenting a Voluntary Sub-national Review (VSR), focusing on how local authorities have localised the SDGs and the progress they have made towards the 2030 Agenda. It is envisaged that the VSR will have the potential of strengthening performance and visibility of local authorities in sustainable development as highlighted in the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020 and the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015. Furthermore, civil society organisations (CSOs) have contributed an independent chapter and cases aimed at giving space and a voice to non-state actors and strengthening dialogue, as well as cooperation between government and CSOs.

Structure of the report

The Report is structured around eight chapters.

The VNR objectives and development context are presented in Chapter 1. In Chapter 2, the methodology and process used in conducting the VNR are highlighted.

Chapter 3 focuses on the policy and enabling environment, describing the ownership of the SDGs, their integration into the national planning framework and what Zambia is doing to ensure that no one is left behind. Highlights of local government and the SDGs and CSO participation in sustainable development are discussed in Chapters 4 and 5 respectively, while an analysis of the progress, made including achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of interventions towards the SDGs are presented in Chapter 6.

Chapter 7 discusses new and emerging issues, focusing on building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, and includes issues on the Russia-Ukraine war. The means of implementation are discussed in Chapter 8, and in Chapter 9 the conclusion and next steps are presented.



— 02 —

Methodology





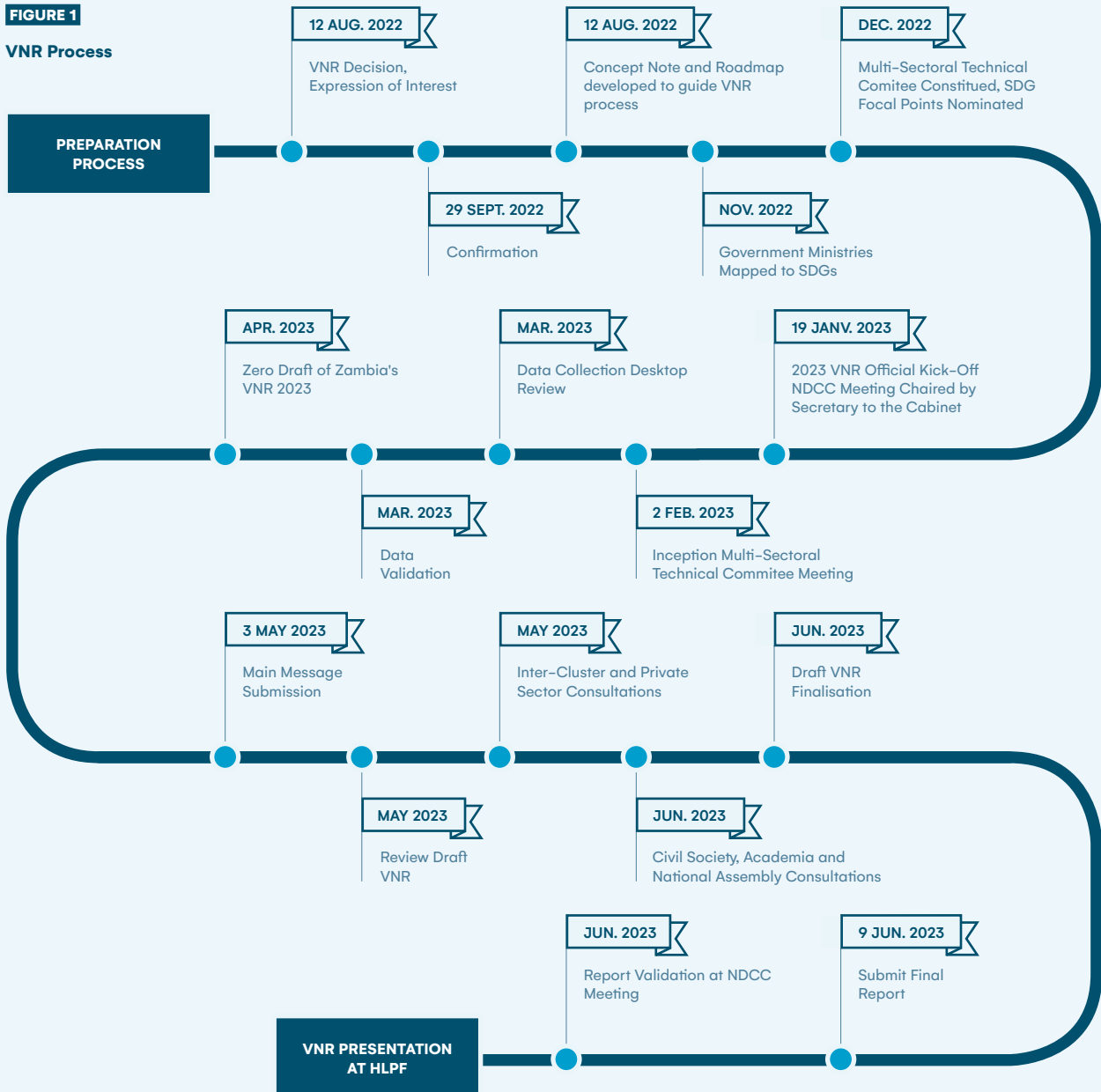
VNR Process and Methodology

Building on the 2020 VNR, Zambia’s second review is based on the guidance provided in the 2023 Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs. The process of undertaking the VNR began in the last quarter of 2022 with a concept note containing key deliverables aligned to the HLPF deadlines (see Figure 1). This was followed by the development of a Cabinet Memorandum to inform the Cabinet on the VNR process and its importance. A core team and a multi-sectoral technical committee were constituted by the Secretary to the Treasury to coordinate and develop

the VNR Report.

The official kick-off for the 2023 VNR process took place during the first National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC) meeting, held on 19th January, 2023. A ministerial statement was also prepared, outlining the highlights of the Report and contributions from key stakeholders to ensure the success of the VNR process, publicise the exercise and create awareness among state and non-state actors.

FIGURE 1
VNR Process



Data Collection

Data for in-depth analysis on the progress of implementation of the SDGs was central to the VNR process. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning mapped the SDGs indicators to the lead line ministries, provinces and other spending agencies (MPSAs) that could provide and/or coordinate provision of data for the VNR. A data collection template was then developed and distributed accordingly to collect relevant information on the SDGs indicators.

Additionally, an online case study form was developed to allow provision of information on innovative interventions that contribute to achieving the SDGs. The form was circulated to MPSAs, local authorities, development partners, the private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), persons with disabilities, women and youth groups. The information collected was also used to substantiate the data and provide feedback on what needs to be done to accelerate progress. The CSO platform on the SDGs and the United Nations (UN) agencies in Zambia provided technical support and relevant materials on the SDGs indicators.

The content and analysis of this second VNR is largely based on administrative data and data from the 2022

Labour Force Survey. These primary data sources provided information and helped track progress on the SDGs in the VNR Report. Secondary data sources from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the UN as well as reports from the academia, think tanks and sector ministries were referenced in the preparation of the Report. Apart from being members of the multi-sectoral technical committee, CSOs and the Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) were also invited to independently write parts of the VNR Report, sharing their perspectives on Zambia's progress towards the SDGs. Furthermore, the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) updated the SDGs Baseline Indicator Framework using the most recent data available on each indicator.

A drafting retreat was held with government representatives, CSOs, LGAZ and UN agencies to analyse and validate the data used in the Report. The retreat also reviewed the main message of the Report. Based on the validated data, the multisectoral technical committee provided narrative for the VNR Report, highlighting key achievements, challenges and opportunities, lessons learnt and areas most in need of support. Following a series of stakeholder consultations, the core team compiled a draft report for validation by the NDCC.

Stakeholder Consultation

Various stakeholders were engaged and consulted to obtain views on the roles and collaboration among stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Agenda. Stakeholder engagements were held to ensure that all the information collected was a true reflection of the status of the implementation of the SDGs in Zambia. Most of the meetings were conducted physically, while other engagements were conducted through radio and online programmes, among others. Special and marginalised groups such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and albinism were also included in the VNR process to ensure that no one was left behind.

The SDG data template was used to guide discussions at the sub-national level and raise awareness of the SDGs among the citizenry. Consultations at the local level involved the following stakeholders: government sector ministries, the private sector, local authorities, CSOs and the traditional leadership. Special town hall meetings were also convened. Comprehensive participation in the consultations helped to build ownership of the 2030 Agenda, and consequently contributed to a whole-of-society-approach. Further, Members of Parliament were engaged through a selection of members from various committees, given the cross-sectoral nature of the SDGs.

Limitation of the 2023 VNR

The following were the major limitations of the 2023 VNR:

1. Insufficient up-to-date data for some SDG indicators and targets that rely on periodical surveys.
2. Weak accountability for results at sub-national levels.
3. Lack of information on the financing of the SDGs.



— 03 —

Policy and enabling environment



Priority Focus Areas - Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development

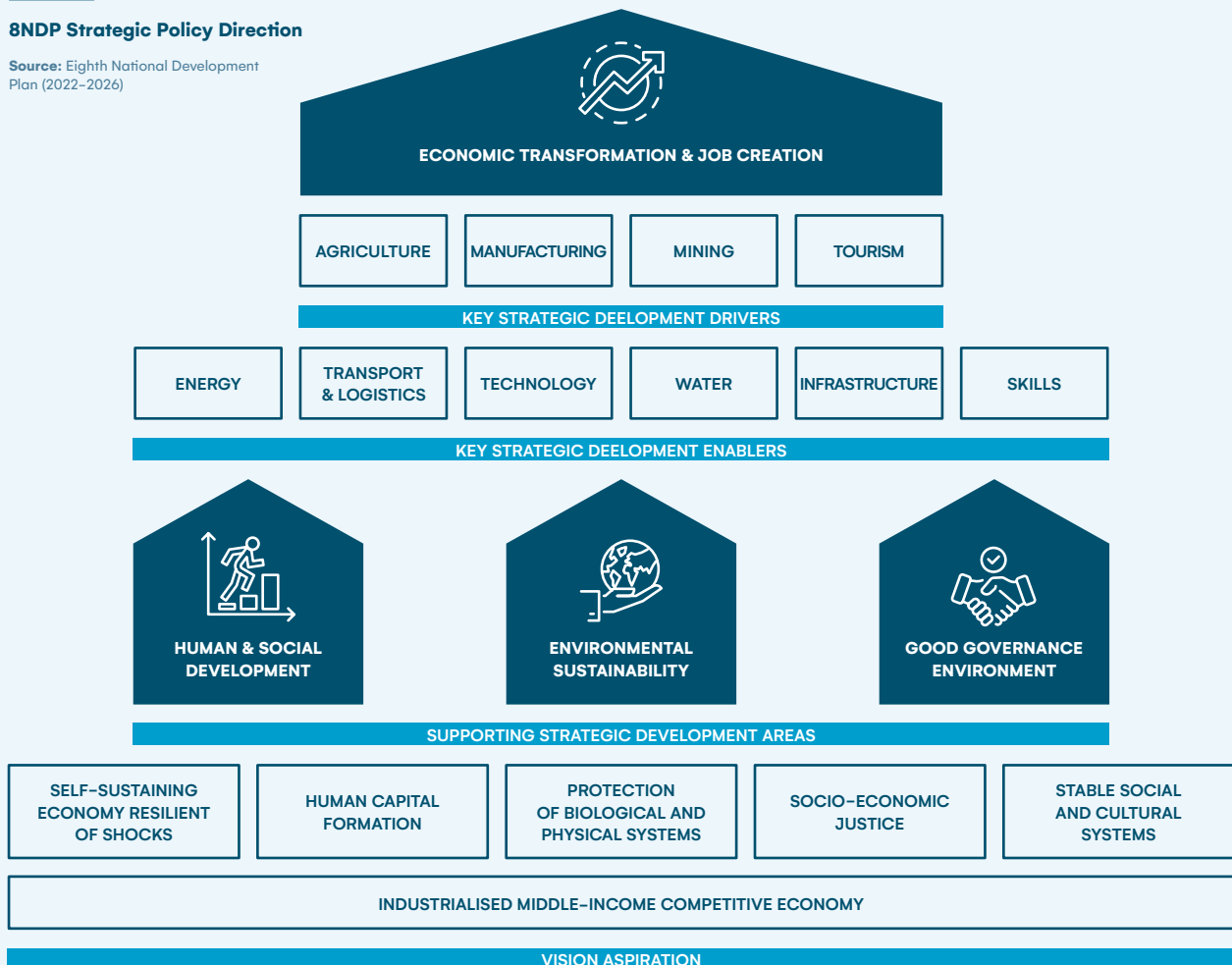
Integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions into Zambia's development frameworks is the key to achieving sustainable development. As highlighted in the first VNR of 2020, sustainable development is enshrined in Zambia's Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 as one of the values and principles to guide all development efforts, including the policy, strategy and programme levels. The Constitution envisions the national vision as a means of effectively realising and integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. Therefore, the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are aligned with Zambia's development priorities highlighted in the 8NDP, whose theme is socio-economic transformation for improved livelihoods (see Figure 2). The Plan is the fourth in a series of five-year national development plans (NDPs) towards actualisation of Zambia's national Vision 2030 in which the country aspires to become a prosperous middle-income nation.

Given that the SDGs resonate with the developmental challenges that the country seeks to address, Zambia considers them as part of the national agenda and has integrated them in the 8NDP. The nation has set four strategic development objectives or pillars in the 8NDP, namely: Economic Transformation and Job Creation; Human and Social Development; Environmental Sustainability and Good Governance Environment, which, if met, would culminate not only in the realisation of local development milestones but also the attainment of the SDGs. Under the four strategic development objectives of the 8NDP, structural and legal reforms aimed at addressing impediments to higher and more sustainable growth, are articulated. In addition, specific interventions in the four interlinked pillars of the 8NDP are consistent with efforts under sectoral policies for improved horizontal and vertical policy coherence and ultimately, the attainment of the SDGs.

FIGURE 2

8NDP Strategic Policy Direction

Source: Eighth National Development Plan (2022-2026)





Economic Transformation and Job Creation

Zambia has been implementing several policies and strategies to promote economic transformation and job creation, particularly driven by the agriculture, manufacturing, mining and tourism sectors. Regarding the agriculture sector, the Government is creating an enabling environment for private sector growth by providing a stable trade policy with emphasis on easing of restrictions on exports of agricultural commodities and facilitating access to finance as well as promoting commercial agriculture through farm block development. Additionally, the largely ineffective Farmer Input Support Programme, a smallholder farmers' agricultural subsidy programme, is set to be revised and replaced with a robust comprehensive agriculture support programme which will encompass the provision of inputs through the electronic agro-input system as well as extension service support, and support for value-addition, storage and logistics.

In manufacturing, the Government is implementing interventions aimed at accelerating growth in the sector, among them, ensuring increased local content and investment for value-addition to products from the agriculture, forestry and mining sectors as well as trade facilitation. Additionally, to ease doing business in Zambia, the Government has reduced fees for services under the Patents and Companies Registration Agency and the amendment of the mergers and acquisitions notification

fees payable under the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.

Concerning mining, in 2022 the Government launched the revised National Mineral Resources Development Policy (NMRDP) partly informed by the Africa Mining Vision, which comprehensively addresses the inadequacies of the previous policy and aims to deliver the Government's ambitious agenda of attaining three million tonnes of copper production annually by 2031. The implementation of the NMRDP is already contributing to intensifying geological mapping and mineral resource exploration to spur the growth of the sector and stimulate ownership and participation of more Zambians, including rural and local communities, women and the youth and other vulnerable groups in mineral beneficiation and the mineral resources value chains. The Government is also encouraging the formation of cooperatives among artisanal and small-scale miners as well as facilitating access to support services to enhance their productivity, including linkages to value chains.

In the tourism sector, Zambia is developing the Northern and Southern Circuits, particularly around Kasaba Bay and Liuwa National Park. To actualise this, the Government is developing infrastructure, coupled with a supportive regulatory and licencing framework to attract private investment.

Human and Social Development

As a result of strategic interventions in the health, education, and water and sanitation sectors in the recent past, Zambia has recorded improvements in human and social development. With respect to the health sector, the policies being implemented are focused on; strengthening public health services, increased access to health and nutritional services, and enhanced capacity and retention of health personnel. Other interventions are increased access to quality health care by scaling-up recruitment of health personnel to reduce the client-to-health personnel ratio and ensuring availability of medicines and medical supplies.

To enhance health service delivery and improve the client-to-health personnel ratio, in 2021 the Government recruited over 11,000 additional health personnel to complement the already existing numbers in the sector. In line with the Community Health Strategy of 2017, the Government has continued to increase access to quality health services through the introduction of the Volunteer cadre known as Community Welfare Assistants Committees. Arising from this measure, it is expected that the client-to-health personnel ratio will respectively reduce to: 3,500 from 6,750 persons per doctor; 3,000 from 4,600 persons per clinical officer; and 500 from 750 persons per nurse/midwife, in 2026 compared to 2020, respectively. In addition, the Government is leveraging on the national

health insurance scheme to facilitate wider healthcare delivery by bringing on board more private sector players and ensuring sustainability in the health system.

With regard to education, Zambia seeks to provide quality, lifelong education for all that is accessible, inclusive and relevant to individual, national and global needs and value systems. In this regard, policies on education are focused on expanding access and improving the quality of early childhood, primary and secondary education as well as technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training and higher education. In 2022, the Government recruited 30,496 teachers in support of the "Education for All Policy". In order to increase contribution of technology, science and innovation to development, the Government is scaling-up admission to skills training by decentralising the skills development bursary scheme to the local level. This will enhance the targeting of beneficiaries, such as the vulnerable youths, as they will be identified by communities.

In the water and sanitation sectors, Zambia is formulating and implementing policies, programmes and strategies including the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy and the Zambia Water Investment Programme (ZWIP), to improve access to sufficient and quality water and sanitation services.

The policies, programmes and strategies are focused on ensuring national water security and sustainable management and utilisation of Zambia's water resources for socio-economic development, addressing water governance issues, building institutional capacity for addressing water security challenges, mobilising an ambitious level of resources for implementation of policy measures, and promoting climate resilience and gender transformation. A notable development is the launch of the ZWIP to run for the period 2022–2030 with the aim of enhancing resource mobilisation for investments in the water and sanitation sectors. The implementation of measures in the 8NDP, the ZWIP and other policies on water is expected to lead to an increase in access to clean and safe water to 67 percent by 2026 from 58 percent in 2018 for rural areas and 98 percent by 2026 from 91.8 percent for urban areas during the same period.

To improve sanitation services across the country, the Government is strengthening sewerage and solid waste management by enhancing financing to address the constraint of inadequate infrastructure and promoting

sustainable sanitation practices, including personal hygiene promotion and solid waste management, among others. With these interventions, the proportion of households with access to improved sanitation is expected to increase to 55 percent and 90 percent in 2026 from 37.2 percent and 77.7 percent in 2018 in rural and urban areas, respectively.

To reduce poverty, inequality and vulnerability, Zambia has made significant efforts to enhance the country's social protection mechanisms. In line with these mechanisms, Zambia has prioritised enhancing coverage and scope of social protection programmes, such as cash transfers, pension schemes, and food subsidies, to support vulnerable groups. Between 2019 and 2022, Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scheme recipients increased to 1,024,000 households and the monthly benefit increased from Zambian Kwacha (K)90 to K110. Food Security Pack recipients also increased from 80,000 to 290,000 households. Among other key social safety programmes, the Keeping Girls in School Programme has increased coverage to 43,520 girls in 2022 from 28,964 girls in 2021.

Environmental Sustainability

Zambia is strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for environmental sustainability. The Government is reviewing various policies, including the National Policy on Climate Change, the National Policy on the Environment and the National Biosafety Policy, among others, to incorporate emerging issues and strengthen the aspects on green growth. In addition, advanced progress has been achieved in the formulation of legislation on climate change to strengthen the coordination framework and enhance coherence between mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and review of the Environmental Management Act which incorporates green growth aspects.

Further, green economy and climate change are mainstreamed in the 8NDP with a dedicated pillar on environmental sustainability. In 2021, to fulfil the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement, Zambia submitted a more ambitious revised and updated Nationally-Determined Contribution (NDC) by enhancing both mitigation and adaptation actions with the target to achieve an estimated total emission reduction of 38,000 greenhouse gas carbon dioxide equivalent (GG CO₂ eq) which translates to 47 percent, with substantial international support, compared to 20,000 GG CO₂ eq which translates to 25 percent, under domestic efforts with limited international support, against 2010 as a base year. The mitigation actions were enhanced by adding three areas namely, liquid waste, coal and transport in addition to sustainable forest management, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and energy efficiency, outlined in the first NDC. On the other hand, the adaptation component was elaborated by developing indicators to enable the country

to track progress on building resilience in both human and physical ecosystems and in adaptation actions. Zambia is also formulating a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which will identify the country's major medium and long-term climate risks and vulnerabilities and mainstream them into the national development planning and budgeting processes. The NAP will set out priority adaptation actions, thereby directing investments into the building of the resilience of the communities across the country to the adverse impacts of climate change.

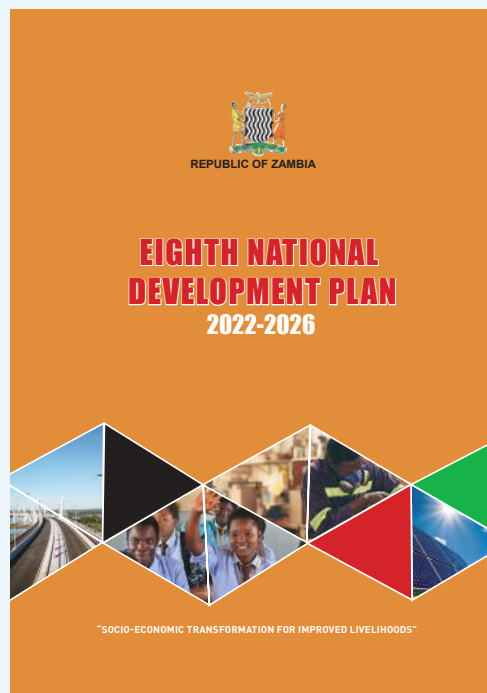
To ensure that Zambia's economic growth supports environmental sustainability and low-carbon development while promoting social inclusion, Zambia is developing a Green Growth Strategy (GGS). The GGS will contain concrete actions whose implementation will contribute to transitioning Zambia into a climate-resilient and inclusive green economy. The GGS will also provide an avenue for catalysing the country's quest to attain the sustainable development aspirations articulated in the Vision 2030, the 8NDP and the SDGs.

To increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of climate change in support of understanding and attitude change among the public and targeted stakeholders across the country, Zambia has formulated the National Climate Change Communication and Advocacy Strategy which was launched in 2022. Sector-specific climate change messages have also been developed and translated into Zambia's seven main local languages to ensure that the message on climate change reaches everyone across the country.



Good Governance Environment

The Government has recognised that good governance is imperative for creating a conducive environment in pursuit of the socio-economic transformation agenda. In this regard, priority has been placed on improving the policy environment, increasing transparency and accountability, establishing an inclusive democratic system of governance, as well as improving service delivery, rule of law, human rights and constitutionalism (see Box 1). For example, in 2022, Zambia repealed provisions relating to the death penalty in the Penal Code Chapter 87 and the Criminal Procedure Code Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia, in order to comply with international human rights law.



BOX 1

Preservation of Peace and Justice Through Upholding of the Constitution

In a world often plagued by political unrest and contentious transitions of power, Zambia has emerged as a beacon of peace through its consistent track record of peaceful transitions of power after an election. This commitment to democratic principles and peaceful transitions of power sets the country apart as a shining example of good governance and stability in the region.

One of Zambia's key milestones in its journey towards peaceful handover of power after elections, occurred in 1991 when the country held its first multiparty elections after a long period of being under one-party rule. The ruling party at the time, the United National Independence Party, gracefully accepted defeat, and peacefully handed over power, marking the beginning of a new era of democracy in Zambia. This watershed moment demonstrated the country's commitment to peaceful political transition and, therefore, set a precedent for future elections. Subsequent elections in Zambia have continued to demonstrate and reinforce this commitment to peaceful handover and transition of power. The actions of successive leaders in handing over power have exemplified the spirit of democracy and set a precedent for future leaders.

Furthermore, Zambia's electoral processes have been transparent and inclusive, ensuring that citizens have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote freely and fairly. Independent electoral bodies, such as the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), have played a crucial role in overseeing elections and maintaining their integrity. The ECZ's professionalism and impartiality has contributed to building public trust and confidence in the electoral system, reducing the likelihood of post-election violence or disputes.

Additionally, political leaders and civil society organisations (CSOs) have played instrumental roles in promoting peaceful elections in Zambia. Political parties have generally adhered to democratic norms and values, engaging in constructive dialogue rather than resorting to violence. CSOs, such as the Zambia Centre for Interparty Dialogue, have facilitated dialogue among political stakeholders, fostering an environment of mutual understanding and cooperation.

Zambia's commitment to peace extends beyond its borders. The country has actively contributed to regional peace initiatives and conflict resolution efforts, such as its involvement in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, demonstrating its dedication to stability and harmony in Africa. Zambia has played a role in peacekeeping missions in neighbouring countries and has hosted numerous regional peace talks and negotiations. For example, during its tenure as the chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Troika, Zambia has been instrumental in facilitating negotiations and peace talks in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Lesotho.

Furthermore, it has actively promoted joint military exercises, information sharing, and capacity building programmes among member states. By strengthening regional cooperation and coordination, Zambia has helped create a more secure and stable environment in Southern Africa. Beyond the SADC Troika, the country has also chaired other regional and continental bodies focused on peace and security. In this capacity, Zambia has contributed to shaping the African Union's peace and security agenda and has played a key role in coordinating regional responses to emerging security threats.

The country's commitment to democratic principles, transparent electoral processes and inclusive governance has laid the foundation for peaceful transitions of power. By embracing peaceful political transitions, Zambia has fostered stability, strengthened democratic institutions, and set a positive example for other nations in the region. As Zambia continues to uphold its democratic values, it will undoubtedly remain a shining example of a nation committed to upholding its Constitution as a cornerstone of democratic governance and serve as an inspiration for others seeking to follow the transformative path of constitutionalism.

Collective Ownership

To enhance collective ownership of the 2030 Agenda, Zambia has embraced the SDGs principles of inclusivity, participation and transparency. Sustaining broad ownership in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is necessary, as it reflects the country's commitment to the Agenda as well as strong partnerships among stakeholders.

In line with Article 205 of the Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016, which provides for a participatory and integrated national planning and budgeting process, an institutional framework for coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes was established in 2017 and later legislated through the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020. This Act outlines the framework for the participation of state and non-state actors in the planning and budgeting process to entrench the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the implementation of the SDGs. This institutional framework has facilitated the sharing of expertise, resources, and knowledge, leading to a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

At national level, the framework provides for the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC) as the national coordinating forum responsible for advising the Cabinet in matters relating to NDPs and budgets. The NDCC is supported by Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs) which are constituted according to the pillars of the subsisting NDP. There are Technical Working Groups (TWGs) under each CAG which are consistent with the technical themes of the CAG. At the sub-national level, Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs), District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs)

and Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are responsible for coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes outlined in the NDP. There are 10 PDCCs, 116 DDCCs and 1,858 WDCs which conform to the number of provinces, districts and wards in the country, respectively. This is the same institutional coordination mechanism utilised for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs since they are integrated in the NDPs and are, therefore, simultaneously executed as NDP interventions. To ensure effective participation of both state and non-state actors in the execution of programmes contained in the NDPs as well as the SDGs, the composition of the NDCC, the CAGs and accompanying TWGs, the PDCCs, DDCCs and WDCs are made up of representation from both state and non-state actors namely, government line ministries and agencies, the private sector, civil society and the academia. Further, the CAGs are co-chaired by state and non-state actors.

As alluded to above, in 2020, the institutional framework for coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes outlined in the NDPs was anchored in legislation with the enactment of the National Planning and Budgeting Act (NPBA) which provides for a participatory and integrated national planning and budgeting process and fulfils the requirements of Section 205 of Zambia's Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016. The NPBA also outlines the framework for the participation of state and non-state actors in the planning and budgeting process to entrench the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the implementation of the SDGs. This has facilitated the sharing of expertise, resources, and knowledge, leading to a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to SDGs implementation.



Examples that show ownership, among others, include:

Prioritization of SDGs' targets and indicators which are most relevant to the country's pressing development needs

The Government has identified priority areas where attainment of progress towards the SDGs targets can have the most significant impact on the country's development agenda. This has facilitated rationalisation of resources for implementation of interventions towards the SDGs and enabled Zambia to do more with less resources.

Annual Progress Reports for the 8NDP

The NDP serves as a blueprint for the implementation of development interventions towards the SDGs in Zambia. The 8NDP includes specific targets, indicators, and strategies for achieving SDGs, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress in the execution of SDGs. This has helped to ensure that the SDGs are seamlessly addressed within the country's development agenda.

Shared ownership in the formulation of the 8NDP

116 districts in all the 10 provinces were consulted during the formulation of the Plan. This was meant to ensure that the interventions in the 8NDP are responsive to the development needs of the country and its people. Integrated District Development Plans (IDPs) are now being developed to localise the implementation of the 8NDP. IDPs will provide details in relation to the specific interventions that relate to the needs and comparative advantage of each locality. The preparation of the 8NDP was also supported by the private sector, CSOs and academics, who actively provided input and recommendations for in-depth analysis and informed the strategic development areas. The 8NDP was approved by the Cabinet and was endorsed by the National Assembly. The Plan is now the basis for the development of all medium-term and annual budgets during the period 2022 to 2026.

The commitment of the Government to take development closer to the people through the increased Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is a form of decentralisation and localisation of the SDGs at the local level

This will ensure that service delivery is improved and citizens are involved in the decision-making process at local levels. Further, the people will also own their development agenda and in turn actively participate in the improvement of their livelihoods. Thus, shared ownership of the achievements of the SDGs can be truly created and realised.

The involvement and contribution of CSOs is significant in achieving the SDGs

In Zambia, with more than 12,000 CSOs at the national and sub-national levels, CSOs such as Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, National Action for Quality Education in Zambia and Save the Children Zambia, have made the SDGs an integral part of their programs and activity plans at the community level. Children and youth organisations such as Advocacy for Child Justice and Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia are among those that actively disseminate the SDGs to youths and children even in remote areas of the country. This is a strong demonstration of partnership between the state and non-state actors in the journey towards sustainable development.

Support from development partners is also important towards the realisation of the SDGs in Zambia

This includes modes such as technical assistance, program and project implementation, studies and financial support. Assistance from development partners has included: support in the preparation of the 8NDP, Rapid Integrated Assessment Report, COVID Recovery Needs Assessment, 2022 Census of Population and Housing, and development of the updated version of the SDGs Indicator Baseline Framework. Development partners have also supported the country through strengthening of the healthcare systems for COVID-19 response and maintenance of essential reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition through the COVID-19 pandemic response. This is in addition to various projects and programmes being implemented in the economic and social sectors as well as in the area of governance.

Oversight by the National Assembly and the Office of the Auditor-General

Other stakeholders playing an important role in the implementation of the SDGs in Zambia are the National Assembly and the Office of the Auditor-General. The National Assembly is active in providing oversight on the execution of SDGs in Zambia. The Office of the Auditor-General has been actively conducting audits on the preparation and readiness for the implementation of the SDGs in Zambia, such that recommendations for improving the implementation of the SDGs are actioned.

Mainstreaming SDGs into National Development Frameworks

As earlier alluded to, mainstreaming the SDGs into national development frameworks in Zambia involves incorporating the SDGs into the country's development plans, policies, and strategies. Zambia's Vision 2030 is the country's long-term development plan that outlines the aspiration for Zambia to be a prosperous middle-income nation by 2030. The Vision 2030 is aligned with the SDGs and recognises the importance of sustainable development in achieving the country's development objectives. To operationalise the Vision 2030, Zambia has been formulating and implementing medium-term NDPs, the current being the 8NDP, which has also mainstreamed the SDGs. The 8NDP is aligned with the SDG targets at the level of 87 percent.

By mainstreaming the SDGs targets into the 8NDP, annual programmes and activities as well as the budget allocations related to the achievement of the SDGs are contained in the annual national budget, which cascades into work plans of implementing institutions. This is with respect to public sector interventions and finances. This entails that the 8NDP is the means by which the SDGs are being actualised, while also maintaining focus on Zambia's development needs and priorities. Similar to the central government, sub-national government structures are also expected to mainstream the SDGs into their medium-term development and implementation plans.

Implementation of the Principle of Leaving No One Behind

Leaving no one behind is an integral principle of sustainable development and is a focus area of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, Zambia, like many other developing countries, faces numerous challenges in achieving this principle.

One of the significant impediments to achieving the principle of leaving no one behind in Zambia is poverty. Poverty creates a vicious cycle of deprivation and exclusion that often is difficult to break and often perpetuates itself over generations, making it hard to leave no one behind. Meanwhile, poverty affects a large proportion of Zambia's population. As at 2015, national poverty levels stood at 54.4 percent, while extreme poverty or the proportion of individuals whose consumption was less than the cost of the food basket, stood at 41 percent. Poverty is particularly acute in rural areas, where the poverty rate was 76.6 percent compared to the urban areas where it was 23.4 percent.

Another significant challenge to ensuring that no one is left behind in the development process in Zambia, is inequality. It has been observed that the gap between the rich and the poor in has been widening, leading to increasing levels of social exclusion. Women, children, and persons with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to exclusion because they often lack access to basic services and opportunities. At national level, income inequality, as measured by the Gini Coefficient, worsened to 0.69 in 2015 from 0.60 in 2006. Between 2006 and 2015, rural income inequality remained

constant at 0.60 while urban income inequality worsened to 0.65 in 2015 from 0.60 in 2006. Addressing inequality is critical to leaving no one behind in Zambia as it is both a cause and an effect of poverty.

Access to basic services such as health care, education, and water and sanitation is another significant challenge in Zambia. Many people do not have access to these services, particularly in rural areas. The percentage of the population that had access to an improved water source increased to 72.3 percent in 2018 from 41.1 percent in 2007. With regard to sanitation, the percentage of households with access to an improved sanitation facility at national level increased to 54.4 percent in 2018 from 35.5 percent in 2007. In rural areas, access increased to 37.2 percent in 2018 from 17.3 percent in 2007, while in urban areas it increased to 77.7 percent from 70 percent over the same period.

This lack of access to basic services can lead to further exclusion and perpetuation of poverty and inequality. Therefore, improving access to basic services is essential to leaving no one behind in Zambia.

It should be noted that the challenges of poverty and inequality have been further exacerbated by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods. Efforts to address poverty, inequality and to enhance access to basic services are being undertaken to ensure that no one is left behind in Zambia's development.



These interventions are targeted at the vulnerable and marginalised groups and the specific actions being undertaken include:

Women and Girls

To alleviate obstacles on access to health care for pregnant women and reduce the maternal mortality rate, Zambia constructed 563 out of the projected 650 health posts and 92 out of 115 mini-hospitals as of 2022. This will reduce the distances women will have to cover to access safe motherhood services, including family planning, antenatal care, delivery services and postnatal care. Zambia is also in the process of constructing an 800 bed-space mother and new-born specialised hospital in Lusaka. To enhance maternal healthcare services at primary level, Zambia offers services for free. Zambia has also introduced a National Health Insurance Scheme to enhance access to health services. The introduction of health insurance has increased access to specialised care for women with complications.

To promote women's access to productive resources, Zambia in 2021 introduced the first National Land Policy that seeks, among other actions, to promote equitable access and control to both state and customary land and strengthen land tenure security for women. This policy ensures that 50 percent of available land for alienation is available to women. Further, Zambia is improving access to finance for women by designing financial products that cater to the needs of women. This is evident in the formal banking sector but also in the economic empowerment finances and other services specifically targeted at women. In addition, the Government is implementing interventions to increase girls' access to education as well as women's access to affordable capital through empowerment funds.

Children

Zambia is implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of the National Child Policy which is an integral part of the national development process. The Policy provides a framework for responding to the concerns, needs and welfare of all children in Zambia. Most importantly, Zambia enacted the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022, which not only harmonises all the laws relating to children, but also domesticates provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children to ensure the full protection of the rights of children.

To broaden access to education in accordance with the revised education for all national policy, the Government is implementing the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme aimed at increasing enrolments, reducing absenteeism and enhancing children's nutritional status and cognitive development.

To ensure attainment of SDG 4 and access to education and equal learning opportunities for all children, Zambia, in 2021, re-introduced free education from early childhood to secondary level. Further, Zambia increased the number of pre-school centres by annexing such centres to existing primary schools to enhance access to early childhood education. To complement these efforts, Zambia has also continued to recruit teachers at early childhood, primary and secondary education levels, with a landmark recruitment of 30,496 teachers in 2022, a significant increase from the 2,390 and 2,009 that were recruited in 2019 and 2018, respectively.

To further make education more accessible, Zambia has been implementing a two-tier system that offers learners an opportunity to follow either an academic or a vocational education path. In this regard, Zambia is providing additional training infrastructure in selected secondary schools across the country to scale-up skills training. Zambia has also continued to encourage girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy to go back to school after giving birth. In 2022, at least 50 percent of adolescent mothers reported back to school.

Further, Zambia has enhanced access to inclusive education for Children with Special Education Needs by providing user-friendly facilities for children with disabilities. Zambia has also introduced a basic Special Needs Education for Colleges of Education programme in order to equip teachers with basic knowledge in identifying, assessing and teaching learners with special needs.

People with Disabilities

To promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the Government has increased funding to the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities to carry out its mandate as provided for in the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012. Additionally, Zambia has established Community-Based Inclusion Development networks to enhance dialogue and coordination of matters affecting persons with disabilities. As part of affirmative action for persons with disabilities, social cash transfer beneficiaries with disabilities are eligible to double the cash transfer that is received by other categories of beneficiaries.

Further, Zambia has continued to enforce existing laws aimed at protecting persons with albinism against attacks and killings. Persons with albinism, like all persons in Zambia, enjoy all fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Article 23 of the Constitution of Zambia. Their rights and freedoms are also protected under the Penal Code, Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia.

Socio-economic Inclusion of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

As of December 2022, Zambia is home to a total of 81,098 individuals who have been registered as refugees or asylum seekers. To ensure socioeconomic inclusion, the Government, in collaboration with its partners, has undertaken efforts to incorporate refugees and asylum seekers into the national systems and programmes. Refugees are granted free unrestricted access to health care and education services. They also have access to an array of other services, such as legal aid, refugee documentation issuance and protection services against gender-based violence as well as access to financial services, such as opening of mobile and bank accounts.

Furthermore, the Government has allocated land specifically for farming purposes to refugees, facilitating the improvement of their food security and livelihood opportunities. In 2020, a total of 403 refugees were able to access subsidised agricultural farming inputs through the implementation of the Government's Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees financially supported the contribution required for these individuals to be eligible for this programme.

Vulnerable Populations

In 2021, with support from the World Bank, the number of beneficiaries on the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme increased to 1,024,000 from 880,539 in 2020. In addition, the Government increased the transfer value per household in 2022 to K200 per month from K150 per month while the value of transfers for households with severely disabled members increased to K400 from K300 per month.

To provide a critical mitigation measure against food security risks, the Government continued implementing the Food Security Pack (FSP), a programme designed as a social safety net to empower poor and vulnerable but viable farmer households with agricultural inputs and livelihood skills.

The programme aims to improve their productivity with the ultimate goal of enhancing their food, nutrition and income security for self-sustainability and poverty reduction. The number of FSP recipient households increased to 290,000 households in 2022 from 263,000 in 2021. Beneficiaries of other social programmes such as Keeping Girls in School also expanded to 43,520 girls in 2022 from 28,964 girls in 2021, while the number of districts implementing the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme increased to 59 from 39.

In addition, Zambia has continued implementing the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme which enables vulnerable people to have access to education and nutrition. Under this Programme, Zambia has been providing bursaries and other basic needs to enable the vulnerable access education.

Governance Matters

To foster development for local communities, the Government has enhanced the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) which aims to create an enabling environment for holistic development in the 156 constituencies across the country. The Fund also provides communities with opportunities to make choices and implement projects which would improve the well-being of the people in their respective constituencies. For the year 2022, the CDF per constituency was substantially increased to K25.7 million from K1.60 million in 2021. This allocation was further increased to K28.3 million in 2023.

Furthermore, Zambia has commenced implementing an Integrated National Registration Information System (INRIS) to boost birth registration. INRIS is the national and civil registration management system which is intended to provide biometric-enabled National Registration Cards and issuance of birth and death certificates. Zambia has also developed the National Civil Registration Policy of 2022, and decentralised the registration of vital statistics to district and sub-district levels.

Data to Make Sure that No One Is Left Behind

Data disaggregation is crucial for identifying marginalised groups and designing targeted interventions to address their specific needs. It is also critical in assessing the reach of interventions. However, there are several challenges to data disaggregation in Zambia. Firstly, there are inadequate comprehensive and reliable data collection systems. This is due to inadequate funding, limited capacities and weak institutional frameworks. This has largely contributed to significant gaps in data on marginalised groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. This has hampered efforts to use data to inform policy and programme decisions and design targeted interventions. Addressing these challenges requires political commitment, increased funding, capacity building, and whole-of-society engagement in data

collection efforts.

Secondly, the level of demand for disaggregated data by policy makers and other stakeholders is inadequate to provide a significant shift in enhancing capacities in data collection systems. This has led to inadequate prioritisation and investment in data disaggregation efforts. Without political commitment and demand, it is difficult to build a robust data disaggregation system that captures the needs of all segments of the population.

Analysis of the Zambia data ecosystem in the 2021 UN Common Country Analysis shows several factors affecting data availability in Zambia. The challenges and policy responses are indicated in **Table 1**.



TABLE 1

Data Availability Challenges and Policy Response

Challenge

Limited evidence-based planning and policy-making

Overall, there is an apparent insufficiency in the demand for data and use of information, and consequently, a lack of an institutionalised culture of evidence/results-based policy-making and planning.

Insufficient financial support

The limited demand and competition for scarce domestic resources has resulted in insufficient financial support for the National Statistical System to function properly and apply quality standards to their full extent, as required by the National Statistics Act of 2018.

Rigid administrative structures

The proper functioning of the high-level decision-making mechanism for the National Statistical System (Statistical Board) and changes at the organisational level (ZamStats) in response to required functions in the National Statistics Act of 2018 are needed to establish a robust and timely responsive and well-coordinated system.

Low capacity to analyse, disseminate and use data

Overall, there are capacity shortcomings in the public and private domains at national and sub-national levels to appreciate and understand data, conduct data analyses, interpret results, translate data to policy-relevant information and produce tailor-made products.

Key data producers face technical staffing and physical constraints

Constraints in technical human resource capacity apply to the key data producing organisations, which are also experiencing critical physical and technical infrastructure limitations (hard and software).

Policy Response

Accelerate the updating of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to make it more responsive to the country's data needs.

Operationalise the data calendar.

Conduct data awareness activities in order to enhance statistical literacy across stakeholders and users of statistics.

Fully transform and restructure the ZamStats into a semi-automatous body in line with the Act, to enable it attract support from partners and other stakeholders as well as mobilise more funds for statistical activities.

Fully operationalise the Statistics Act.

Leverage digital platforms to collect data.

Prioritise capacity building within the entire statistical ecosystem.

Prioritise capacity building within the entire statistical ecosystem.

Strengthen reporting systems at different levels of service delivery.

Strengthened efforts are needed to make sure comprehensive information and data on the inequality experienced by vulnerable groups is recorded in the main statistics in Zambia. For this reason, responding to data limitations down to the smallest unit is critical. Since the 2020 VNR, Zambia has reported that the Small Area Estimation is one of the efforts to obtain data on the smallest administrative area. This is because the implementation of the household survey conducted by the ZamStats has a limited sample, making it impossible to obtain certain SDGs indicator data at the district/city level

with accuracy.

The 2020 VNR also showed glaring data gaps in the reporting of the SDGs. Zambia reports on 233 out of 269 indicators across all 17 SDGs, except SDG 14. As of 2020, the country achieved a meagre 36.1 percent reporting rate owing to missing data or missing metadata. To assess whether there has been improvement in data availability, the Government will update its SDGs Indicator Baseline Framework in accordance with the revised global metadata by the United Nations Statistics Division.

Institutional Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms

Zambia's second VNR leverages on the institutional arrangements established in 2017 for coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. These institutional mechanisms have been harmonised with the national structures for implementing and monitoring the 8NDP, in accordance with the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020 (see Figure 3).

Despite the coordination mechanisms being in place, it has been noted that not much traction is being made in the attainment of the development outcomes set out in the Plan, in part due to the weak linkage between the country's planning and budgeting processes, and accountability for results.

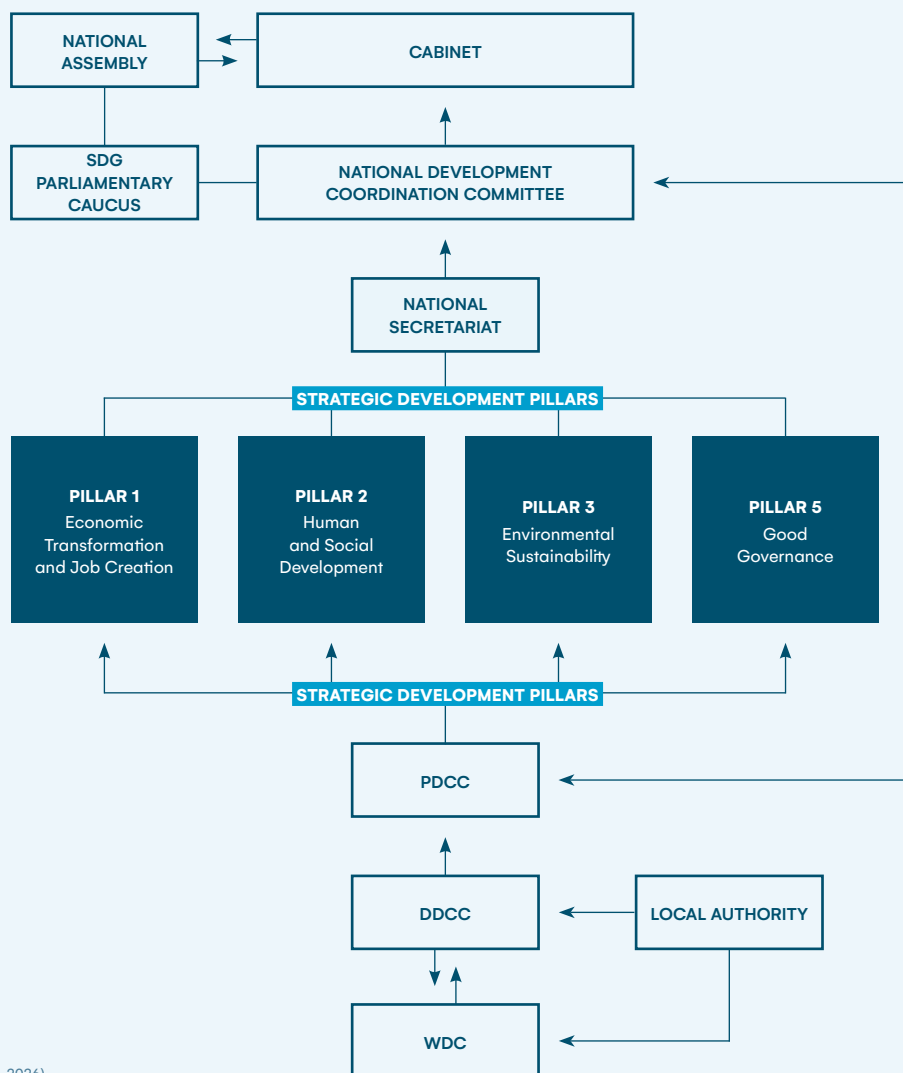
Thus, the Government is in the process of revising the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020, in order to address weaknesses in the legislation that constrains the

effectiveness and integration of the development planning and budgeting processes. There is also need to enhance horizontal and vertical policy coherence at different levels of governance, including at ward, district, provincial and national levels, in an effort to ensure inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development as well as improve public service delivery.

Furthermore, the Government seeks to strengthen the National Statistical System (NSS) to collect, process, and disseminate data related to the SDGs. The NSS comprises various government ministries, departments, and agencies responsible for collecting and analysing data. National Statistical System (NSS) to collect, process, and disseminate data related to SDGs. The NSS comprises various government ministries, departments, and agencies responsible for collecting and analysing data on various SDG-related issues.

FIGURE 3

Institutional Framework for Agenda 2030 and SDGs



Source: Eighth National Development Plan (2022–2026)



Systemic Issues and Policy Response

Table 2 below presents a summary of systemic issues that are of concern to Zambia. It also highlights the policy actions that are being undertaken to address these issues and advance attainment of the SDGs.

TABLE 2

Systemic Issues and Policy Response

Issue and sectors impacted	Policy Response	SDGs impacted
<p>Poverty and Inequality</p> <p>Education, decent work, livelihoods, access to other basic services and voice in decision-making.</p>	<p>Investments in social infrastructure and service provision.</p> <p>Strengthening social protection systems and safety nets.</p> <p>Affirmative action for marginalised groups.</p> <p>Special empowerment programmes.</p>	
<p>Weak Economic Diversification (Mono Economy)</p> <p>Agriculture, Energy, Mining, Manufacturing, and Tourism</p>	<p>Creating an enabling environment for increased local and foreign direct investment.</p> <p>Infrastructure development.</p> <p>Promotion of value-addition and increased international trade.</p>	
<p>Vulnerability to external shocks</p> <p>Agriculture, Energy, Mining, Manufacturing, and Tourism</p>	<p>Put in effective interventions to reduce the effect of external shocks.</p>	
<p>Natural disasters related to climate change</p> <p>Agriculture, Energy, and Water</p>	<p>Enhance capacities to withstand effects of climate change.</p> <p>Diversify food crops away from maize to other climate resilient crop varieties.</p> <p>Water harvesting by building reservoir of dams.</p>	
<p>Low productive capacity</p> <p>Agriculture, Energy, Mining, and Manufacturing</p>	<p>Accelerate reforms to enhance export productive capacity and export competitiveness.</p> <p>Enhance regional integration, including through existing SADC and AfCFTA protocols.</p>	
<p>High population growth rates</p> <p>Health, Education, Labour, Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>Harness demographic dividend.</p> <p>Enhance sustainable Food systems.</p> <p>Build sustainable infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Youth Unemployment</p> <p>Decent work, livelihoods, access to basic services</p>	<p>Creating an enabling environment for increased local and foreign direct investment.</p> <p>Support to skills development and entrepreneurship.</p>	



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

— 04 —

Local government and Sustainable Development Goals

Local authorities in Zambia have made significant contributions towards the universal call for sustainable development, essentially through provision of a wide range of municipal services, such as clean water and sanitation; primary health care; education; shelter; and trading spaces for local communities. While the quality and coverage of municipal services vary across municipalities in the country, depending mainly on finance, administrative and technical capacities of individual local authorities, their contributions towards the SDGs cannot be ignored.

This Chapter offers an overview of local government efforts to contribute to actualising the SDGs at country level. To better understand and assess the contribution of local government to the sustainable development agenda, this overview will focus on the “5 Ps” that shape the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships.





People

SDGs one to six emphasise better and healthy livelihoods for all people and are, therefore, combined into the category of people – leaving no one behind. At the heart of municipal services are the people or local communities whom local authorities make every effort to serve within the framework of devolution.

The following are the major human-centred municipal-led initiatives that have contributed to the above six SDGs:

Supporting income generation

This has involved provision and maintenance of the necessary physical infrastructure, such as creating more organised and inclusive spaces for trading (including market shelters). According to the Cabinet Office, 93.4 percent of local authorities offer market shelters in their respective municipalities.

Food security and agriculture value chains

Selected local authorities (Kalumbila, Solwezi, Sinazongwe, Livingstone and Sikongo) are undertaking agro-processing initiatives to strengthen agriculture value chains in a bid to create income generating opportunities and access to local and affordable food for everyone. Other interventions include delivery of basic extension services to support agriculture, fisheries, and livestock services in a bid to ensure food security and sustainable agriculture.

Public health

All local authorities have been providing public health services, including inspection of foods and business premises and provision of waste management services. Healthy physical environment. This has mainly involved upgrading of urban unplanned settlement areas to create a healthy physical environment for the urban poor.

HIV and AIDS

In line with devolution, all local authorities have been playing a pivotal role in coordinating a multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS at the local level. Through support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the National AIDS/STI/TB Council, the Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ), through its Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders Initiative for Community Action on AIDS programme, has been supporting local authorities in decentralised community management of HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis.

Response to COVID-19

Between 2020 and 2022 the LGAZ, with support from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) Decentralisation for Development Programme and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), offered various technical services through the COVID-19 Advisory Centre for Local Authorities to enhance district level capacity in terms of preparedness and response to COVID-19. Under this initiative, a manual on COVID-19 preparedness, response, and recovery for local authorities and other related occurrences was developed and disseminated to all local authorities. The Centre also rolled out COVID-19 vaccination campaigns countrywide to complement the Government's efforts.

Inclusive and quality education

By working with communities (through their Ward Development Committees), local authorities have played a key role in identifying service delivery needs, such as school infrastructure and identifying vulnerable children in need of school bursaries under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). School bursaries are helping to expand opportunities for vulnerable and marginalised girls and boys to attain quality education and vocational skills. Further, nearly all city and municipal councils as well as a few town councils are contributing to this goal through the provision of public libraries.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

All local authorities have Gender Focal Points whose work involves promoting gender equality and women participation in local governance structures and processes. Further, besides working to tackle gender-based violence (GBV) as well as early and forced marriages and pregnancies, selected local authorities are working in collaboration with development partners (such as LGAZ, GIZ, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and USAID) to promote gender mainstreaming, gender equality and women participation in governance structures (such as Ward Development Committees) and processes at the local level. This includes disbursement of CDF empowerment grants and loans for women and youths to engage in income generating activities.

Inclusive, gender-responsive local governance and service delivery

The LGAZ is working to advance gender equality with a view to increasing the proportion of women in elective and managerial positions in local government. Currently, the proportion of women in elective leadership stands at 7.9 percent (that is 115 out of 1,974 elective seats countrywide), while that at principal officer (Town Clerk/Council Secretary) level stands at 21 percent.

Promoting access to clean drinking water & adequate sanitation

Nearly all local authorities (the majority of which are town councils, followed by municipal councils) have set up rural water and sanitation units that are responsible for provision of clean drinking water and promotion of adequate and affordable sanitation, particularly in rural and peri-urban communities, that are not serviced by water utility companies. Increased and sustained access to clean water and adequate sanitation is attributed to strong community participation, with communities participating in such structures as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Committees and interventions such as the Community-Led Total Sanitation.

Planet

Local authorities have also played a key role in safeguarding the earth's life-support system on which the welfare of current and future generations depends. Specific municipal action in this context has been in form of the following:

Reduced charcoal consumption

Lusaka City Council has a running Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tetra Tech, involving a USAID-supported project aimed at reducing charcoal consumption by promoting access to alternative and sustainable energy sources.

Sustainable management of natural resources

Selected local authorities in Muchinga, Luapula, North-Western, Central and Western Provinces are involved in the Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development project whose principal objective is to foster natural resource management and climate action. The project also involves building capacities of communities in sustainable management of natural resources and adoption of alternative sources of livelihood which are ecofriendly.

Sustainable land-use

Through coordinated spatial planning (land use and environmental planning as well as development control and forest management), local authorities are working within the framework of devolution to ensure sustainable land management.

Capacity building

Further, the LGAZ in collaboration with its partners has been conducting initiatives to build the capacity of local authorities to deliver quality, inclusive and gender-responsive municipal services.

These efforts fall under three external-supported projects:

1. Enhancing Local Government Capacity for Development project (2018–2021) supported by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office;
2. Partnerships for Municipal Innovation — Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) (2021–2026) implemented in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with financial support from the Canadian government and;
3. Advisory Desk Initiative (2021–2023) supported by the German government which among other activities, carries out research studies and develops knowledge products to facilitate sharing of knowledge and best practices on matters affecting local government.

Coordinated development of resilient infrastructure

This has been facilitated mainly through development, control and enforcement of planning and building regulations.

Integrated development plans (IDPs)

Although the majority (more than 70 percent) of local authorities are facilitating local development without IDPs, some local authorities have IDPs which not only help to facilitate multisectoral coordination of development but also provide a framework that integrates social, economic, and spatial development (including land use and environmental protection). Another important aspect of IDPs is an emphasis on community participation. This ensures inclusion of people from diverse backgrounds (including persons with disabilities) in defining local development priorities. The LGAZ has helped to build the capacity of local authorities by producing and disseminating guidelines for preparing IDPs. This was under the auspices of the Enhancing Local Government Capacity for Development project through which selected 11 local authorities (in Lusaka, Copperbelt and Northern Provinces) were supported to develop their IDPs. Other local authorities with IDPs include those supported by GIZ.



Prosperity

To create enabling conditions for residents to enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, local authorities have embraced the following:

Equal pay for equal work

In accordance with national labour laws and regulations, all local authorities have been providing safe and secure working environments and ensuring equal pay for equal work for all.

Curbing forced and child labour

Selected local authorities (Lunga, Mambwe, Mpulungu, Mongu, Kafue and Samfya) have piloted the UNICEF-supported Social Protection Single Window initiative and are working, among other issues, to curb forced and child labour, through site inspections and community sensitisation.

Local economic development

Selected local authorities have been promoting local economic development (LED) by providing land for industrial development and designating more organised spaces for local trading.

Economic empowerment

All local authorities have played a pivotal role in facilitating disbursement of CDF empowerment grants and loans to women and youth groups to start or expand their small and medium-sized income generating activities. Through the Enhancing Local Government Capacity for Development project, the LGAZ produced LED guidelines for local authorities and supported selected local authorities to carry out income generation projects, such as in fish farming and truck parking bays. This was in a bid to support local authorities in expanding own revenues for them to meet the evergrowing communal demand for improved services.

Peace

To contribute to national and global action to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are safe, especially for women and girls, local authorities have localised the following efforts:

Discouraging gender-based violence

Specific efforts include community sensitisation and engagement of traditional, civic and community leaders in fighting GBV.

Promoting equal gender participation

This includes promotion of equal participation and inclusion of women and men from marginalised groups in local governance structures (such as Ward Development Committees) and processes (such as participatory planning and budgeting).

Community policing to maintain law and order

This includes construction of community police stations/posts to extend access to state security services.

Partnerships

Several local authorities have entered into partnerships with non-state actors to address some of the pressing development and social challenges. Below are some of the current partnerships:

Livingstone City Council has an MoU with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to construct a landfill and recycling plant. The former has provided land and is rendering technical support to the project while the latter is providing equipment and financing.

Livingstone City Council and the Municipal Council of Manzini of Eswatini have a running MoU on twinning the two cities aimed at among others, promoting urban planning and enhancing research to accelerate development in the two cities. Further, the MoU seeks to enhance tourism and local development.

Chipata City Council has a running MoU on cooperation in agriculture, tourism and commerce with the Shandong Province of China. The MoU, which twins the two provinces, is expected to enhance Chinese investments in value-

addition in Eastern Province and the exchange of notes on best practices to grow the two economies for mutual benefit.

Ndola City Council and Zambia Breweries have a running MoU aimed at enhancing education on responsible alcohol consumption. The MoU seeks to ensure all bar owners are sensitive and not allow mothers to patronise beer drinking places such as bars, night clubs and taverns while carrying their babies.

Through the PMI-WILL project highlighted earlier, five local authorities (Chifunabuli, Kafue, Kasama, Lunte and Nakonde) have partnered with the LGAZ and Federation of Canadian Municipalities as well as three cities in Canada (Edmonton, Squamish, and Comox) for purposes of building municipal capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive services.

Challenges faced by local authorities in meeting the SDGs

While local authorities are making tremendous efforts towards localising and fulfilling the SDGs, they continue to face multiple challenges which tend to limit their efforts. Among the notable challenges are the following:

The transfer of functions and authority from central to local government without matching resources tends to limit local authorities' capacity to deliver quality and inclusive services.

Limited application of technology mainly due to limited financial and technical capacities.

High dependence on development partners or external support compromises the sustainability of development interventions, such as WASH.

There is no specific law or policy that compels political parties to prioritise the adoption of female candidates or that empowers or encourages women to take up elective leadership positions. This has contributed to low female representation in elective leadership at both national and local government levels.

Some rural districts (especially newly-created ones) lack accurate and reliable data on access to clean water and sanitation. This makes tracking progress difficult.

Only municipalities along the line-of-rail and those that are hosting large-scale mining and agricultural activities have witnessed considerable opportunities for economic growth. Most of the districts (especially in Western, Northern and Luapula Provinces) have lagged behind economically and thus do not offer significant opportunities for decent work and inclusive economic growth.

Most local authorities (more than 70) do not have IDPs mainly due to financial constraints. This makes it difficult for them to coordinate the building of resilient infrastructure, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation through an integrated approach.

Delayed clearance of MoUs by the Ministry of Justice.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

— 05 —

Civil society: a significant partner in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda

The civil society movement in Zambia has over the years developed the drive to support, participate and monitor the implementation of Zambia's development agenda, including the SDGs. Its participation has largely been in the form of technical and financial support, advocacy as well as service provision.



Civil Society, a Partner in Policy Formulation, Monitoring and Accountability

The technical support from civil society organisations (CSOs) has ridden on the immense and diverse capacities of CSOs in various fields needed for effective support towards attainment of the SDGs. Some examples include their active participation in the development of both the 7th and 8th National Development Plans, which the Government has used as tools to integrate and cascade set SDGs as benchmarks for national development. The development process of these plans benefitted from significant consultations and input from a broad range of CSOs through the Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs), especially on Human and Social Development, Good Governance, Economic Transformation, and Environmental Sustainability. These structures are now being used to both guide national

budget prioritisation and as platforms for monitoring the progress being made on the SDGs.

The second aspect relates to technical reviews informed by monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning work by various CSOs. The Government has benefitted from this body of evidence and unique perspective that is used for both policy and economic reforms to support the implementation and actualisation of the SDGs. Covering all 17 Goals, CSOs have been able to advocate for and monitor the implementation of the Goals and hold the Government to account where they notice a lag based on the evidence and technical experiences in specific sectors.

Civil Society, a Partner in Service Delivery

CSOs have played a significant role in service provision and financial support to complement government programmes and impact communities in the quest to ensure the realisation of the SDGs. Several organisations and networks across the country are involved in direct service provision, responding to a range of goals including in education, health, climate change and social protection. In many areas, CSOs have collaborated with the Government in improving the WASH sector, supporting

supplementary assistance in social protection services, building and supporting education infrastructure, expanding access to health, and promoting gender and inclusive participation in the development and governance of the nation, among others. This has positively contributed to the levels of access in line with the various indicators of the SDGs targets. Many people benefit from these services and advocacy efforts of CSOs.

Civil Society, an Advocate for the SDGs

CSOs have been instrumental from the outset in engaging the Zambian National Assembly to promote the SDGs discussions at the national level. The office of the Clerk of the National Assembly has played a key role in enhancing coordination among the CSOs, the Parliament and the Government. For example, parliamentary committees have carried out several activities in fostering and developing SDGs engagement in the inter-parliamentary context and other legislative bodies, with the collaboration of the civil society.

Lastly, CSOs have played a critical role in mobilising partnerships for the SDGs. Best known for holding

the Government to account, the organisations have endeavoured to engage the Government to ensure adherence to the implementation of the Goals. In Zambia, the emergence of COVID-19 and the protracted public debt burden have been major blows to achieving the desired progress on the Goals. The voice of the civil society has been instrumental in ensuring that as the Government navigates this tough phase, it strikes a balance in policy implementation and fiscal management that does not leave anyone behind. CSOs are resolved to support the implementation of the SDGs with a view of ensuring that significant strides are made in meeting set targets in the next seven years.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

— 06 —

Progress on goals and indicators and evaluation of policies and measures taken so far

This Chapter presents the discussions of the Goals under review in the 2023 VNR. It also refers to the VNR 2023 theme of ‘Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels’.

For each Goal under review, it outlines the progress Zambia has made since the 2020 review, and which challenges remain as well as actions taken by the Government. Furthermore, it describes the condition of SDGs’ achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic to see how the pandemic has disrupted the progress of the SDGs.





3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 3 represents better health for people everywhere. Everyone should be protected against disease, and have access to quality healthcare services and medication, without experiencing financial hardship.



3.1.2

Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

A comparison of 2021 and 2022 shows that the skilled birth attendance coverage remained stable at 69 percent in 2021 and 68 percent in 2022. However, the performance for both years is above 90 percent, being 94 percent in 2021 and 93 percent in 2022, when the coverage is calculated out of the

total of institutional deliveries. These figures are above the National Health Strategic Plan, 2022 to 2026 target of 80 percent by the end of 2026. This is mainly attributed to continued recruitment of skilled health workers and construction of more health facilities.

3.3.1

Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

There were 1,238,430 people (93.0 percent of HIV-positive people) on antiretroviral therapy (ART) by the end of December 2021. In 2021, the annual incidence of HIV among adults aged 15 and more years in Zambia was estimated at 0.31 percent. This corresponded to approximately 28,000 new cases of HIV per year among adults.

The number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population increased to 4.6 in 2021 from 3.7 in 2018. The number increased for females to 4.57 from 3.71 and for males to 4.77 from 3.73, during the same period. For the population above 15 years of age, the number increased to 5.43 in 2021 from 4.36 in 2018.

3.3.2

Tuberculosis (TB) incidence per 100,000 population

The Government has introduced several strategies to eliminate TB. These include, among others: enhancing universal health coverage integrating patient-centred care and prevention as well as promoting the use of the National Health Insurance Scheme. Consequently, the incidence of TB declined to 319 per 100,000 in 2021 from 346 per 100,000 population in 2018.

The Government has also managed to maintain a relatively

high TB treatment success rate. In 2021, the country recorded a 90.1 percent TB treatment success rate, slightly above the target of 90 percent. In contrast, the country missed the target, having attained 89 percent in 2020. The presence of TB treatment adherence supporters in the community, early diagnosis and early commencement of treatment and followup of defaulting patients contributed to the reported high TB treatment success rate in 2021.

3.3.3

Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Malaria was the highest cause of morbidity and mortality in 2020, contributing to about one-third of the total morbidity and slightly over one-tenth of the total deaths. Malaria incidence per 1,000 population increased marginally to 313 in 2021 from 312 in 2018, representing 0.3 percent increase. However, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) declined by 64 percent and 30 percent in 2021 relative to the rates in 2000 and 2015, respectively. Likewise, severe malaria cases as reported in the Malaria Indicator Surveys declined to 1.1 percent in 2021 from 1.6 percent in 2016; with the lowest

of 0.6 percent reported in 2018. In-patient malaria deaths declined to 8 per 100,000 in 2021 from 15.2 per 100,000 in 2015, though it was off the target of less than 5 percent CFR.

The marginal increase in the malaria incidence rate can be attributed to several factors, including sub-optimal coverage of key, proven malaria prevention and treatment interventions, such as indoor residual spraying and insecticide-treated mosquito nets, coupled with limited utilisation of interventions, among others.

3.4.1

Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

In 2020, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) were the third leading causes of death recorded in healthcare facilities in Zambia after malaria and anaemia. These diseases accounted for 8.5 percent of total deaths. The total number of deaths due to CVDs increased to 1,088 in 2020 from 955 in 2017 (see Figure 4). The CVDs were mostly a problem for those aged 5 years and older and chances of death in a facility were higher in a rural area compared to an urban health facility.

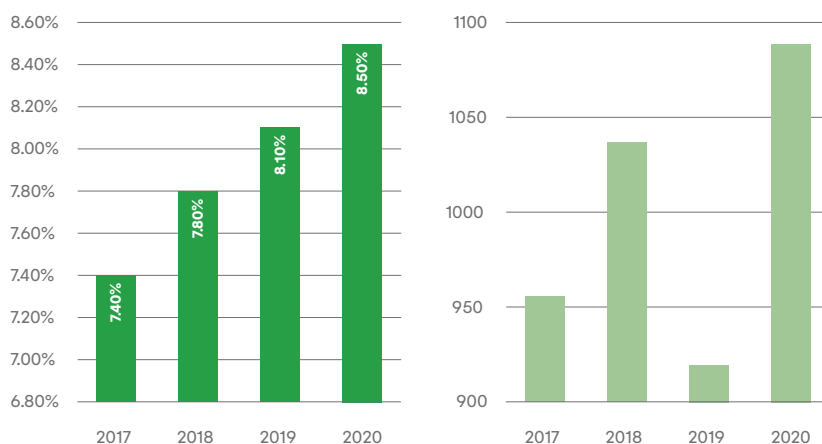
Diabetes was among the top 10 causes of death in 2020 and accounted for 3.6 percent of total deaths. However, between 2018 and 2020 the CFR reduced to 79.3 per 1,000 admissions from 120.9 per 1,000 admissions, respectively. With regard to respiratory infections, pneumonia was among the top 10 causes of death and accounted for 7.2 percent of the total deaths in 2020. Respiratory infections were also among the top three causes of morbidity in children.

FIGURE 4

Mortality Due to Cardiovascular Disease 2017–2020

■ Mortality rate
■ Deaths

Source: Annual Health Statistical Report



3.6.1

Death rate due to road traffic injuries

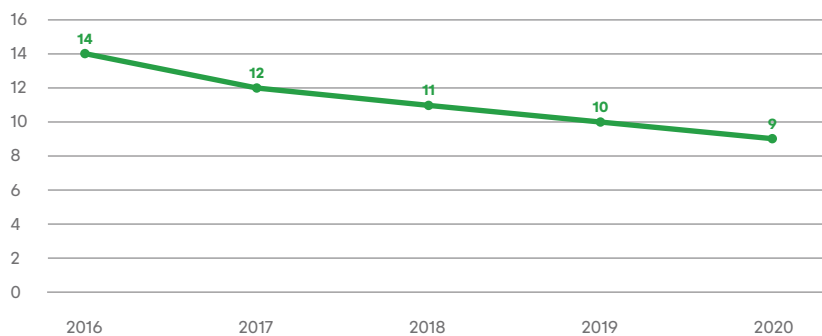
The road traffic-related death rate reduced to 9 percent in 2020 from 14 percent in 2016 (see Figure 5).

FIGURE 5

Death Rate Due to Road Traffic Injuries 2016–2020

— Death rate due to road traffic injuries

Source: Road Transport and Safety Authority and Ministry of Health





3.7.1

Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

In 2022 the proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who had their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods was 69 percent. This shows

an increase in the use of contraceptives up from 66.2 percent reported in 2018.

3.8.1

Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)

National Social Health Insurance Scheme

The Government established the National Health Insurance Scheme, through the enactment of the National Health Insurance Act (2018). As of December 2021, there were 1,277,960 members registered by the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA). NHIMA is working on growing its membership and improving performance, to become one of the major sources of health financing in Zambia.

Some of the key achievements of NHIMA in 2022, included the registration of 1,996,491 principal members and 814,982 beneficiary members. The total number of lives covered was 2,811,473, representing 12.54 percent of the country's total population. There was also an increase in self-employed members registered to 635,207, representing 32 percent of principal registrations. This was a 56 percent increase in enrolments, predominantly from the informal sector, between January 2022 and December 2022. By December 2022, 355 public and private facilities countrywide, had accredited facilities broken down as follows; 107 public facilities, 39 faith-based facilities and 209 private facilities.

Drug Availability

In February 2021, the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA) was established, through Act No. 9 of 2019, which transformed the Medical Stores Limited into ZAMMSA, with an additional mandate of being responsible for procurement of medicines and medical supplies for the public health sector. While the desired stock availability level of a minimum of 80 percent for key essential medicines and medical supplies has not been achieved in the past five years, the Government has significantly increased the national budgetary allocation to procurements of medicines, to Zambian Kwacha (K)3.4

billion by 2022 from K1.4 billion in 2019. This development, coupled with an improved supply chain system, has led to notable improvements in the availability of essential medicines and medical supplies from 62 percent in 2021 to 66 percent in 2022.

Infrastructure for Health

During the period 2017–2021 major investments were made in health infrastructure and medical equipment. By 2021, four out of six targeted specialised hospitals were completed and 563 health facilities were constructed, exceeding the target of 500. The above notwithstanding, more than 1,200 health posts and 500 health centres are needed, to enable approximately over 6 million Zambians have access to primary health services within a 5-kilometre radius of their dwelling.

Human Resource for Health

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended doctor-to-patient ratio is 1 to 5,000 and for the nurse-to-patient ratio it is 1 to 700. By 2020, Zambia had not achieved the WHO health worker-to-patient ratios as shown by the doctor-to-patient ratio that was 1 to 12,000 compared to 1 to 5,000 (WHO recommended) and 1 to 14,960 for nurses compared to 1 to 700 (WHO recommended). However, the situation is improving. For example, in 2022, the doctor-to-patient ratio and the nurse-to-patient ratio improved to 1 to 7,500 and 1 to 1,590, respectively. Major recruitment of health workers in 2022 contributed to this positive development. The Ministry of Health expanded its establishment to 126,831 positions from 63,057 in 2016 and filled 63,878 (48 percent) of the staff positions in its establishment. The Ministry plans to have 70 percent of its establishment filled by 2026, which is expected to further improve its health delivery.

3.b.1

Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme

Routine Vaccination Programmes

The Zambia Childhood Immunisation Programme covers the following vaccines: tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, influenza, hepatitis B, meningitis, pneumonia, measles, diarrhoea, streptococcal pneumonia and rubella. Assessment of children that have been fully immunised is done at two stages, the first is before 1 year and the other stage is before 2 years. At both time intervals, it is assumed that at least 80 percent of children would have been fully immunised. Full immunisation has reduced for both time-intervals to 77 percent in 2022 from 88 percent in 2020 for the under 1-year age group, while in the under 2-years age group, it reduced to 62 percent in 2022 from 88 percent in 2020, partly due to the effects of COVID-19 as some of the funds meant for public health care were shifted towards fighting the pandemic.

Covid-19 Vaccination

As of May 2023, 9,202,759 of the total eligible population were fully vaccinated; also 4,237,375 and 1,157,862 had received their dose 1 and booster vaccines, respectively. The national vaccination rate as of May, 2023 was recorded at 84.4 percent which is higher than the 80 percent target for the country to reach herd immunity. This coverage could be attributed to scheduled campaigns and social mobilisation, sensitisation programmes on vaccine safety and effectiveness.

3.c.1

Health worker density and distribution

In 2022, the national core health workforce density was 1.76 per 10,000 population and 11.66 per 10,000 population for physicians and nurses/midwives per 10,000 population,

respectively. However, the Government has intensified its efforts to improve the situation. To this effect, the Government in 2022, recruited over 11,000 health workers (see Table 3).

TABLE 3

Core Health Workforce Density

	Physicians per 10,000 population	Nurse/midwives per 10,000 population
National	1.76	11.66
Urban location	3.59	20.4
Rural location	0.65	6.41

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Inadequate adolescent sexual and reproductive health services

Improving platforms for the delivery of adolescent health services.

Enhancing both in-school and out-of-school youth, focused on sex education, with adequate referral services.

Disparities between access and quality of health services

Enhancing quality of services, medical supplies, health staff, disseminating and training in standard protocols.

Improving the ratio of skilled providers per 1,000 population.

Improving the requisite infrastructure, including equipment, transport, communication facilities, commodities and supply chain management.

Enhancing local capacities for informed decision-making.

Inequality in service delivery, especially for rural communities and disadvantaged groups

Improving infrastructure standards in the rural areas.

Enhancing effectiveness of community health services.

Increased burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)

Improving diagnostics capacity for NCDs.

Raisin awareness of NCDs among citizens.

Promoting healthy lifestyle among citizens.



|

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 4 demands that all children, young people, adults and especially the poorest and most disadvantaged in society have access to a high standard of basic and vocational education.



4.1.1

Proportion of children and young people in grades 2/3; at the end of primary; and at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics, by sex

In 2020, the proportion of children and young people in Grades 2/3 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics was 41.5 and 43.5 percent, respectively. At the end of primary school, the proportion of children achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics was 52.3 percent and 51.5 percent, respectively. At the end of lower secondary, the proportion of children achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics was 52.5 percent and 31.5 percent, respectively.

In terms of gender, the data shows that there is a gender gap in reading proficiency, with girls outperforming boys in all three categories. In Grades 2/3, the proportion of girls achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading was 44.6 percent, compared to 38.4 percent for boys. At the end of primary school, the proportion of girls achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading was 55.1 percent, compared to 49.5 percent for boys. At the end of lower secondary, the proportion of girls achieving at least

a minimum proficiency level in reading was 55.8 percent, compared to 49.1 percent for boys.

In mathematics, however, the data shows a different trend, with boys outperforming girls in all three categories. In Grades 2/3, the proportion of boys achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics was 46.2 percent, compared to 41.0 percent for girls. At the end of primary school, the proportion of boys achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics was 53.7 percent, compared to 49.4 percent for girls. At the end of lower secondary, the proportion of boys achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics was 34.4 percent, compared to 28.9 percent for girls. These statistics highlight the need for gender-sensitive approaches to education, particularly in mathematics. The data also shows that there is a significant gap in mathematics proficiency between primary and lower secondary school, indicating a need for more focus on mathematics education at the lower secondary school level.

4.1.2

Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

At primary school level, total completion rates declined to 86 percent in 2020 from 97 percent in 2019. The completion rate for females declined by 7 percentage points while the rate for males only declined by 4 percentage points, as shown in **Figure 6**. The COVID-19 pandemic was a factor in the fall in the completion rates.

At lower secondary school level, total completion rates declined by 5 percentage points. Completion rates for boys

at this level declined by 7 percentage points compared to 4 percentage points for girls, as shown in **Figure 7**. At senior secondary school level, completion rates declined to 32 percent from 34 percent. While the completion rates for girls declined by 2 percentage points, those for boys increased by 1 percentage point (see **Figure 8**). The decline in completion rates was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the closure of schools in 2020 for a period of three months.

FIGURE 6

**Completion Rates at Primary School Level
2014–2020**

Male
Female
Total

Source: Education Statistics Bulletin

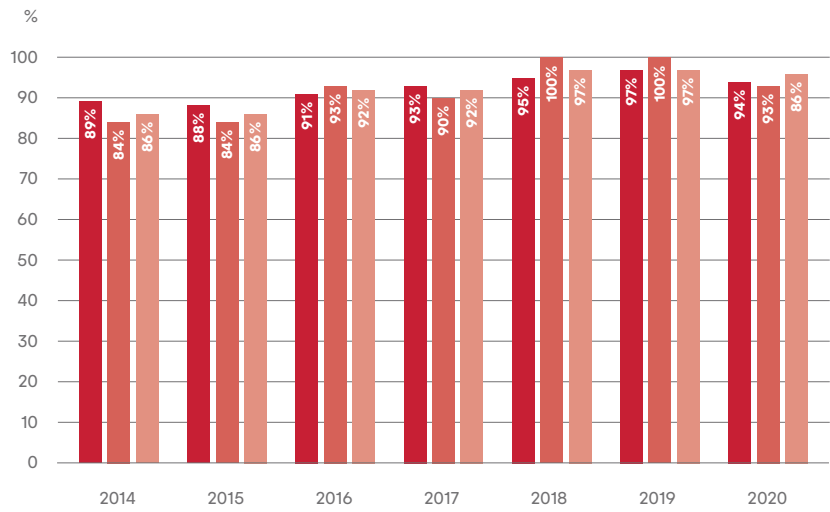


FIGURE 7

**Completion Rates at Lower Secondary School (Grade 9) Level
2014–2020**

Male
Female
Total

Source: Education Statistics Bulletin

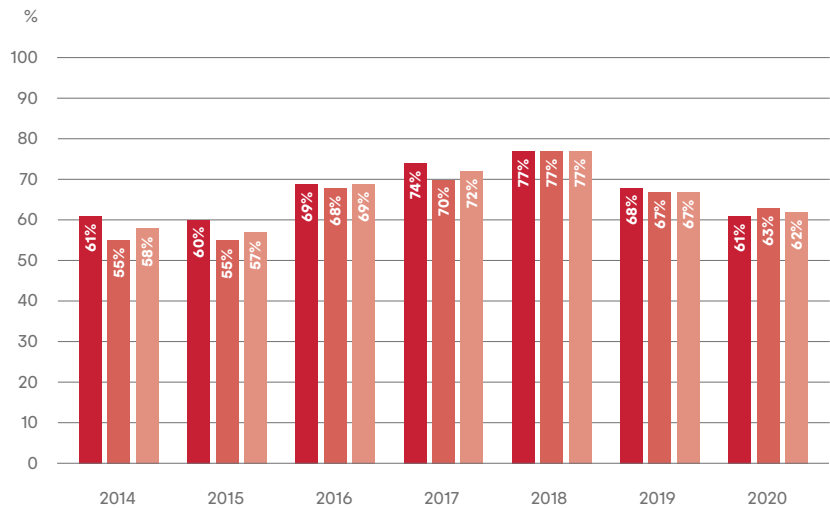
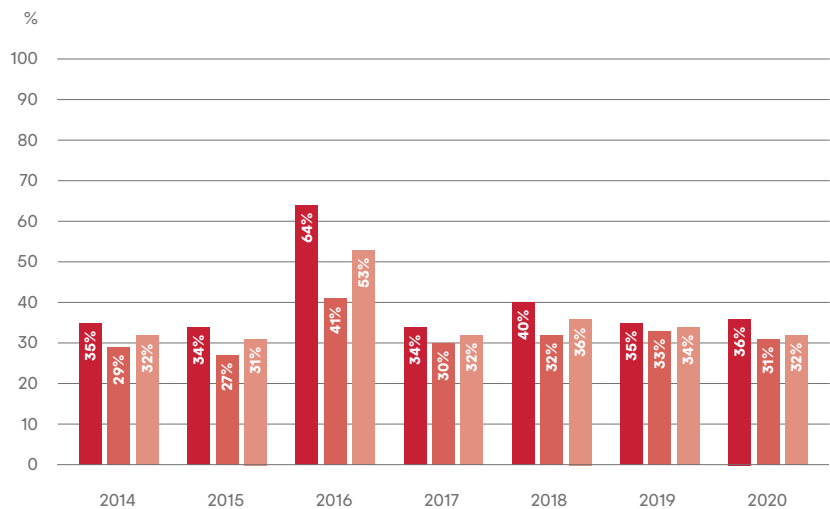


FIGURE 8

**Completion Rates at Upper Secondary School Level
2014–2020**

Male
Female
Total

Source: Education Statistics Bulletin





4.2.1

Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

In 2022, the proportion of children aged 18–24 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being in Zambia was 99.7 percent. As shown in **Figure 9**, the achievement of development milestones outcomes increase with age, increasing to 99.7 percent for children aged 24 months from 99.2 percent for children aged 0–6 weeks.

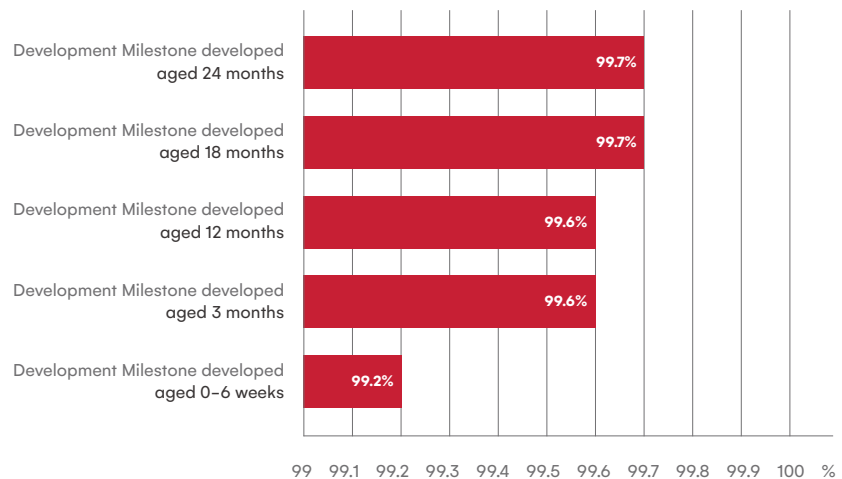
As per the data presented in **Figure 9** below, the development milestone achievement rate among children aged 0 to 24 months is an impressive 99.6 percent on average. This can be attributed to the systematic growth monitoring

and promotion activities carried out at health facilities and outreach stations.

Additionally, caregivers are being educated on the significance of adhering to appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and the importance of routine child vaccinations. Furthermore, the success of child health week campaigns further bolsters the achievement of developmental milestones among children. These findings underscore the importance of integrated efforts between public health systems and communities in promoting early childhood development.

FIGURE 9

Development milestones by Age 2022



Source: Ministry of Health

4.3.1

Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

The number of youths and adults enrolled in technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training (TEVET) institutions increased dramatically between 2021 and 2022. The number of learners increased by 108 percent to 79,038 in 2022, from 37,927 in 2021 (see **Figure 10**).

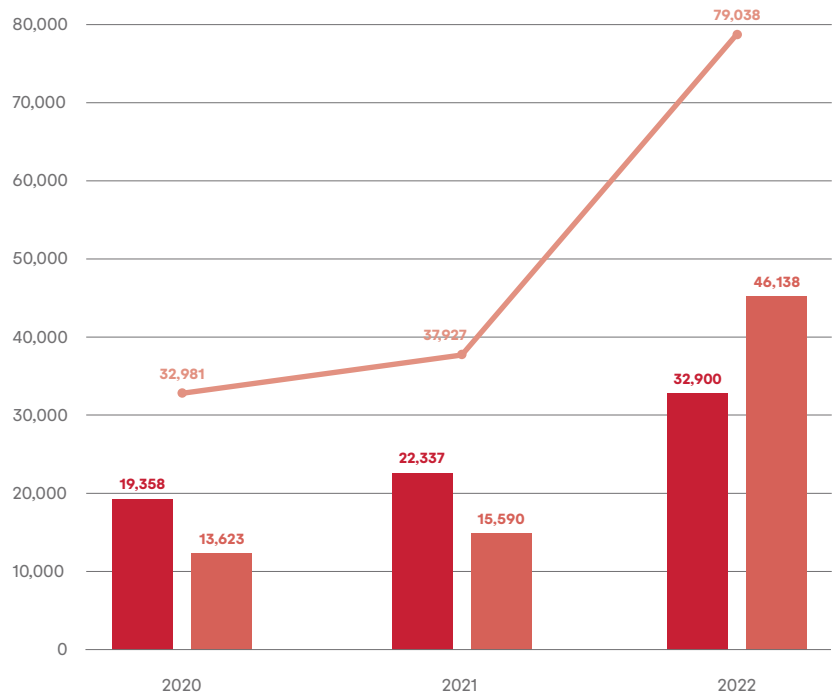
The increase was on account of combined sponsorship

in technical and vocational training which resulted in a major increase in the number of youths/adults in skills programmes. The sponsorship was mainly through the Youth Skills Empowerment Programme (under the TEVET Fund), Constituency Development Fund (Skills Bursary) and the TEVET Bursary under the Ministry of Technology and Science.

FIGURE 10

Enrolment (Numbers) in TEVET Institution 2020–2022

■ Male
■ Female
— Total



Source: Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority

4.5.1

Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

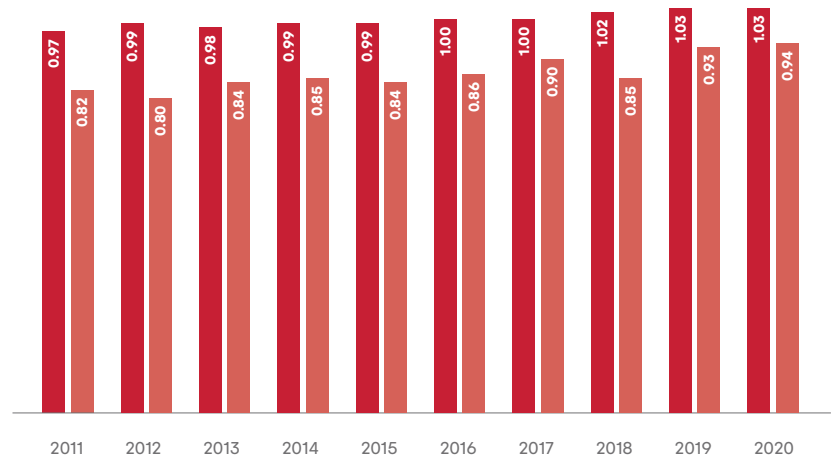
Zambia has made significant strides in achieving gender parity in primary education, with a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 1.03 in 2020, indicating a slight advantage for girls in

primary schools. Secondary education has seen a similar trend, albeit to a lesser extent, with the highest GPI being 0.94 (see Figure 11).

FIGURE 11

Gender Parity Index for Learners 2011–2020

■ Primary
■ Secondary



Source: Education Statistics Bulletin



4.a.1

Proportion of schools with access to: electricity; the Internet for pedagogical purposes; computers for pedagogical purposes; adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; basic drinking water; single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)

In 2020, 44.6 percent of schools had access to electricity, which is a marginal improvement from 43.7 percent in 2018. It is worth noting that primary schools experienced a setback, as out of the 159 newly-built primary schools, the majority lacked access to any form of power.

Regarding internet access for educational purposes, only 24.1 percent of schools had access to the internet in 2020, which is a marginal increase from 21.7 percent in 2019. Internet access was higher in secondary schools compared to primary schools. 43.9 percent of secondary schools had internet in 2020, compared to 21.4 percent of primary schools. Access to the internet remains a challenge, particularly among the primary schools. Secondary schools showed more improvement with a 3.4 percent increase

in access to computers. By 2022, despite the Ministry of Education recommended standard for pupil-to-computer ratio of 4:1 at national level, the pupil-to-computer ratio was estimated at 49:1 and 139:1 for secondary and primary schools, respectively.

In 2020, the proportion of schools with access to basic water and sanitation facilities increased by 0.15 percent over the 95.9 percent status in 2019. However, only 35.4 percent of schools provided sanitary towels to girls in 'emergency' situations in 2020, a slight improvement from 2019 at 32.5 percent. This marginal improvement shows that more effort is required to provide sanitary towels for them to stay in school during menstruation.

4.b.1

Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study

Data shows that the majority of official development assistance (ODA) flows for scholarships in Zambia went towards science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. As shown in Figures 12 and 13, the majority of the scholarships were awarded to study information and communication technology (ICT), and engineering.

This reflects the increased attention to science, technology, engineering and mathematics in order to drive economic development and innovation. By investing in postgraduate education, Zambia can develop a cadre of highly skilled professionals who can contribute to the country's growth and development.

FIGURE 12

Higher Education Scholarship Awarded Undergraduate 2021-2022

2021
2022

Source: Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board Annual Progress Report

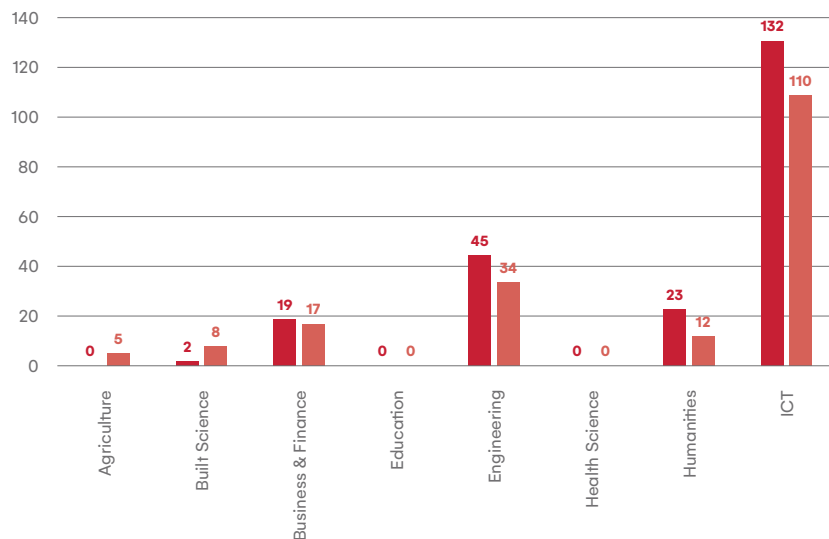
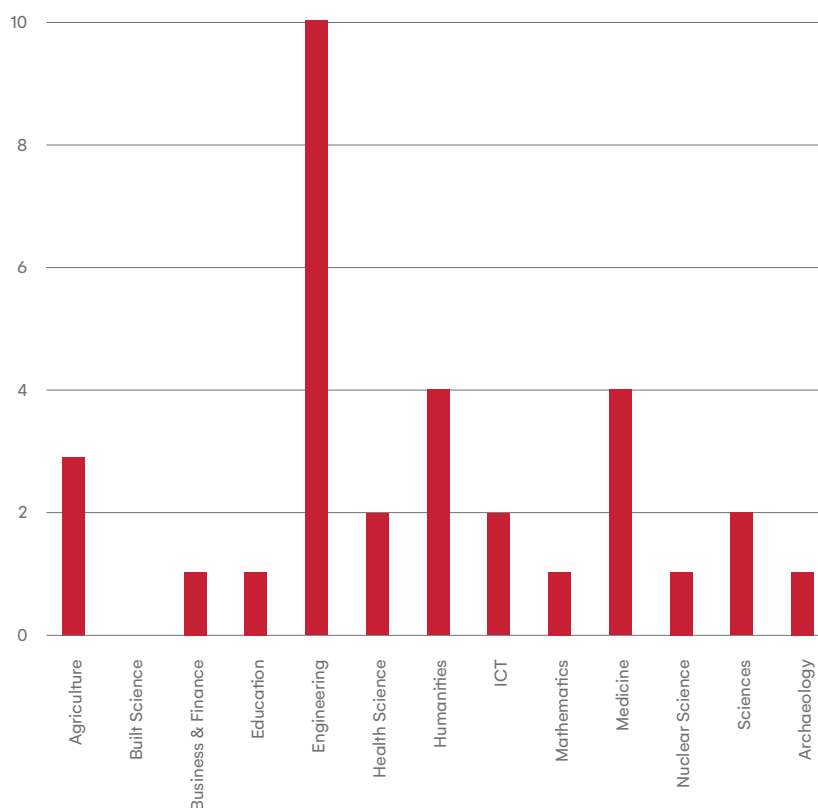


FIGURE 13

Higher Education Scholarship Awarded Postgraduate 2021



Source: Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board Annual Progress Report

4.c.1

Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level

Between 2018 and 2022, more than 34,496 teachers were recruited. However, it is estimated that the country requires an additional 47,000 teachers to meet the demand for education services. The minimum required qualifications for teachers in Zambia vary by level of education. For primary school teachers, the minimum requirement is a teaching certificate. For secondary school teachers, the minimum requirement is a diploma in education or a subject area. As of 2022, the number of registered teachers stood at 19,347 for early childhood education (ECE), 80,835 for primary, 95,451 for secondary and 2,238 for special education.

The primary teacher certificate has been phased out and the entry qualification to teach at primary level is now a diploma, hence an increase in diploma holders at primary level. All certificate holders are expected to upgrade their

qualifications.

For secondary schools, the minimum qualification required to teach most subjects is a bachelor's degree, implying that many secondary school teachers will be required to upgrade their credentials, although this might adversely affect the delivery of teaching services in the interim.

The Ministry of Education has embarked on the Fast-Track Training programme for teachers to upgrade their qualifications to enable them qualify to teach at secondary level, especially in science, mathematics and technology subjects. In addition, a significant number of teachers have taken individual actions to upgrade their qualifications and the Ministry is currently in the process of formalising their qualifications.

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Low access and participation in early childhood education (ECE)

Increasing investments in training of ECE teachers, their recruitment, and ECE-appropriate infrastructure.

Inadequate classrooms, desks, laboratories, libraries, and other facilities

Increasing provision of these facilities to enable learning and attainment of a high standard of education for our learners.

Inadequate number of teachers, especially at ECE and primary school

Increasing recruitment and deployment of teachers.

High number of school pregnancies and early marriages

Investing more resources in the implementation of the Re-entry Policy for Girls and Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Low learning outcomes at primary school level especially in numeracy and literacy

Investing in the promotion of foundational skills using evidence from successful pilots such as the Catch-up programme.

Low gender parity in the education system after primary school

Promoting gender equality in education, by ensuring that education programmes are designed and implemented with gender mainstreaming in mind. This means taking into account the specific needs and experiences of both male and female learners, as well as teachers and academic staff, in order to create an inclusive and equitable education system.

Unavailability of some of the data being required for tracking progress on SDG4 as it is not being collected, analysed and published in the requested format

Developing a standard database for education that will consider all data users' needs and meet international-accepted data standards/requirements such as SDGs.

Harmonising data collection instruments and developing standard indicators that are universally-accepted and approved.

Building capacity of staff involved in education data collection, processing, and analysis.

Providing adequate equipment/infrastructure for education data collection, processing, analysis, and publication.



5 GENDER
EQUALITY

|

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 5 calls for women and men to be given the same economic development opportunities, for all forms of violence against women and girls to be eliminated, and for there to be equal participation at all levels.



5.1.1

Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination based on sex

The Zambian Government has ratified and domesticated various international instruments aimed at protecting human dignity irrespective of gender. Some of the international instruments that the country has ratified and domesticated include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

Further, Zambia has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, an instrument to comprehensively address women's rights within political, cultural, economic, social and family spheres as well as the Beijing Platform for Action which sets the agenda for realising women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, Zambia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Children, binding itself to fulfil the obligation of non-discrimination on account of gender, among other grounds.

At regional level, Zambia is party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development, and

the instruments on sexual violence under the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, namely the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children, and the International Protocol on Investigating and Documenting Sexual Violence.

The Zambian legal framework recognises that every person is entitled to all fundamental rights and freedoms as contained in Part III of the Republican Constitution. To operationalise the Constitution as well as the regional and international protocols, Zambia has enacted the following legislation that contributes to the attainment of equality and non-discrimination: The Matrimonial Causes Act No. 20 of 2007; The Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011; The Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012; The Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015; The Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016; The Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 1 of 2012; The Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022; and The Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 13 of 2022.

The Government has continued to collaborate with various stakeholders such as, ministries, provinces and spending agencies (MPSAs), development partners, the private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), traditional leaders and religious leaders in implementing programmes aimed at eradicating gender inequalities and other forms of discrimination.

5.2.2

Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Zambia has long been recognised as a problem that needs to be addressed as it is a hindrance to the attainment of gender equality and the realisation of social and economic goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a gendered impact on economic, health and social well-being of the Zambian society. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic was mainly evident through the loss of income and disruptions to livelihoods, with sectors with high representation of women, among the worst hit. Furthermore, the majority of frontline workers were women and highly exposed to the pandemic. In addition, house chores and the responsibility of caring for the sick mainly lies on women. This was made worse by the fact that over 90 percent of COVID-19 cases were managed at home.

The proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an

intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence stood at 23 percent in 2018. To provide for the protection and empowerment of women and adolescent girls at risk and affected by sexual and gender-based violence, the Government has instituted preventive and response measures. These measures include the establishment of Fast-Track Courts, which aim to increase access to justice for victims and alleged perpetrators alike by dealing with cases speedily as well as reduce the time alleged perpetrators are detained before their cases are heard.

Findings have shown that COVID-19 lockdown measures led to an increase in reported GBV cases among women, girls and persons with disabilities, rising by 5 percent to 26,370 in 2020 from 25,121 in 2019. The burden of GBV was higher for women and girls, as they accounted for 79 percent and 74 percent of cases reported in 2019 and →

2020 respectively. This was due to victims being unable to distance themselves from their perpetrators. However, there was a reduction in the number of reported GBV cases in 2021, which stood at 20,540.

In addition, toll free lines (Childline 116 and Lifeline 933) which are phone, text and web-based have been established to provide counselling, psychosocial support and referral services to children and the general citizenry. This service is available 24 hours per day, has countrywide

coverage and is available to all, including hard-to-reach geographical areas. Additionally, there are 64 One-Stop Centres that offer a comprehensive package of services that include psychosocial counselling, paralegal services, victim support, sexual and reproductive health services. Furthermore, adolescent-friendly health services have been established in order to provide comprehensive quality services and coordinated responses to adolescents and young people's needs.

5.3.1

Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Child marriage continues to be a significant problem with 5.2 percent and 29 percent of women aged 20–24 years having been married by age 15 and 18, respectively. Child marriage exposes children to health risks, and deprives children of their rights to education and employment, making them more vulnerable to the risk of intimate partner violence and child sexual abuse.

Due to the long period of closure of schools, child

marriages and cohabitation, including transactional sex, increased during the post-COVID breakout months, mainly as a result of lack of basic needs. To address child marriage, the Government enacted the Children's Code Act No. 12 of 2022. Section 18 (2) (a) states that "a person shall not subject a child to child marriage", meaning who ever marries off or marries a child commits an offence punishable under the laws of Zambia.

5.4.1

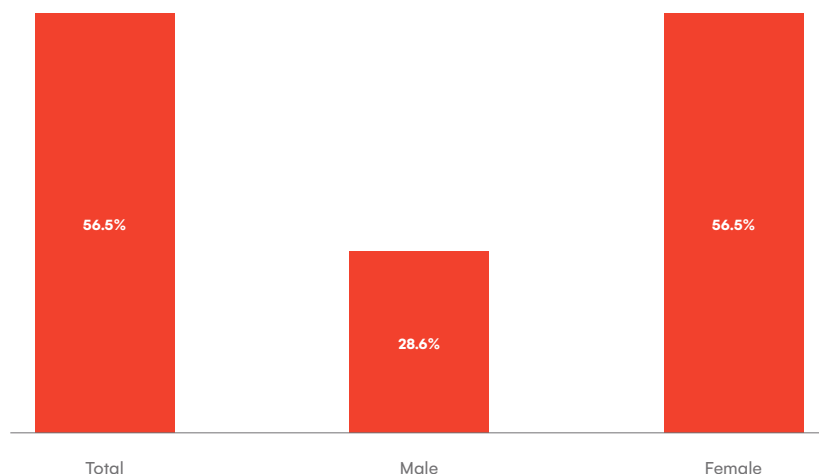
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex

Figure 14 shows that the total time spent in a day doing service work for the benefit of households for both women and men is 56.5 percent of their time. Further analysis shows that women spent 56.5 percent of their day on unpaid domestic service work, while men spent 28.6 percent of their time in a day on unpaid domestic and care work.

Figure 15 shows that females spent more time on unpaid domestic and care service work than males across all age groups, except the truncated 65 and above age group. This is a contrast to how paid work is distributed. Age groups 40–44 and 60–64 reported the highest proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work at 56.5 and 51.8 percent, respectively.

FIGURE 14

Proportion of Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work by Sex 2021



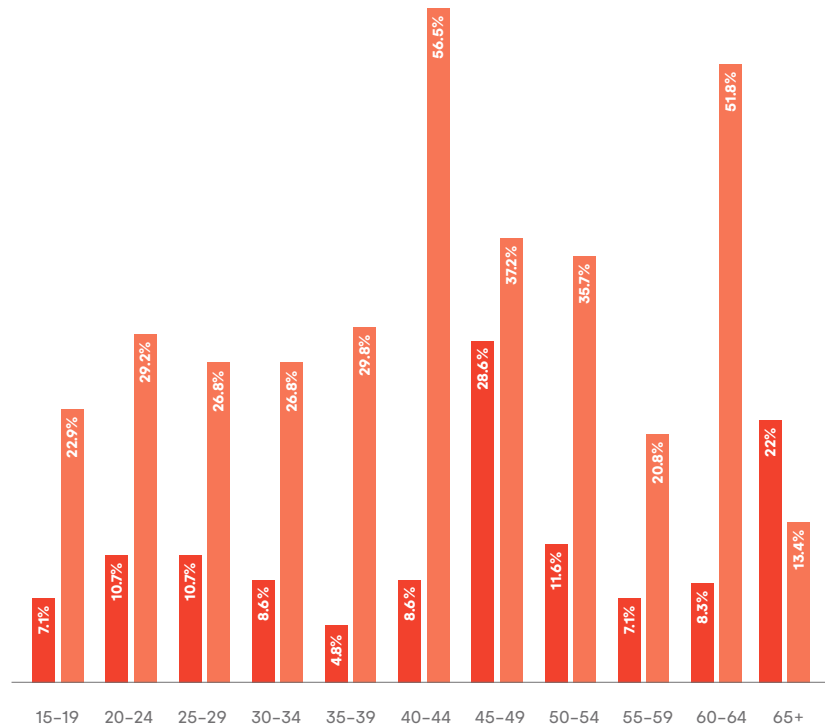
Source: Zambia Statistics Agency



FIGURE 15

Proportion of Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work, by Sex and Age Group 2021

Male
Female



Source: Zambia Statistics Agency

5.5.1

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

Zambia's population stands at 19,610,769 out of which 51 percent are female and 49 percent are male. There have been notable improvements in the Gender Inequality Index to 0.54 in 2022 from 0.627 in 2011. Despite this, women's participation in the development process still remains low with Zambia being ranked at 154 out of 189 among countries with high levels of gender inequalities.

The country continues to have a female Vice President and elected its first female Speaker of the National Assembly after the 2021 General Elections. Furthermore, one of the two Deputy Speakers is female. However, the proportion of seats held by women in the National Assembly decreased to 15.2 in 2021 from 18.9 in 2019 and only 16 percent (4 out of 25) of the Cabinet Ministers are women in 2023. Despite an increase in women holding mayoral or chairperson seats to 12.9 percent (15 out of 116) in 2023 from 8.3 percent in 2017, there was a decline in the proportion of local government seats held by women. After the 2021 elections, only 7.5 percent (139 out of 1,858) councillor seats are held by women, representing a marginal increase of 0.1 percent from the baseline which was 17.4 percent in 2017 (see Table 4). This was mainly attributed to fewer women being adopted by political parties to stand for elections, among others.

To address the issue of low participation of women in elections, CSOs are advocating for affirmative action by

political parties to adopt more female candidates, and organising fundraising activities to raise funds to enable adopted female candidates pay nomination fees at the Electoral Commission of Zambia.

In the 2021 General Elections and subsequent by-elections, the Commission reduced nomination fees for females to encourage women to stand as candidates. Further, women are encouraged to go back to school to complete their secondary education to enable them qualify for nomination for elections. Additionally, advocacy has intensified on enacting a law to set quotas for women's participation in elections.

Zambia is also divided into chiefdoms with chiefs as heads of these jurisdictions and considered to be custodians of culture and tradition. These traditional leaders have been an integral part of leadership hierarchy in Zambia from the pre-colonial days. The country has a total of 293 chiefdoms and largely remains a patriarchal society where leadership of these traditional domains is dominated by males, even though the proportion of female chiefs has risen over the past five years. In 2018, Zambia had 25 female chiefs out of the 293. In 2023, this figure has risen to 31 female chiefs, representing a change of 2 percentage points to 10.6 percent in 2023 from 8.5 percent in 2018.



TABLE 4

Number of Women in Decision-making Positions

	2016 Elections	2021 Elections
President	0	0
Vice President	1	1
Cabinet Ministers	9	4
Provincial Ministers	0	1
Members of Parliament	24	20
Mayors	2	3
Council Chairpersons	7	12
Councillors	120	139

5.a.1

Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Zambia has a dual land tenure system, that is customary and statutory title registration. In the customary system, the chiefs regulate the allocation of the land. Information on customary land is undocumented, which poses a challenge. Under the statutory tenure, secure rights are guaranteed by a title deed that is issued by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. According to the Deeds Registry, as at 28th February 2023, a total of 74,107 deeds were issued for agricultural holdings with 27,761 awarded to males, representing 37.4 percent, while 12,412, representing 16.7 percent, were awarded to females (see Table 5).

However, during the COVID-19 outbreak, the exercise on the national land titling was suspended on account of the COVID restrictions.

To address the challenges in customary land administration and management, some chiefdoms have developed

innovative ways to manage their land. For instance, in Chief Chamuka's chiefdom, over 2,000 women have been offered customary land and issued with customary land certificates. This is a positive intervention which has given women access to and control over productive resources.

Zambia is also divided into chiefdoms with chiefs as heads of these jurisdictions and considered to be custodians of culture and tradition. These traditional leaders have been an integral part of leadership hierarchy in Zambia from the pre-colonial days. The country has a total of 293 chiefdoms and largely remains a patriarchal society where leadership of these traditional domains is dominated by males, even though the proportion of female chiefs has risen over the past five years. In 2018, Zambia had 25 female chiefs out of the 293. In 2023, this figure has risen to 31 female chiefs, representing a change of 2 percentage points to 10.6 percent in 2023 from 8.5 percent in 2018.

TABLE 5

Disaggregation of Agricultural Holding Deed Holders February 2023

Disaggregation of Deed holders	Number of Deeds	Percentage
Male	27,761	37.4
Female	12,414	16.7
Jointly	8,152	11.0
Not Specified	25,782	34.8
Total	74,107	100

Source: Ministry of Lands — Deeds Registry



5.a.2

Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control

In 2021, the National Lands Policy was approved by the Government which provides for the management of both statutory and customary land. The Policy seeks to promote equitable access to and control over both state and customary land and endeavours to strengthen land tenure security. The Policy also seeks to discourage discriminatory customary land practices against women,

youth and persons with disability in the land sector and ensure that 50 percent of land for alienation is available to women.

The leasehold tenure system is the only form of security that is assured and is recognised by issuance of certificate of title to an individual who has attained the age of 21.

5.b.1

Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

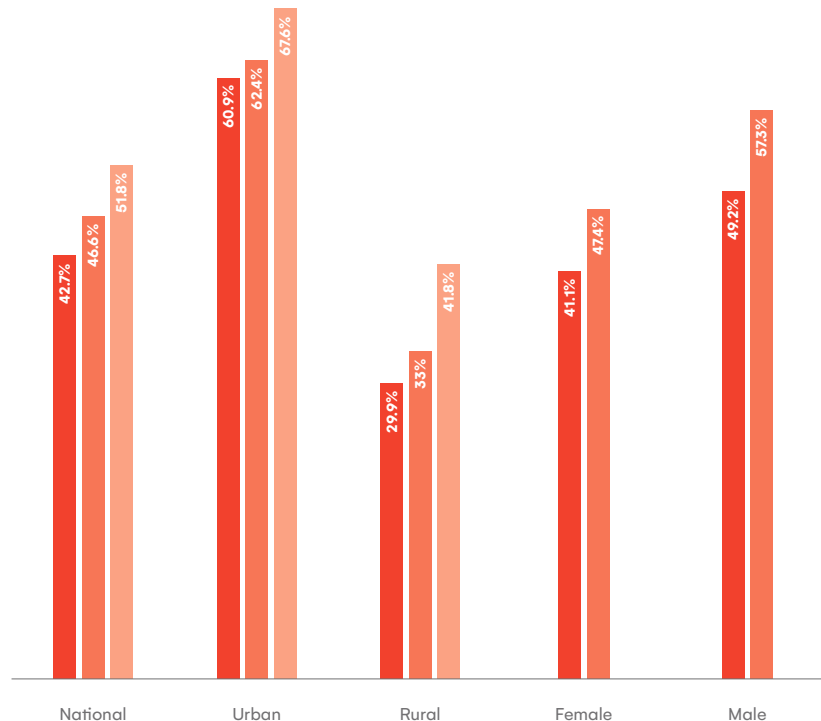
The proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone increased to 51.8 percent in 2022 from 46.6 percent in 2018 (see Figure 16). Female ownership of mobile phones increased to 47.4 percent in 2022 from 41.1 percent in 2018.

The increase in ownership of mobile telephones has led to an increase in the uptake of mobile services, including increased access to digital financial services.

FIGURE 16

Proportion of Mobile Phone Ownership 2015–2022

2015
2018
2022



Source: Zambia Information and Communications Authority

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Inadequate data sources to respond to the indicators

Including appropriate indicators in respective surveys; for example, the Agriculture Census should have indicators on population in agriculture, referring to ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, segregated by sex.

Low representation of women in political leadership

Advocating for affirmative action to encourage political parties to adopt female candidates.
Creating a conducive political environment that minimises violence and encourages women's participation.
Enacting a law to set quotas or targets for women's participation.

Difficulties of enforcing statutory law in a traditional setting

Implement programmes for raising community awareness on the rights of women.
Implementing comprehensive women empowerment programmes that enhance self-efficacy.

Sustaining improvements in gender equality and making further advances

Eliminating socio-cultural barriers that impede the progress of women's representation in key decision-making positions and the labour market.
Synchronising national gender policies and strategies with regional and international declarations.
Raising the capacity of public and private institutions to mainstream gender-responsive initiatives at programme design stage and avoid relegating them to "after-thought" addendum items.

Lack of gender-disaggregated data for planning, monitoring and evaluation

Enhancing the collection of gender-disaggregated data and capacity building for analysis and integration into planning processes.



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable,
reliable, sustainable and modern
energy for all

SDG 7 calls for general access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. In the interests of sustainable development, the proportion of renewable energies should be increased substantially and the energy efficiency improvement rate doubled.

7.1.1

Proportion of the population with access to electricity

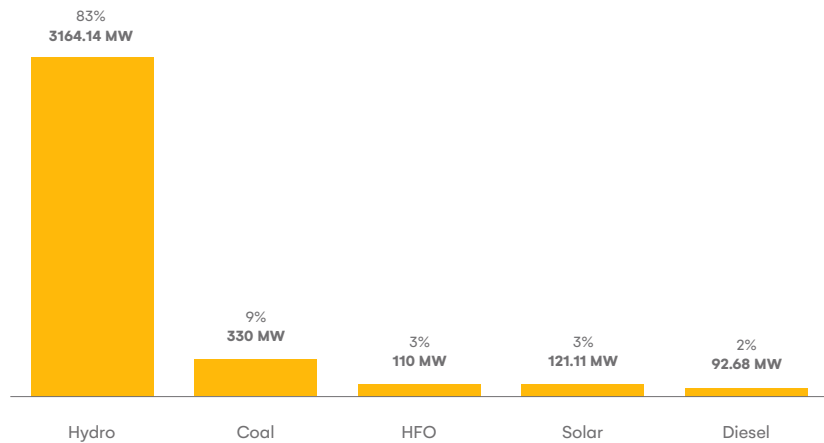
Energy production increased to 3,817.93 megawatts (MW) in 2023 against the national demand of 2,600 MW. Overall, the national installed capacity comprised 83 percent hydro, 9 percent coal, 3 percent heavy fuel oil (HFO), 3 percent

solar, and diesel 2 percent. Figure 17 shows the country's electricity generation capacity, disaggregated by energy sources.

FIGURE 17

National Installed Electricity Generation Capacity 2023

Source: Ministry of Energy



7.2.1

Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

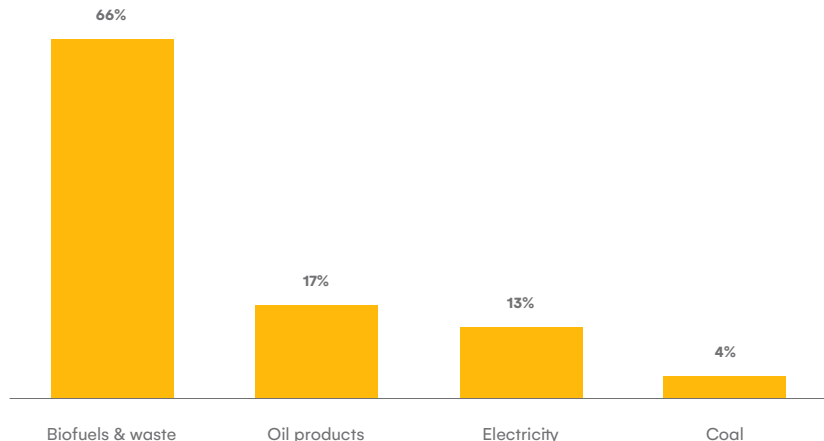
Biomass is the predominant source of energy in Zambia, accounting for more than 70 percent of total primary energy supply. The main forms and products of biomass include wood fuel (charcoal and firewood), biogas, pellets, briquettes, biofuels and gel fuel, mainly used at household

level for cooking and heating. Given the foregoing, biofuels and waste accounted for 66 percent of the total national energy consumption in 2019 (see Figure 18). Oil products and electricity accounted for 17 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

FIGURE 18

Total Final Energy Consumption 2019

Source: Ministry of Energy





7.3.1

Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

In 2019, energy intensity for Zambia was 7 megajoules (MJ) per dollar of gross domestic product (GDP). Between 2000 and 2019, the energy intensity was declining at a

moderating rate to shrink to 7 MJ per dollar of GDP in 2019 from 13 MJ per dollar of GDP in 2000.

7.a.1

International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems

Table 6 summarises international financial flows to Zambia's energy sector programmes and projects from 2014 to 2023 from various development partners.

TABLE 6

Type of Project/Programme Intervention by Cost

Project/Programme Intervention	Total Financial Support		
	USD	British Pound	Euros
Industry-wide cost of service study	1.0	—	—
Integrated Resource Plan	—	1.6	—
Alternatives to Charcoal Project	25.0	—	—
Kariba Dam Rehabilitation	270.0	—	—
Itezhi-Tezhi Power Plant	—	—	34.0
Lusaka Transmission and Distribution	—	—	80.0
Zambia-Tanzania Kenya Interconnector	270.0	—	—
Southern Division	—	—	58.5
GET FiT programme	—	—	41.0
Increased Access to Electricity and Renewable Energy Production	—	—	25.0
Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project	32.0	—	—
European Union Electrify	—	—	40.0
China-Zambia Renewable Energy Technology Transfer Project	2.6	—	—
Beyond the Grid Fund Zambia	—	—	40.0
Electricity Services Access Project	34.5	—	—
Total	635.1	1.6	318.5

Source: Ministry of Energy

7.b.1

Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

The installed renewable energy-generation capacity which was predominately solar and small hydro as at March 2023, stood at 181.25 MW (181,250,000 watts) representing 4.7

percent of the total national installed capacity. With the population standing at 19,610,769 people, the renewable energygeneration capacity was 9.24 watts per capita.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



|

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8 covers targets for economic growth, productivity gains and decent job creation. These also include eradicating forced labour and human trafficking, and eliminating child labour. Moreover, sustainable economic growth should not be to the detriment of the environment.

8.1.1

Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Zambia's GDP per capita has been recording a moderate upward trend. During the period 2018–2022, the GDP per capita averaged US\$1,000. However, in 2020, Zambia's economy contracted by 2.8 percent. This was mainly due to the effect of disruptions in supply chains and the containment measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on sectors such as tourism, construction,

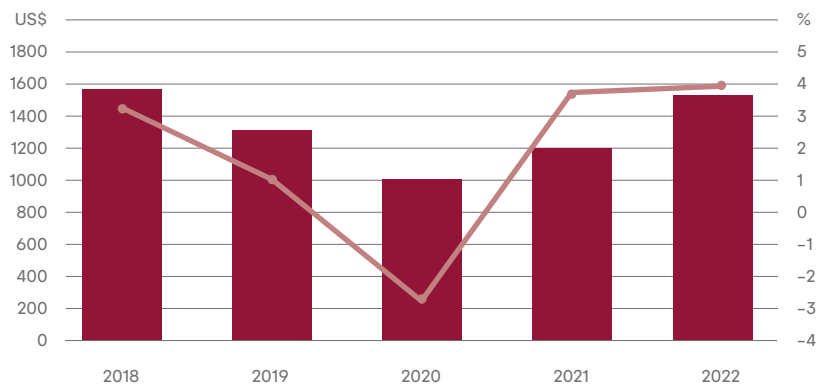
wholesale and retail trade as well as manufacturing. The situation was compounded by the country's worsening fiscal position resulting from increased borrowing on the domestic market. In 2022, the GDP growth recovered to 4.7 percent with ICT, transport and education sectors driving growth. **Figure 19** shows trends in real GDP per capita in the review period.

FIGURE 19

Annual Growth Real GDP and GDP Per Capita Growth Rates 2018–2022

■ GDP per Capita
— GDP

Source: Zambia Statistics Agency



8.2.1

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Based on the annual growth rate of GDP per employed person, it is evident that there are fluctuations in productivity growth in Zambia. Productivity trends continued to decline throughout 2018–2021 (see **Figure 20**). Specifically, for 2021, the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person was negative 1.2.

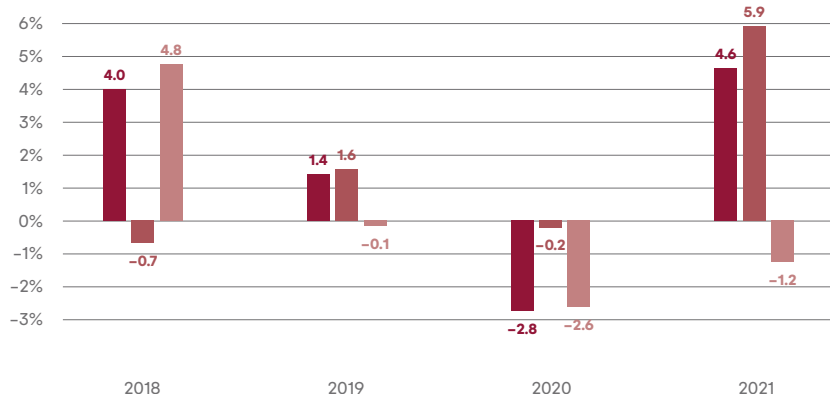
Low levels of education, lack of skills and inadequate training as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are among the factors thought to have had an effect on productivity. Another factor affecting worker productivity is the presence of low value-added jobs in some sectors.

FIGURE 20

Growth Rates of Real GDP Per Employed Persons 2018–2021

■ Gross Domestic Product
■ Employed person
■ GDP per employed person

Source: Zambia Statistics Agency





8.3.1

Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

In 2021, of the total employed population, 65 percent were in the informal economy with agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and wholesale and retail trade industries jointly accounting for 60.8 percent of informal employment. Men and women accounted for 55.6 percent and 44.4 percent of the population in informal employment, respectively. To address the many development and growth challenges associated with high levels of informality, the country is collaborating with development partners to provide technical training and entrepreneurial coaching for micro and small business operators in the agriculture sector. This will enable registered farmers and fisher

entrepreneurs to become formalised.

The Government has also continued to provide a range of services through covering all stages of the business development cycle while supporting existing informal micro, small and medium enterprises on the path to formalisation. Furthermore, the country is implementing interventions to improve the ease of doing business by streamlining and simplifying the business registration process, and facilitating online access to public services, among others. Despite these efforts, challenges remain in reducing informality within the economy.

8.5.1

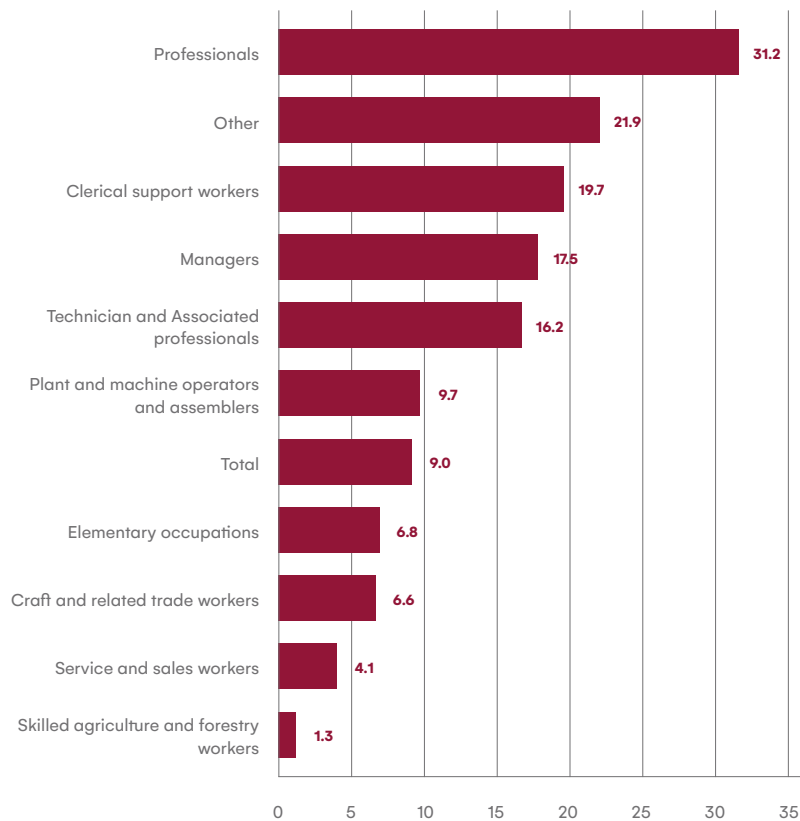
Average Hourly Earnings of Employees, by Occupation

The 2021 Labour Force Survey Report shows that the average hourly earnings for paid employees across all occupations in Zambia was K9 (see Figure 21). Professional employees had the highest hourly earnings at K31.2 per hour, while the lowest earnings were reported in the skilled agriculture and forestry workers, at K1.3 per hour. Workers’

wages have been eroded by high inflation which has weakened purchasing power. This was further exacerbated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which led to the loss of jobs. In real terms, the wages of workers have not experienced any significant improvement.

FIGURE 21

Average Hourly Earnings of Paid Employees by Occupation 2021



Source: Labour Force Survey

8.5.2

Unemployment rate by sex, persons with disabilities and age groups

Unemployment Rate by Sex

Analysis of unemployment rates shows that the trend has been marginally increasing since 2018 and peaked in 2020 on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2018–2021, the unemployment rate by sex for females was consistently higher than that of their male counterparts as shown in Figure 22.

Unemployment Rates of Overall Population by Age Groups

In 2021, the unemployment rate was highest among the country’s youth ages (15–35) across all the age groups (see Figure 24). Females recorded a higher unemployment rate than males for ages 15–44. The country has continued to promote employment and entrepreneurship as interventions to reduce unemployment. The country has developed the Action Plan for Youth Employment and Empowerment which comprehensively addresses the challenges of youth employment and empowerment through a multi-sectoral approach to maximise opportunities for employment and empowerment for young women and men.

Unemployment Rate by Population Living with Disabilities

The unemployment rate for persons with disabilities in 2021 was higher than for the rest of the population at 16.8 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively. Furthermore, the unemployment rate for females was higher for both the overall population and that of the population living with disability at 18.3 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively (see Figure 23).

Despite the above interventions, however, between 2018 and 2021, the youth unemployment rate declined. This was further noted in the female youth unemployment rate which continued to outpace that of males. The COVID-19 pandemic has added to the mounting issues related to youth unemployment.

FIGURE 22

Unemployment Rates of Overall Population by Sex 2018–2021

- Total
- Male
- Female

Source: Labour Force Survey Reports

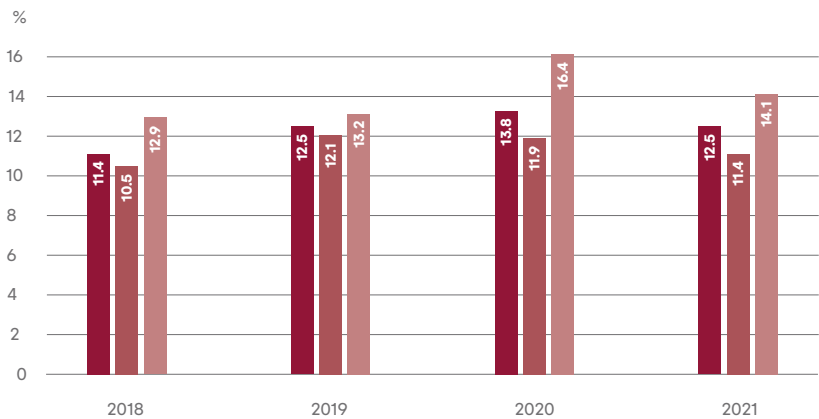


FIGURE 23

Unemployment Rates of Overall Population and Population Living with Disability 2021

- Population Living with disability
- Overall Population

Source: Labour Force Survey

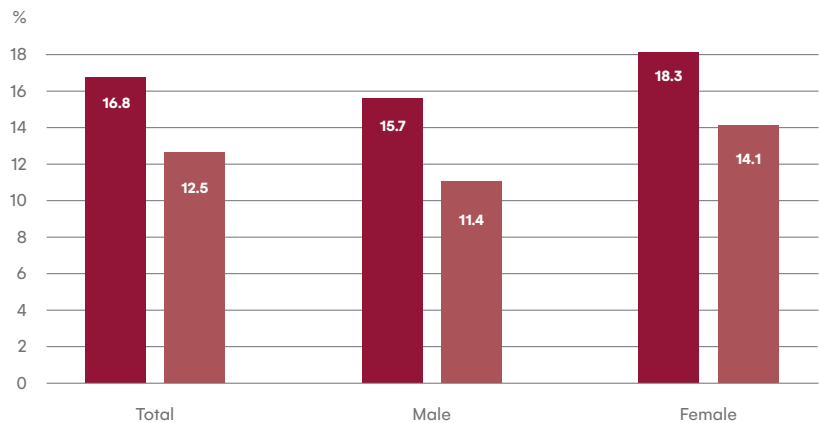




FIGURE 24

Unemployment Rates of Overall Population by Age Group and Sex 2021

- Both sexes
- Male
- Female



Source: Labour Force Survey

8.6.1

Proportion of Youth (aged 15–24 years) Not in Education, Employment or Training

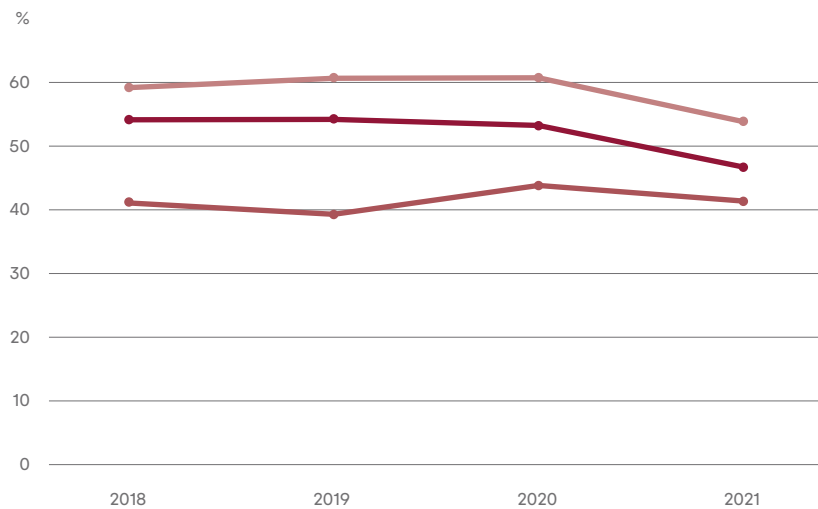
The proportion of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) reduced to 47.2 percent in 2021 from 53.6 percent in 2018 (see Figure 25). This shows that the youth population is transitioning better from school into the productive world of employment or education. The male youth population in NEET was lower than the female youth

population analysed. The noted achievements have been due, in large part, to the robust and holistic programmes that the country has been implementing, such as skills development, entrepreneurship promotion, provision of capital, and mentorship.

FIGURE 25

Proportion of Youth NEET by Sex 2018–2021

- Both sexes
- Male
- Female



Source: Labour Force Survey Report

8.7.1

Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

The 2020 estimate of the number of children aged 5–17 years was 6,198,568. From the total number of children, 430,074 were engaged in child labour, representing a proportion of 6.9 percent. The older children (ages 15–17), had a higher proportion engaging in child labour than the younger children (5–14) at 14.4 and 5.2 percent, respectively. Female children were more engaged in child labour at 8.8

percent compared to male children at 5.1 percent (see Table 7). Despite the progress in addressing child labour, the vice has persisted in the agriculture sector (accounting for the majority), illegal mining and services sector. The challenge was further exacerbated by the COVID–19 pandemic where lockdowns prompted closures of schools, leaving children vulnerable.

TABLE 7

Number and Proportion of Children Aged 5–17 Years Engaged in Child Labour 2020

Age Groups	Number of Children in Child Labour			Proportion of Children in Child Labour		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
5 to 14	259,840	100,076	159,763	5.2%	4.0%	6.4%
15 to 17	170,235	57,180	113,054	14.4%	9.6%	19.2%
Total	430,074	157,256	272,817	6.9%	5.1%	8.8%

Source: Labour Force Survey Report

8.9.1

Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

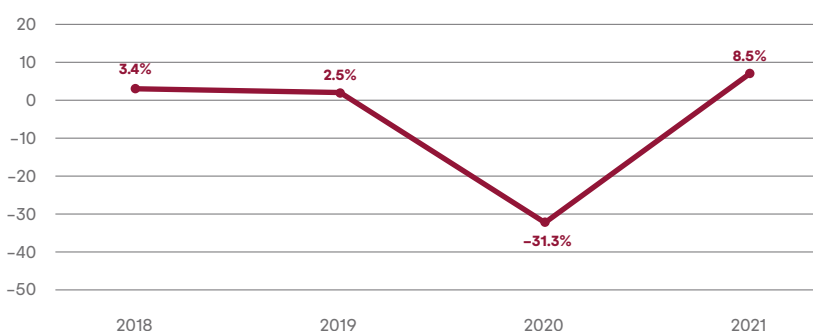
The share of the tourism sector in GDP increased to 8.5 percent in 2021 from a negative growth rate of 31.3 percent in 2020 (see Figure 26). The tourism sector was one of the most affected by the COVID–19 pandemic. This was due to restricted domestic and international travel, including all forms of socialisation which led to the loss of jobs and revenue for most industries in the sector.

The rebound in 2021 was attributed to relaxed travel restrictions, the rollout of COVID–19 vaccines across many countries in the world, improved dissemination

of COVID–19–related information and health protocols, as well as increased promotion of domestic tourism. To enhance the economic contribution of the tourism sector, Zambia is implementing the Tourism Master Plan (2018–2028) which aims to significantly increase tourism contribution to the economy through improving access to tourism sites and infrastructure. Overall, the objectives of the Tourism Master Plan are geared towards creating a sustainable and inclusive tourism industry that contributes to the Zambia's socio-economic development.

FIGURE 26

Tourism Direct GDP as a Proportion of GDP 2018–2021



Source: Zamstats



8.10.1-a

Number of Commercial Bank Branches per 100,000 Adults

The proportion of adults per 100,000 with access to a commercial bank has reduced from 4.6 percent in 2017 to 2.9 percent in 2021 (see Figure 27). This was mainly attributed to the rise of mobile and internet banking systems. Most of the banking services have been made accessible away from branches to booths and agencies dotted around the country. Financial inclusion efforts in Zambia have focused on designing policies and strategies to address limited access

and uptake of financial services and products in rural segments of the country. Results from the FinScope Zambia 2021 Survey indicated a net increase in financial inclusion of 10.1 percentage points to 69.4 percent from 59.3 percent in 2015. Key findings show that while Zambia enjoys a bank-centric financial sector, mobile money has emerged as a major driver of financial inclusion. Mobile money wallets have been a game-changer, especially in rural areas where access to banks remains limited.

8.10.1-b

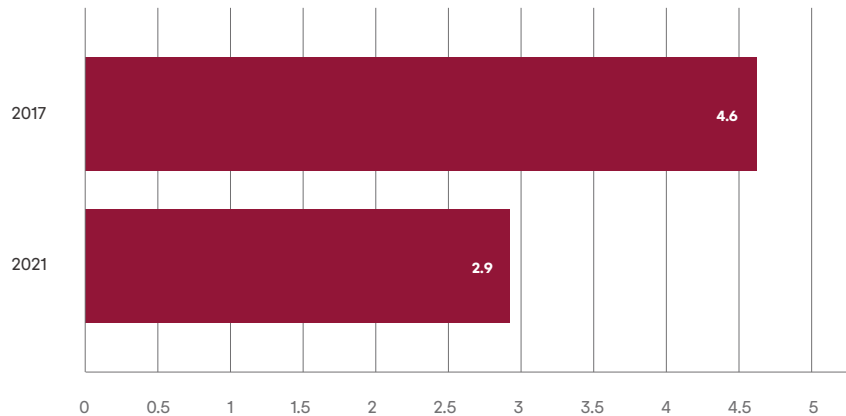
Number of ATMs per 100,000 Adults

The number of adults per 100,000 accessing automated teller machines (ATMs) reduced from 12.0 adults per 100,000 in 2017 to 8.8 adults per 100,000 in 2021 (see Figure 28) mainly because of the rise in mobile and internet money

transactions access. Utility payments and transfers can be done on mobile devices. Access to mobile telecommunication networks increased to about 97.2 percent coverage of the population in 2022.

FIGURE 27

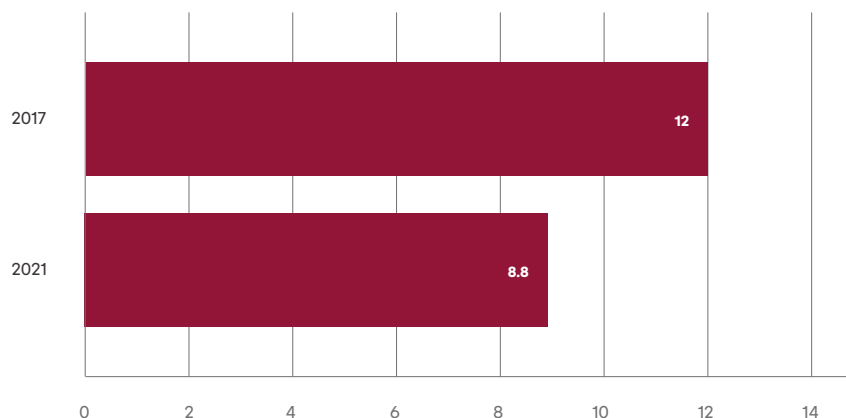
Number of Commercial Bank Branches per 100,000 Adults 2017–2021



Source: Zambia Finscope Survey

FIGURE 28

Number of ATMs per 100,000 Adults 2017–2021



Source: Zambia Finscope Survey

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Low compliance to legal and regulatory provisions

Increasing enforcement capacity of existing legal and regulatory provisions.

Curbing casualisation by enforcing regular registration to enforce social security for workers.

Enhancing child protection, especially female children.

Improving the overall economic environment to make it easier to enforce the minimum wage requirements that can help open other economic opportunities.

High unemployment and youth NEET

Increasing access to the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission, and reducing red tape on the Constituency Development Fund.

Non-Inclusiveness

Enforcing policies that would accord persons with disabilities access to decent work and ability to fully participate in the labour force.

Increasing opportunities for youth access to decent work.



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The task with SDG 9 is to build resilient infrastructure. To make both these and industries sustainable, by 2030 resources must be employed more efficiently, and clean and environmentally-friendly technologies and industrial processes promoted alongside education, research and innovation.

9.1.1

Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road

Only 38 percent of the rural population in Zambia live within two kilometres of an all-season road. This indicates that the majority of rural residents do not have easy access to reliable transportation infrastructure. To improve rural roads accessibility to all season roads, the Government is

implementing the Improved Rural Roads Connectivity Project in selected rural areas with support from development partners.

9.1.2

Passenger and freight Volume, by mode of transport : Domestic and international passenger and freight volume

Air transport

Aviation Passenger Movements

The total number of passengers transported by air declined by 70.6 percent to 544,830 in 2020 compared to 1,850,715 passengers recorded in 2019. The decline recorded in 2020 was attributed to the implementation of strict travel bans and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of passengers in 2022 increased by 119.2 percent to 1,653,077 from 753,930 recorded in 2021. Domestic passengers increased by 132.5 percent to 434,364 in 2022 from 186,791 in 2021 while international passengers increased by 114.9 percent to 1,218,713 in 2022 from 567,139 in 2021.

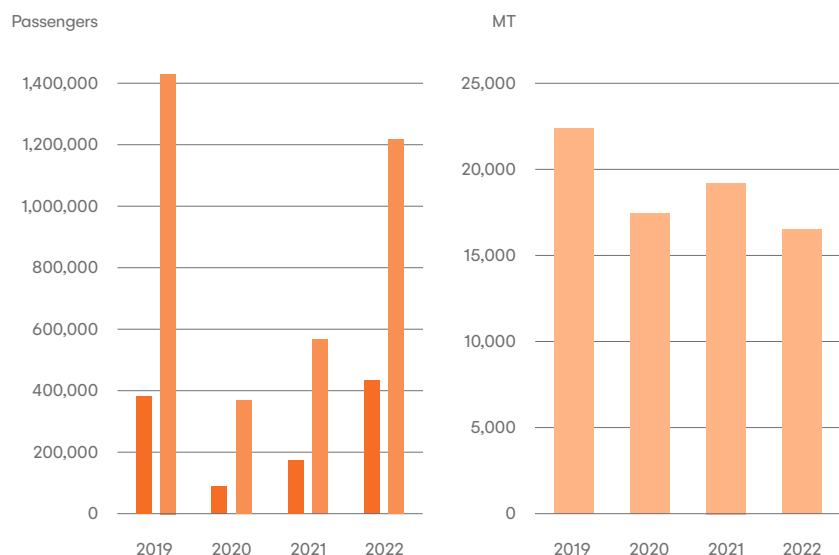
Volume of Cargo Transported by Air

The volume of cargo and mail transported by air reduced by 18.5 percent in 2020 to 17,906.76 metric tonnes (mt) from 22,046.42 mt recorded in 2019 (see Figure 29). In 2021, the volume of cargo and mail transported by air increased by 8.7 percent to 19,463.00. The increase was attributed to the resumption of flights and increased equipment capacity. In, 2022, the volume of cargo and mail transported by air reduced by 15 percent to 16,570.22 mt. The decline was due to reduced economic and business activity largely due to depreciation of the Kwacha against major international currencies and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIGURE 29

Passengers and Volume of Cargo by Air 2019–2022

- Domestic passenger movements
- International passenger movements
- Volume of cargo



Source: Zambia Airports Corporation Limited



Rail transport

Passengers Transported by Rail

The number of passengers transported by rail increased by 9.6 percent to 649,566 in 2022 from 592,544 in 2021. Zambia Railways Limited (ZRL) recorded a passenger ridership of 135,338, representing an increase of 31.2 percent from 103,051 passengers transported in 2021. Equally, Tanzania–Zambia Railways (TAZARA) interstate ridership performance increased by 5.1 percent to 514,382 passengers in 2022 from 489,493 passengers transported in 2021. The increase in the number of passengers transported by rail was attributed to the resumption of the passenger trains, which were suspended in 2020 due to COVID-19 as well as the repair of coaches, which increased the passenger capacity.

Cargo Transported by Rail

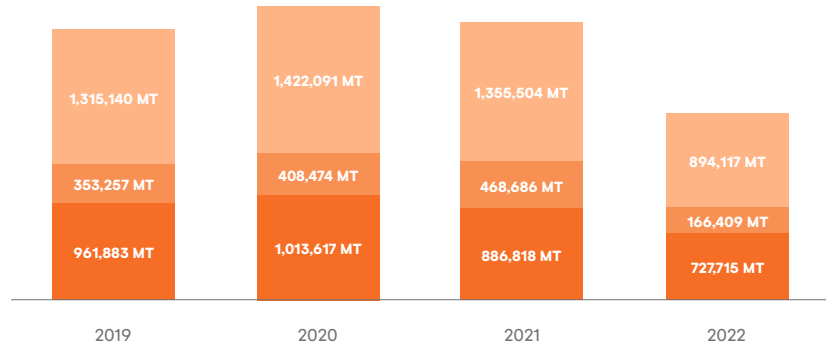
Cargo transported by rail increased by 8.6 percent to 1,422,091 mt in 2020 from 1,315,140 mt recorded in 2019. In 2021, there was a decrease of 4.7 percent to 1,355,504 mt. The volume of cargo reduced further by 34 percent to 894,117 from 1,355,504 in 2021 (see Figure 30). The reduction was as a result of the closure of the Dar-es-Salaam route for nine months of 2022 which negatively impacted transshipment of cargo and suspension of operations at the Durban Port from April to May as a result of floods in that area.

FIGURE 30

Volume of Cargo Transported by Rail 2019–2022

- ZRL Cargo
- TAZARA Cargo
- Total

Source: TAZARA and Zambia Railways Limited



Marine transport

Volume of Cargo Transported by Water

The volume of cargo transported by water increased by 12.9 percent to 232,186.21 mt in 2021 from 205,589.38 mt in 2020 (see Figure 31). The increase was a result of growth in exports of cement, sugar, coal and clinker which accounted for the majority of the cargo moved by water. However,

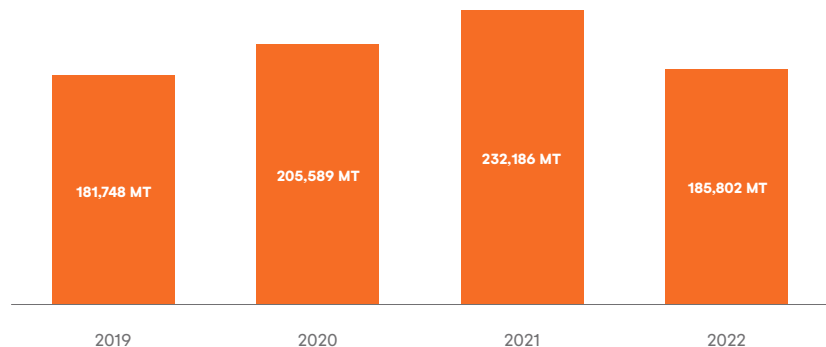
a decline of 19.4 percent in the tonnage moved by water, was recorded in 2022 at 185,801.92 mt, from 232,186.21 mt in 2021. The poor performance was partly attributed to logistical challenges which affected vessel turnaround throughout the year.

FIGURE 31

Mpulungu Cargo Statistics 2019–2022

- ZRL Cargo
- TAZARA Cargo
- Total

Source: Mpulungu Harbour Corporation Limited



Road transport

Number of Passengers Transported by Road

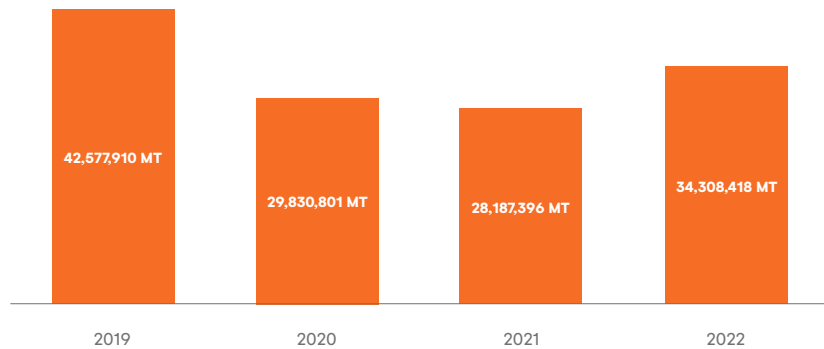
The number of passengers using registered public transport increased by 18.7 percent to 97,165,100 in 2020 from 81,864,720 recorded in 2019. The positive performance was mainly attributed to the increased number of operators entering the public transport market. In 2021, however, the number of passengers transported by registered public service motor vehicles reduced by 23.5 percent to 74,314,481 from 97,165,100 in 2020. The number of passengers further decreased by 12 percent to 65,122,740 in 2022 from 74,314,481 in 2021. The decrease in passengers transported was attributed to the transport restrictions that came with the control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people opted to use their own transport and avoided public transportation.

Volume of Cargo Transported by Road

Cargo transported by road declined by 29.9 percent to 29,830,801.56 mt in 2020 from 42,577,910.26 mt recorded in 2019, and a further decrease of 5.5 percent to 28,187,396.8 mt in 2021. The decrease in the cargo movement was mainly attributed to the effect of logistics and supply chain disruptions from countries such as South Africa due to strict restrictions at border points as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the volume of cargo transported by road increased by 8.2 percent to 34,308,418.58 mt from 28,187,396.8 mt recorded in 2021 (see Figure 32). The increase in the cargo movement was attributed to the resumption of normal operations of borders.

FIGURE 32

Volume of Cargo Transported by Road 2019–2022



Source: Road Transport and Safety Agency

9.2.2

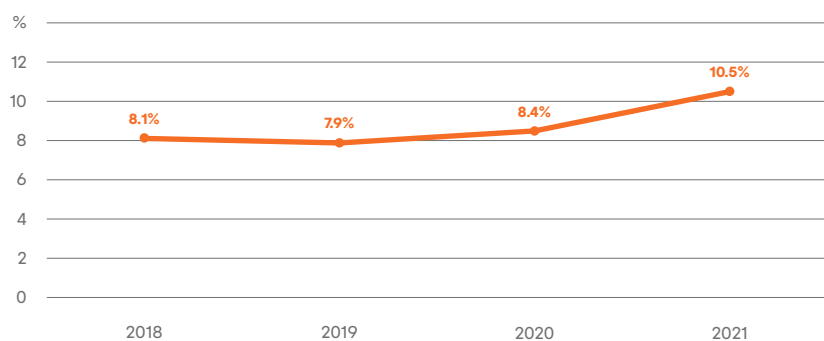
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

In 2021, the manufacturing sector had a share of 10.5 percent in total employment compared to 8.1 percent recorded in 2018 (see Figure 33). Although the sector is third in terms of employment, much needs to be done to enhance its performance to desirable levels. To improve the performance of the sector, the Government is focusing

on policies and initiatives that promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. This includes investment in infrastructure, research and development, and skills development as well as promotion of entrepreneurship and private sector development, aimed at stimulating the growth and development of the sector.

FIGURE 33

Proportion of Manufacturing Employment 2018–2021



Source: Zambia Statistics Agency



9.4.1

CO2 emission per unit of value added

Zambia's CO2 emissions per unit of value-added were estimated at 0.41 mt per US\$1,000 of GDP in 2019, largely driven by the country's dependence on carbon-intensive industries such as mining, agriculture, and manufacturing. To address the high levels of CO2 emissions per unit of

value-added in Zambia, the Government is implementing policies and regulations that promote the adoption of clean energy technologies, such as solar and wind power, and energy-efficient practices.

9.5.1

Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

Zambia's gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) as a share of GDP was approximately 0.3 percent in 2020, which is significantly lower than the global average of approximately 2.2 percent. However, the Government has recognised the importance of R&D in driving economic growth and has since taken steps to increase investment in this area, beginning with the launch of the National Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy,

which aims to promote the development of a knowledge-based economy through increased investment in R&D that targets increasing public sector investment in R&D to at least 1 percent of GDP by 2025. The Government has also established a number of institutions to support R&D, including the National Science and Technology Council and the Technology Development and Advisory Unit.

9.c.1

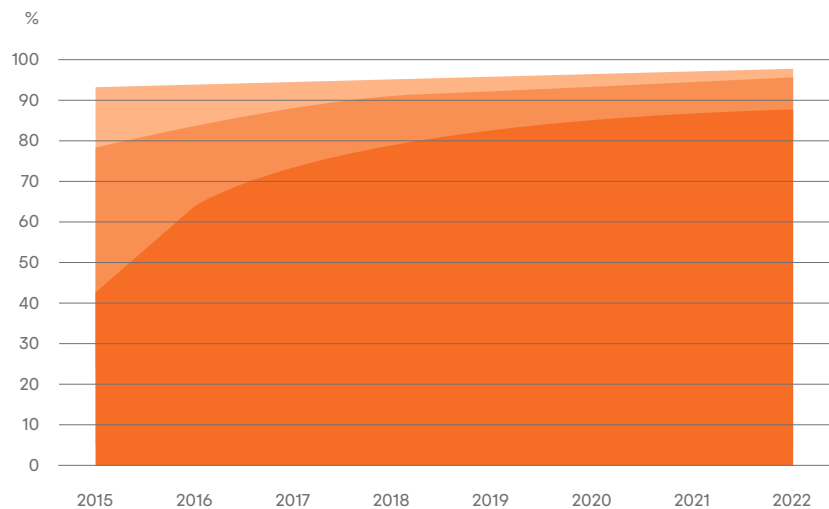
Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology

Mobile penetration rate increased to 97.1 percent in 2022 from 93.6 in 2015, indicating that a significant portion of the population in Zambia is covered by mobile networks. The increase was attributed to upgrade in technology and rollout of improved infrastructure. However, the proportion

of the population covered by mobile networks varies depending on the technology used. **Figure 34** shows the proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology.

FIGURE 34
Population Coverage
by Type of Mobile Network
2015–2020

- 4G
- 3G
- 2G



Source: International Telecommunication Union Report on Measuring Digital Development

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Limited local technical capacity to construct climate-smart infrastructure

Enhancing interventions aimed at strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

Developing capacity in project design, implementation, and management.

Limited financial resources

Pursuing effective public-private partnerships that achieve maximum development financing impact.

Limited research and development

Pursuing partnerships with external research institutions to leverage financing for research and development.

Properly documenting, storing and acquiring property rights of innovations to encourage research and development.

Over-reliance on roads as the major mode of transportation

Providing incentives to attract private sector investment in other modes of transport, especially for cargo transportation.



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



|

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The idea behind SDG 12 is to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production and thereby improve well-being in society. Producing and consuming sustainably means reducing the associated resource consumption so as not to overload ecosystem capacity.

12.1.1

Number of countries developing adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production

Zambia is implementing policies and instruments aimed at promoting sustainable consumption and production. At institutional level, the Government established the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment to spearhead implementation of the shift to sustainable consumption and production (SCP). This agenda is also provided for by the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011.

Furthermore, Zambia has initiated the process of reviewing the National Policy on Environment to incorporate the SCP concept and has initiated the process of developing the SCP management plans. The Policy will guide on decoupling environmental degradation from economic growth by doing more and better with less, increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole life cycle, while

increasing the quality of life.

To facilitate the drive towards green growth, the Energy Regulation Act of 1995 was reviewed to provide for changes in the energy sector and promote SCP and introduced the Electricity Act No. 11 of 2019. A National Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan was adopted to promote access to clean and modern energy and a programme for renewable and alternative energy development was also developed in 2021 to promote the production and management of clean energy and use of modern energy technologies. In addition, the Environmental Health Pollution Management Programme was initiated under the Zambia Environmental Management Agency aimed at addressing environmental health risks associated with mercury, e-waste and persistent organic pollutants.

12.3.1

Food Loss Index

The Food Loss Index is calculated per industry, beginning with utilisation and ending with production. Estimates of household food waste in Zambia have been done. According to the United Nations Environment

Programme's Food Index Report of 2021, the country's Food Waste Index is at 1,391,729 tonnes per year. This translates into 78 kilogrammes per capita per year.

12.4.1

Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information

Zambia is a signatory to the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, and the Vienna Convention. To this end, the country has implemented and submitted over eight reports. The country also participated in the first and second rounds of the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants (2009 and 2022) under the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the country submitted the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in 2020, and also to the Minamata Convention on Chemicals.

Furthermore, Zambia has ratified the Kigali modifications to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, aimed at gradually reducing the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons by more than 80 percent over the next ten years. To fulfil this commitment, the Government has made significant progress in domesticating revisions to the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011. So far, the Cabinet has approved and introduced a bill in the National Assembly to amend the Act.

12.5.1

National Recycling Rate, tons of material recycled

The national rate of recycling is estimated at 6.5 percent. The quantity of materials recycled is estimated at 2 million tonnes per year, most of which is plastic.



12.6.1

Number of companies publishing sustainability reports

Companies in Zambia are mandated to submit Environmental Audit Reports in line with the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011. In 2022, six reports were submitted on environmental sustainability from various

companies. Additionally, companies are required to prepare and report on the implementation of environmental management systems as committed in their respective Environmental and Social Impact Assessments.

12.7.1

Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and actions plans

Sustainable procurement allows governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve resource efficiency and support recycling. To achieve SCP, the Government has incorporated environmental provisions in the Public Procurement Regulations of 2022 and has formulated the Price Index. The regulations are aimed at ensuring environmental interests and goals are protected. Additionally, the statement of requirements for goods

demands a functional description of goods, including any environmental or safety features. Furthermore, emergency procurement is provided for when the country is threatened by or confronted with a disaster, catastrophe, pandemic and where the environment may be seriously compromised. The evaluation criteria for framework agreements have equally provided for environmental characteristics.

12.a.1

Installed renewable energy generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

The total renewable energy installed was 139,630,000 watts in 2021, while the total installed renewable energy-generating

capacity was 7.59 watts/per capita in 2018, representing 4.21 percent.

12.b.1

Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

Zambia is in the process of developing the Natural Capital Accounting system which is based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Framework. The country has so far developed the Forest Account, Land Account, Water Account and Tourism Account through the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project. Ascertaining and quantifying Zambia's natural capital wealth in tourism, land, forest, water and other sectors is important in planning for the country's economic

growth and ensuring sustainable development.

Zambia is now looking to develop both ecotourism and ecosystem accounts, tentatively including biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and sedimentation in order to support the Government's plans to develop nature-based tourism in protected areas, and to measure and value the ecosystem services from these areas.



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



|

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 13 calls upon governments to incorporate climate action in their national policies and to support each other in addressing the challenges. Resilience to climate-related natural disasters is also to be improved.

13.1.1

Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

During the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rainy seasons, a total of 22 deaths were recorded as a result of increased frequency, intensity and magnitude of seasonal floods

and flash floods. Of the 22 deaths, 14 and 8 deaths were recorded in 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rainy seasons, respectively.

13.1.2

Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), Zambia has been undertaking concrete steps to facilitate its implementation. These include:

1. The adoption of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR, 2015–2030).
2. Subscription to the African Risk Capacity Group under the African Union, beginning from 2021.
3. Adoption of the roadmap for the alignment of the Extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030).
4. Ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
5. Subscription to the SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy Fund (2016–2030).
6. Formulation of the National Policy on Climate Change (NPCC) of 2016.

In implementing the above framework, the Government has developed a National Disaster Risk Management Framework which is anchored on the Disaster Management of Act No. 13 of 2010 and the National Disaster Management Policy of 2015 to operationalise the Sendai Framework.

Zambia has further undertaken disaster risk assessments, established one national emergency operational centre, and is implementing community-based disaster risk management programmes and post-disaster recovery activities for resilience building. Furthermore, a National Drought Plan (2020) has been submitted to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which is intended to contribute to the protection of Zambia's land, water and other environmental resources from over-use and drought.

13.1.3

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

In line with the SFDRR, Zambia has developed a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy (NDRRMS) for implementation in the period 2018–2030. The strategy provides a framework for disaster risk reduction and management and emphasises the importance of local-level action. The NDRRMS encourages local governments to mainstream and implement disaster risk reduction strategies in their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) in line with the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 13 of 2015.

To measure progress towards this indicator, the Government has established a monitoring and evaluation framework for disaster risk reduction. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is responsible for monitoring

and evaluating the implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies by local authorities in collaboration with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit in the Office of the Vice President. Between 2019 and 2022, eight IDPs, which also incorporate disaster risk reduction strategies, were developed while the remaining 108 are in the process of being developed.

To ensure the effective implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies, the Government has taken several steps. These include capacity building for local governments, including training on disaster risk reduction, risk assessments, and early warning systems. The Government has also provided financial and technical support to local governments to develop and implement their disaster risk reduction strategies.



13.2.1

Number of countries with nationally-determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Zambia developed its first Nationally-Determined Contribution (NDC) on Climate Change in 2016. Building on the lessons learnt from the first NDC, in 2021, the Government submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) a revised and updated NDC which enhanced the mitigation actions by adding three areas of intervention namely, transport, liquid waste and coal (production, transportation and consumption) besides sustainable forest management, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy and energy efficiency, outlined in the first NDC. On the other hand, the revised and updated NDC also enhanced the adaptation component by developing indicators for tracking progress on building resilience in both human and physical ecosystems and on adaptation actions implemented under the adaptation of strategic productive systems (agriculture, wildlife and water); adaptation of strategic infrastructure and health systems; and enhanced

capacity building, research, technology transfer and finance for adaptation programmes.

The target of Zambia's revised and updated NDC is to achieve an estimated total greenhouse gas emission reduction of 38,000 greenhouse gas CO₂ equivalent (Gg CO₂ eq) which translates to 47 percent, with substantial international support, compared to 20,000 Gg CO₂ eq which translates to 25 percent, under domestic efforts with limited international support, against 2010 as a base year. The emission reduction of 38,000 Gg CO₂ eq is conditional and subject to the availability of international support in form of finance, technology and capacity building. The estimated amount required to implement the NDC is US\$50 billion by 2030, out of which US\$35 billion is expected to come from external sources while US\$15 billion will be mobilised from domestic sources.

13.2.2

Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

The national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory calculations show that the level of GHG emission between 2010 and 2016 was 126,758 Gg CO₂ eq, an increase of 6,154 Gg CO₂ eq compared to the emission level in 2005-2010. The agriculture, forestry and other land-use sectors (AFOLU) were the most significant contributors to GHG emissions in 2016 at 93 percent. The increase in GHG emissions from the AFOLU sectors is attributed to increased emission from biomass, enteric fermentation, direct nitrogen and forestry emissions. The other sectors contributing to GHG emissions are energy at 5.08 percent, industrial processes and products at 1.65 percent and waste at 0.26 percent. The overall increase in GHG emissions is attributed to the increase in consumption of petroleum products; manufacture of mineral products; product uses as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances; an increase in other product manufacture and use; solid waste disposal, incineration and open burning of waste; and wastewater

treatment and discharge. Despite the increasing GHG emission trend, Zambia's GHG emission levels for 2005-2010 and 2010-2016 revealed that the country is a net sink.

The 2020 Biennial Updated Report (BUR) has estimated that Zambia will increase its emission reductions to 48,220.1 Gg CO₂ eq (scenario 1), 92,779.0 Gg CO₂ eq (scenario 2) or 129,058.7 Gg CO₂ eq (scenario 3), from 1,450.6 Gg CO₂ eq in 2015. Scenario 1 assumes that current technologies and measures are implemented, scenario 2 that some of the measures from the NDC and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) are included, and scenario 3 that NDC mitigation actions and NAMAs are implemented with domestic and substantial international support. Emission reductions envisaged in the three scenarios as a result of the implementation of mitigation actions, will allow the country to achieve its conditional NDC target by 2030.

13.2.3

Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update)

During the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rainy seasons, a total of 22 deaths were recorded as a result of increased frequency, intensity and magnitude of seasonal floods and flash floods. Of the 22 deaths, 14 and 8 deaths were recorded in 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rainy seasons, respectively.

Zambia has regularly reported efforts to address climate change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is a manifestation of its commitment as a party to the UNFCCC. Efforts to deal with climate change in the form of mitigation and adaptation actions are reported in the BUR and National Communications to the UNFCCC. In line with the country's commitment to report progress on the implementation of climate change actions, Zambia submitted the Third National Communication and the first BUR in 2020.

Policy documents which are being implemented to enable and enhance the execution of climate change actions in the country include: the 8th National Development Plan (8NDP) which has a dedicated pillar on environmental sustainability; the NPCC of 2016; the National Climate Change Learning Strategy of 2021; the Forest (Carbon Stock Management) Regulations of 2021; the National

Climate Change Communication and Advocacy Strategy (NCCCAS) of 2022; and Interim Guidelines on the Handling of Carbon Markets and Trading in Zambia.

Furthermore, Zambia is formulating a Green Growth Strategy to guide the country's economic growth towards environmental sustainability and low-carbon development while promoting social inclusion, and a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is being developed to guide the medium to long-term prioritisation and implementation of adaptation actions to build the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change.

The Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011 is also being revised to incorporate emerging issues on environment and natural resources and contribute to building resilience and achieving a low carbon pathway for the country. Further, the Government is finalising the development of legislation on climate change to, among others, provide for climate change mitigation; low emission development; green economy and related actions; climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; establishment of a climate change fund; and regulation of carbon markets.

13.3.1

Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

Zambia is integrating green economy and climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning at all levels of the education system to enhance the education for sustainable development approach. In this regard, the 2013 Education Curriculum Framework is being revised to incorporate green economy, environment and climate change. This will improve the capacity of learners to comprehend, participate in and become better at resolving the clash of the ecological, social and economic aspects of sustainable development in Zambia.

In addition, in 2021, Zambia formulated the National Climate Change Learning Strategy (NCCLS) to strengthen the national education and training systems to scale-up climate change learning across sectors. The NCCLS

provides specific activities to be implemented in the energy, health, forestry and education sectors in the short, medium and long-terms to enhance climate change learning. The country has also developed the NCCCAS whose objective is to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of climate change to support understanding and attitude change among the citizenry and various stakeholders. Additionally, the NCCCAS aims at enhancing the capacity of the media, scientists, researchers, government departments and other organisations involved in climate change to effectively engage and disseminate climate change information and provide a framework on culturally-clear and appropriate messages for different target audiences.



13.3.2

Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic, and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

As part of the efforts to implement environment and climate change obligations, Zambia carried out the National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environment Facility in 2007 to assess the national priority capacity needs for implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements with focus on the three Rio Conventions. In 2014, the country also carried out the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA). The TNA identified the country's technology needs and priorities for both adaptation and mitigation interventions to climate change. It also developed concrete action plans to increase the resilience of the key sectors in facing the expected adverse effects of climate change and developed mitigation options in energy supply, energy efficiency,

sustainable charcoal production, and sustainable agriculture.

As alluded to above, the country is formulating the medium and long-term National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to guide the prioritisation and implementation of adaptation actions to build the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change. As part of the preparation for the implementation of the NAP, capacity building trainings of district and provincial planning officers have been conducted to enable them identify the climate hazards, risks and vulnerabilities and how to mainstream them in the plans at the sub-national level, including IDPs.

13.b.1

Number of least developed countries and small island developing states that are receiving specialised support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalised communities

Zambia continues to make strides to support strategies that aim to reduce climate change impacts. Up to 2030, the estimated total cost of implementing mitigation and adaptation actions outlined in Zambia's NDC is US\$50 billion. In this regard, the country is mobilising technical and financial resources to implement climate change actions supported by global climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and bilateral and multilateral development partners.

This is being done in collaboration with stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and the academia. To enhance mobilisation of resources, the Government is facilitating the accreditation of national entities to the GCF and the AF. Thus far, the Development Bank of Zambia and the Zambia National Commercial Bank have been accredited to the GCF while the accreditation of the Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank to the AF, is underway. The Government, with support from development partners, is also building the capacity of various entities including line ministries, the private sector, civil society and the

academia to develop project concept notes and proposals to support resource mobilisation for implementation of climate actions.

Zambia has received ODA funding totalling US\$22.54 million from the GEF Replenishment Cycle Seven, since 2020, to support the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation actions including the execution of the US\$6.20 million Ecosystem-Based Adaptation project. The Government, through a concessional loan facility from the World Bank, is also implementing the US\$100 million Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development project covering 16 districts in Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Provinces. Additionally, with support from the German Government, the Government is finalising the development of the €17.50 million Zambia Education Programme for Climate Action to be implemented from 2023 to 2030.

Further, in 2021, the GCF provided a US\$2.1 million readiness grant to the Government for the preparation of the NAP.

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Financing not sufficient to address the scale of damage from climate change and the ambition to address the adverse climate impacts

Enhancing partnerships with the private sector, bilateral and multilateral partners, CSOs for resource mobilisation.

Technical, Policy and Institutional Capacity still have gaps

Enhancing continuing professional development, fast-track policy reviews, and mainstreaming of climate change in development processes at all levels.

Low awareness on the environment, natural resources, climate and the value of natural resources at all levels

Enhancing education and awareness on the environment, natural resources, climate and the value of natural resources at all levels.

Poor integration of climate change strategies into the key sectors at the national and sub-national levels

Enhancing the integration of climate change across all sectors and at all levels.

Limited climate information services, hydrometeorological infrastructure, and early warning systems

Enhancing climate information services, hydrometeorological infrastructure and early warning system.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem, sustainably management forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity

SDG 15 calls for ecosystems to be preserved, restored and used sustainably.

15.1.1

Forest area as a proportion of total land area

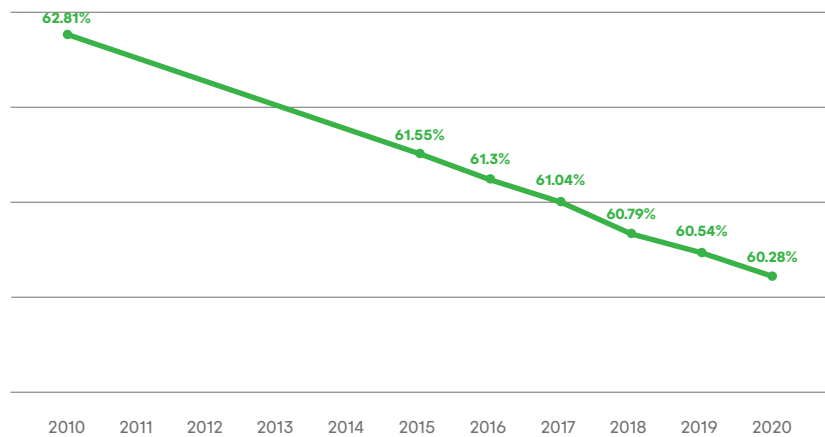
Zambia's forest cover is estimated to be approximately 44.8 million hectares, representing approximately 60.28 percent of the total land area. During the period 2010–2021, there was a net reduction in hectareage covered by trees (forests) which decreased from 41,002,568.01 hectares (55.28 percent of national coverage) to 39,723,590.76 hectares (53.55 percent) (see Figure 35). This reduction is encapsulated by the decrease in trees within protected (national) forests over the same period. Within protected forests, the

hectareage covered by trees reduced from 5,474,978.15 hectares in 2008 to 5,327,215.93 hectares in 2021.

The reduction in trees in the national forests was mainly to the benefit of rangelands. Of the forest lost, agriculture contributed 64.31 percent, urban areas (including unplanned settlements) 32.81 percent and the rest was from mining and other activities. Taking a longer-term perspective, the annual forest area change rate declined from –0.08 percent between 2000 and 2010 to –0.41 in the 2010–2020 period.

FIGURE 35

Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area 2010–2020



Source: Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

15.1.2

Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

Zambia's terrestrial protected area network is approximately 40 percent of the country's total land cover that comprises eight wetlands of international importance which include, the Kafue Flats (Lochnivar and Blue Lagoon National Parks) Bangweulu Swamps (Chikuni), Lukanga Swamps, Busanga, Lake Tanganyika, Luangwa Floodplains, Lake

Mweru–Wantipa, and Barotse Floodplains, listed under the Ramsar Convention. However, 80 percent of these sites are identified as freshwater biological diversity important areas that are not protected at present, explaining the reason the fish and other aquatic resources are being overexploited.



15.2.1

Progress towards sustainable forest management

Over 4.1 million hectares have been established as part of long-term forest management under Community Forest Management Areas in line with the Forest Act No. 4 of 2015. Zambia also has national protected areas that include 20 National Parks, 39 Game Management Areas, 59 Botanical Reserves, 42 Important Bird Areas and two Bird Sanctuaries. To address the challenge of deforestation and forest degradation, the following frameworks have been achieved:

- 2018:** Development of the National Investment Plan to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation (2018–2022).
Recognition of one hundred and eighty-five Community Forest Management Groups supported by Statutory Instrument No. 11 of 2018.
- 2021:** Issuance of the carbon stock management regulation (Statutory Instrument No. 66 of 2021).
- 2022:** Launch of the 8NDP (2022–2026).
- 2023:** Submission of the Revised Nationally-Determined Contribution (NDC) which has maintained the pledge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by between 25 percent and 47 percent by 2030.
Issuance of interim carbon guidelines of 2023, outlining preliminary, applicable administrative measures and procedures to guide the Government and stakeholders in the regulation and management of the carbon market in Zambia during the interim period until the enactment of the Climate Change Bill.

15.3.1

Forest area as a proportion of total land area

The total land degraded was 55,103.7 square kilometres, representing 7.46 percent of total land area in 2019. The drivers of deforestation in Zambia are agriculture

expansion which accounts for 60.8 percent of forest cover loss, settlement expansion (36.1 percent), and other land expansion (infrastructure development) (3.2 percent).

15.4.1

Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

The protected area systems in Zambia cover approximately 40 percent of the total surface area of the country and comprise National Parks, National Forests, Bird and Wildlife Sanctuaries, Game Management Areas, Local Forests and Heritage Sites that encompass crucial places for mountain biodiversity. The Government and local communities work together to administer and manage these protected areas.

Zambia is in the process of updating its National Biodiversity Strategy to include a spatial assessment of the extent of mountain biodiversity in the protected areas. Further, the Government has enhanced community engagement and participation in protected area management in order to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including unsustainable land use practices.

15.5.1

Red List Index

In 2022, over 28 species and sub-species were classified as threatened, endangered, or vulnerable under the Red List Index in Zambia. **Table 8** depicts the number of threatened

species in each major taxonomic group, as described in the 2022 Red List.

TABLE 8

**Major Taxonomic Groups
2022**

Mammals	14
Birds	22
Reptiles	4
Fishes	26
Molluscs	12
Other invertebrates	1
Plants	59
Total	134

Source: Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

15.6.1

Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits

Zambia has made significant efforts towards developing legislative, administrative, and policy frameworks to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. To this end, the 2003 National Policy on Biotechnology and Biosafety is being revised and aims to promote the safe development, transfer, and use of biotechnology, while ensuring that the benefits are shared fairly and equitably.

Other policies providing benefit-sharing mechanisms include the Wetland Policy (2018), National Parks and Wildlife Policy (2018), National Policy on Environment (2007) and National Forestry Policy (2014).

In addition, the country has developed a legal framework to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, which is an international agreement that aims to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. The country enacted the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act No. 16 of 2016 to among others promote fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

Other pieces of legislation include: the Environmental

Management Act No. 12 of 2011, Wildlife Act No. 14 of 2015 and Forestry Act No. 4 of 2015. Further, Zambia has developed a sharing model of the Community Resource Boards under wildlife and Community Forest Management Groups. However, the country does not have a standard benefit-sharing tool.

Furthermore, the Government has developed policies to promote the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in the management and conservation of natural resources. These policies recognise the traditional knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples and aims to ensure that they are included in decision-making processes related to the utilisation of genetic resources.

Zambia has also established the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP I and II), which provide a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country. The strategy aims to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The country is in the process of aligning the NBSAP II to the Global Biodiversity Framework that was adopted at the 2022 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties 15 in Canada.



15.9.1

Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting

Zambia has developed the National Biodiversity Strategic Plan (NBSAP (1999); NBSAP II (2015) and the Fifth United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Country Report in 2015 underpinned by 11 principles promoting sustainable use, responsibility, equity, participation, awareness-raising, coexistence, knowledge, informed decision-making, strategic partnerships, enhanced conservation and financial sustainability.

The country has integrated biodiversity values into its 8NDP as well as incorporated reporting systems in national accounting, as appropriate. Further the process of revising the NBSAP II has commenced, aligning it to the recently adopted Global Biodiversity Framework at the Conference of the Parties 15 in Canada in 2022. A Natural Capital Accounting programme, informed by the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting, has been incorporated in the 8NDP.

15.a.1

Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

Zambia has received ODA funding totalling US\$22.5 million from the Global Environment Facility Replenishment Cycle Seven since 2020. This support was directed towards a number of programmes, including the Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Land Degradation target areas, in order to develop adaptation and mitigation measures. Other development partners have also provided financial, investment, technology development and transfer, and

capacity-building assistance to the country (see [Table 9](#)).

Furthermore, Zambia has mobilised K339.8 million through biodiversity-relevant economic instruments between 2018 and 2022. This includes revenue from taxes on natural resource extraction, such as mining and forestry, as well as payments for ecosystem services.

TABLE 9

Official Development Assistance Received in Zambia 2018–2022

Year	Amount (ZMW)
2018	30,765,174.72
2019	50,360,167.14
2020	71,452,198.47
2021	109,143,534.57
2022	78,049,480.55
Total	339,761,555.45

Source: Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Illegal mining and charcoal production in forests and protected areas

Strengthening law enforcement by improving human resource in all the provinces.
Enhancing mechanism on sustainable Charcoal production.

Illegal and over-harvesting of forest products in open and protected areas

Strengthening the permit system and revising the statutory fees.

Lack of private sector investments in ecosystem protection

Enhancing mechanisms to promote private sector involvement in ecosystem protection.

Low awareness of the impact of human activities on biodiversity and climate change

Raising awareness on the impact of human activities on biodiversity and climate change.
Raising awareness on the impact of climate change on biodiversity.

Lack of a specific biodiversity policy to regulate the sector, including human-induced activities that threaten biodiversity

Instituting a biodiversity policy that regulates the sector and human activities.

Pollution and poor waste disposal into ecological systems

Strengthening partnership with the private sector and communities on sustainable waste management.



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



|

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

SDG 17 focuses on facilitating sustainable development around the world, and in developing countries specifically. This relates primarily to its commitments as part of its international cooperation work, and to its responsibility to promote positive economic conditions around the world.

17.1.1

Total Government Revenue as a Percentage of GDP

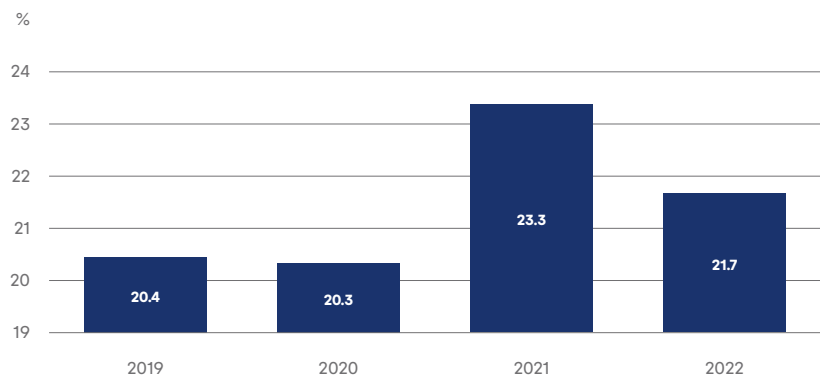
The proportion of total government revenue as a percentage of GDP, for the period 2019–2022, averaged 21.4 percent compared to the average of 18 percent which was recorded for the period 2016 to 2019 (see Figure 36). The increase in revenue as a percentage of GDP was

mainly due to tax measures, such as the introduction of online payments systems, which include the home-grown initiatives like the tax online system, the Government Service Bus and the Zambia Immigration Management System, among others.

FIGURE 36

Total Government Revenue as a Percentage of GDP 2019–2022

Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning



17.2.1

Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

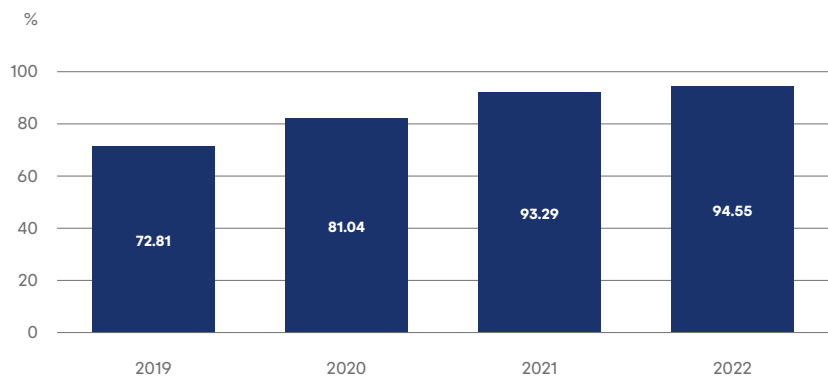
During the period 2019–2022, domestic budgets funded by domestic taxes increased to 94.6 percent in 2022 from 72.8 percent in 2019 (see Figure 37). The above target performance

of domestic taxes was attributed to improved compliance and the increased use of e-payment platforms.

FIGURE 37

Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes 2019–2022

Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning





17.3.1

Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South–South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

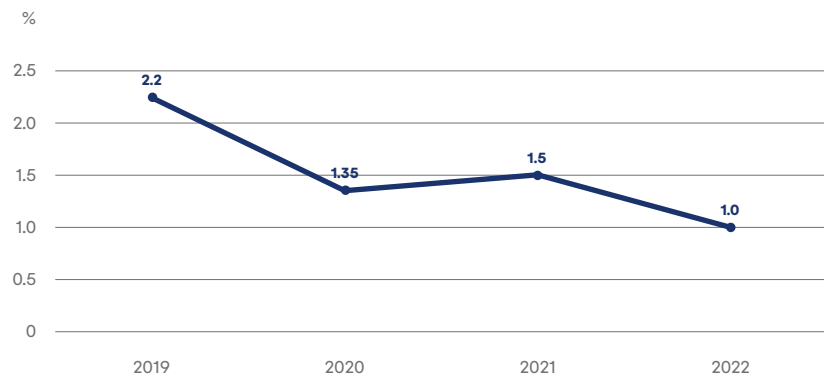
Official Development Assistance

The flow of ODA has been generally declining. **Figure 38** shows that ODA as a proportion of the total domestic budget stood at 2.2 percent in 2019, dropped to 1.35 percent in 2020, 1.5 percent in 2021 and 1 percent in 2022.

The decline could be attributed to economic challenges that most countries were facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia–Ukraine war.

FIGURE 38

Official Development Assistance as a Proportion of Total Domestic Budget 2019–2022



Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning

17.3.2

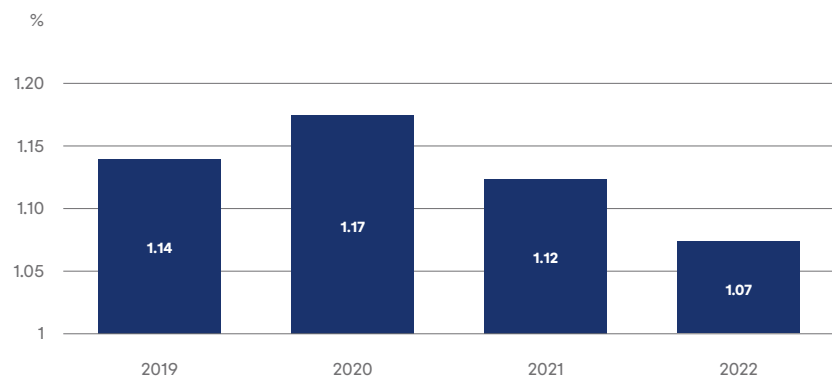
Volume of remittances (in United States Dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

Remittances accounted for 1.1 percent of the country's GDP in 2019. The volume of remittances as a proportion of total GDP has been relatively stable over the past decade. There was a notable drop, however, in 2021 and 2022 owing to

the challenge of the COVID pandemic and the unstable economic conditions, such as high fuel prices and inflation in other parts of the world (see **Figure 39**).

FIGURE 39

Remittances as a Proportion of GDP 2019–2022



Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning and Bank of Zambia

17.8.1

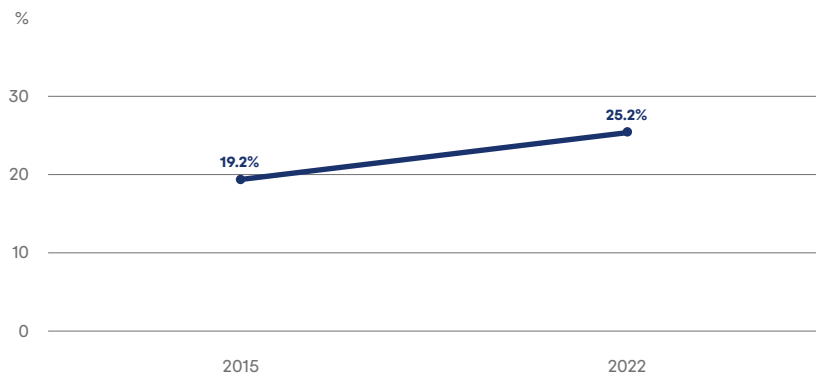
Proportion of individuals using the Internet

The proportion of individuals using the internet in Zambia increased to 25.2 percent in 2022 from 19.2 percent in 2020 (see Figure 40). The mobile subscriber base grew by 6 percent from 19.1 million subscribers in 2020 to 20.2 million subscribers in 2021. The increase in mobile internet use was mirrored by data on telephone connectivity. However, despite these efforts, there are still significant challenges

to improving internet access. One of the main obstacles is the high cost of internet services, which limits access for low-income households and small businesses. Additionally, the quality of internet services is often poor, particularly in rural areas, which can limit the effectiveness of online education and training programmes, and general usage.

FIGURE 40

Proportion of Individuals Using the Internet 2015–2022



Source: Zambia Information and Communications Authority

17.14.1

Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

To support the implementation of the policy coherence for sustainable development, the Government developed the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020 which provides for an integrated national planning and budgeting process; strengthened accountability; oversight; and participation mechanisms. The country formulates national development plans which are an overarching framework, providing strategic direction on national development priorities. At the time of the first VNR Zambia was implementing the 7th National Development Plan and is currently implementing the 8NDP for the period 2022 to

2026. The Plans are critical vehicles to support the attainment of the SDGs and other regional development commitments under various frameworks. In actualising the Plan, the country has developed an institutional arrangement for coordinating development. Policy coordination structures have been established at national, provincial, district and sub-district levels. These structures allow participation of all stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, development partners, women and youth in the implementation and monitoring of government programmes, and incorporate the SDGs.



17.15.1

Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation

Development partners in Zambia are expected to align their support with the 8NDP. Through the 8NDP programmes, resources from providers of development cooperation are channelled to specific programmes formulated to generate development results as articulated in the Implementation Plan which is the results framework for the 8NDP.

The Government is also developing an Aid Management and Coordination System, which is aimed at improving aid coordination and management. The system is designed to ensure that all development partners align their support with the country's own plans and priorities in line with the Paris Agreement on Aid Harmonisation.

17.16.2

Fixed internet Broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

The internet speed of 256 kilobits per second (kbit/s) to less than 2 megabits per second (Mbit/s) subscriptions per 100 inhabitants was 18,092 in 2016; 18,209 in 2020 and 18,548 in 2021, while 2 Mbit/s to less than 10 Mbit/s subscriptions per 100 inhabitants was 12,923 in 2016; 63,779 in 2020 and 59,894 in 2021. Further, speed equal to or above 10 Mbit/s subscriptions per 100 inhabitants was 769 in 2016,

329 in 2020 and 2,150 in 2021. The improvement can be partly attributed to the increased investment in 3G and 4G networks as well as other emerging technologies, increased utilisation of data services among users and installation of additional telecommunication towers which increased to 3,506 at the end of 2022 from 3,417 at the end of 2021.

17.18.2

Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

In Zambia, the collection and dissemination of official statistics is governed by the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018. The Act established the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) as the national statistical agency responsible for the collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of official statistics in the country. It also provides for the establishment of a National Statistical System (NSS), which includes all government agencies that produce official statistics.

The country has made significant progress in implementing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018 provides a strong legal framework for the collection and dissemination of official statistics in the country. The ZamStats has also made significant progress in improving the quality and reliability of official statistics. However, there is still more work to be done to ensure strengthened coordination of timely collection of official statistics across various players in the NSS.

17.18.3

Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding

The Government is implementing the second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) (2022–2026) aimed at addressing the challenges of data availability and quality. The NSDS recognises the importance of administrative data produced by various statistical agencies (government institutions) and considers improvement of administrative data as a priority. The NSDS

is primarily funded by the Government and development partners such as the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, among others. However, it is important to note that sustained funding and implementation will be necessary to ensure that the country continues to collect and analyse reliable statistical data over the long-term.

17.19.2

Proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

Zambia conducted its first ever e-census in 2022. This was the sixth National Census of Population and Housing conducted in Zambia since independence in 1964. So far, the country has conducted censuses in 1969, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2022. The Census has provided data to measure the impact of various development programmes that the Government had embarked on and the data requirements to monitor national development programmes, including regional and international obligations. The data collected is also used to inform policy-making, resource allocation, and planning for infrastructure development.

In Zambia, birth registration is mandatory and the Government has instituted policies and strategies to ensure that every child is registered at birth. In 2018, 14.3 percent of children under five were registered with the civil authorities. The Government is making efforts to improve this rate through various initiatives, such as mobile birth registration services in remote areas, community

sensitisation campaigns, and digitisation of birth registration records.

The Government issued Statutory Instrument No. 44 of 2016 which decentralised birth and death certification to provincial and district levels. To further strengthen civil registration, Zambia, in 2022 embarked on the implementation of the Integrated National Registration Information System (INRIS) that was developed with support from partners. The INRIS platform links birth registration to issuance of national identifications. This linkage will facilitate the quick and efficient transmission of birth and death notifications between the health facilities and the district civil registration offices. Other initiatives include the 2021–2025 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics National Strategic Action Plan.

Death registration, on the other hand, is not mandatory, and the registration rate is relatively low.

Challenges and Required Actions



Challenge



Required action

Reduced fiscal space

Enhancing implementation of mobilisation of domestic resource strategy.

Ineffective development cooperation coordination mechanisms

Formulating cooperation policy.
Formulating a joint development assistance strategy.

Lack of an integrated up-to-date statistical system for data capturing and management across sectors
Inadequate implementation of the statistical reforms

Accelerating full implementation of the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2019.





REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

— 07 —

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Like other countries around the world, Zambia continues to face the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first cases of COVID-19 in Zambia were reported in March, 2020, following which the country experienced several waves with a significant impact on health outcomes and economic activity. The third wave, driven by the Delta variant, which occurred between June and December 2021, led to the highest number of infections and deaths. After the fourth (Omicron) wave, which started in December 2021, the number of infections has dropped and remains relatively low.

In 2021, the Government and its development partners undertook a COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, including on cross-cutting issues in selected key sectors.

This Chapter highlights the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on the lives and livelihoods of local communities and most vulnerable groups, as well as recovery needs.

The Government interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic encompassed short-term public health measures, medium-term economic stimulus packages, and long-term recovery plans. The recovery needs include healthcare system improvements, investment in education and digital infrastructure, addressing income inequality, promoting sustainable economies, and strengthening social safety nets.





Selected Sector Effects and Impacts

Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries

Crop production was impacted through decreased farming activities, access to agriculture services and increased cost of farm labour, tillage services, agriculture land rental, inputs and transportation of agriculture goods. The effect was mostly felt on some stages along the agriculture value chains with increased post-harvest losses for maize, wheat, rice, fruits and vegetables. However, production of major crops (maize, cassava, rice) was not affected, while new diversification and market opportunities opened up, with

local producers supplying fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, and dairy products to urban markets. The pandemic affected 80 percent of rural livestock farmers through increased feed product prices, reduction of extension services that contributed to increase of diseases, reduced production of day-old chicks and supply shortages. Fisheries, particularly aquaculture, experienced reduced access to market and increased prices of critical fish-related inputs.

Commerce and Manufacturing

Regarding manufacturing firms, internal disruptions from the restrictions did not have much effect, as manufacturing activities remained operational. In contrast, external supply chain disruptions caused extreme shifts in supply and demand. This was largely due to the temporary closure of the Nakonde border, resulting in delays in investments by companies and decline in domestic supply chains. For the micro, small and medium enterprises, loss of customers (77 percent) and supply chain (37 percent) were the major challenges. These made them reduce operating costs through several measures, including shutting down certain production lines/outlets, applying for subsidies from relevant government agencies/ development partners and negotiating with lessors to reduce/exempt rent and with lenders to lower financing costs or extend the

repayment cycle.

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a range of disruptions, both internal and external, affecting supply and demand dynamics in various industries. The temporary closure of borders influenced companies' investment decisions, pushing them to seek local alternatives to mitigate the risks associated with international trade disruptions. Meanwhile, airports experienced a shift in supply and demand patterns due to travel restrictions and changing consumer behaviour. This impacted various industries related to air travel, including airlines, hotels, and tourism operators, resulting in decreased demand for their services. Conversely, the demand for cargo transportation and logistics increased as e-commerce flourished, with more people turning to online shopping.

Health

On the supply side, COVID-19 resulted in reduced public access to health services as operations of some facilities were disrupted while others were turned into COVID-19 treatment centres and staff of some were redeployed to designated COVID-19 treatment facilities. There was an apparent shortage of health staff and disruption of provision of essential health services in reproductive, maternal and child health as well as management of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Another

effect was re-allocation of financial resources programmed for provision of essential health services towards mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic for increased isolation facilities, expansion of intensive care units, increased laboratory diagnostic capacity and increased commodities and reagents. Conversely, on the demand side, there was some reluctance by the general public to seek medical services from health facilities for fear of contracting the COVID-19 infection.

Education

The prolonged closure of all educational institutions in 2020 affected a total of 4,548,968 learners, comprising 4.9 percent early childhood, 73.4 percent primary, 18.9 percent secondary and 2.8 percent tertiary learners. Due to the closure, Zambia lost 10 percent of its Learning Adjusted Years of Schooling. To reduce learning losses, including from reduced teacher connection to schools, the Government expanded alternative education delivery systems, including online teaching. However, inequality and gender disparity in education caused unequal distribution of the loss of learning time due to differential digital access. Poorer and more rural households were challenged in accessing distance learning. There were also some gender differences related to the impact of pregnancy-related school drop-outs.

Other impacts on learners included loss of access to school-related services, such as school feeding programmes, school peer support networks, support to vulnerable children with guidance and counselling and the social environment for play and interactions. Teachers and lecturers were also impacted, mainly through loss of teacher jobs in some schools that stopped hiring volunteer teachers. Another effect of the pandemic on teachers and lecturers/instructors was the increased workload after the re-opening of educational institutions, due to the need for social distancing. Due to limited infrastructure, classes were split to reduce the numbers of learners in classrooms, and teaching sessions increased, with teaching staff handling multiple sessions.

Tourism

The negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis was deeply felt by the hospitality business. Between 2019 and 2020 international tourist arrivals declined by 58.5 percent to 501,606 from 1,209,898. The number of tourist visits to major national parks decreased by 62.1 percent, while visits to major waterfalls declined by 39 percent. The number of visitors to national museums also decreased by 48.3 percent, local tourist visits to museums dropped by 31.4 percent and international tourist visits decreased by 85.8 percent. The catering and accommodation segment lost 90

percent of its customers due to travel restrictions imposed during the pandemic. Only 8 percent of the enterprises had normal operations, 75 percent were partially closed and the remaining 17 percent were fully closed. Out of 257 lodges and camps, 165 closed down, while about 165 tourism businesses in Livingstone (Zambia's tourist capital) and Zambia's protected areas faced bankruptcy. Overall, tourism activities contracted by 23.7 percent in 2020. Economic impacts on the sector workforce involved delayed payment of salaries, loss of income and layoffs.

Policy Response to the Pandemic

During the pandemic, the Government undertook several measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, treat the cases and mitigate the socio-economic effects of the pandemic.

Disease Surveillance and Contact, Movement and Congregation Control

Regulatory protocols on movement, congregation and contact were put in place primarily to address the health and medical aspects of the pandemic but affected all aspects of life. Disease surveillance measures included increased screening at airports, border entry points, and hotspots, and institution of 14-day monitoring of persons at high risk of contracting COVID-19. Measures to minimise contact included the introduction of social distancing, the use of face masks, and increased hygiene measures, including the use of sanitisers.

Movement restrictions involved closing of some airports, travel bans and transport limitations. Other restrictions in gathering mainly involved: closure of educational and religious institutions; ban on public, social and religious gatherings; permits for conferences, weddings, funerals and festivals; closure and/or limited hours of operation of restaurants, entertainment venues, bars, tourism venues, informal markets; and directing non-essential workers to work from home (where possible or on rotational basis).



National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

The Government prepared a COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Contingency Preparedness and Response Plan (MCPRP) with a budget of K659 million under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit and instituted a fiscal stimulus package as part of the MCPRP. The Plan elaborated three scenarios of public health risk from

COVID-19 and their response action levels. To mitigate socio-economic shocks stemming from the public health crisis, the Government also established an Epidemic Preparedness Fund under the Ministry of Health amounting to K57 million.

Programme for Medium-term Economic Recovery

The Government developed a short to medium-term Economic Recovery Programme (2020-2023) to address the most immediate effects of the pandemic and to restore macroeconomic stability, while creating a conducive environment for building back better. The Programme provides a clear roadmap of strategic policy actions and enablers required to revive the economy and place it on a

path of sustainable growth and development. The Programme focuses on the following strategic areas: restoring macroeconomic stability; attaining fiscal and debt sustainability; dismantling the backlog of domestic arrears; restoring growth and diversifying the economy; and safeguarding social protection programmes.

Analytical Assessments for Economic Management of the Pandemic

The Government established a committee of Ministers to assess the COVID-19 impact on the economy. Under its remit, the Ministry of National Development Planning, through the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats),

completed a comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the Socio-Economic Status of Households in Zambia to provide the analytical base for the socio-economic management of the pandemic.

Easing Liquidity Constraints

To ease liquidity in the economy, the Government released K2.5 billion to help reduce domestic arrears owed to domestic suppliers of goods and services, outstanding arrears to pensioners under the Public Service Pension Fund and retirees under the Ministry of Justice as well as outstanding third-party arrears and other employee-related commitments. The Government also released K140 million to pay local contractors in the road sector. Further, the Government through the Bank of Zambia, established the

Targeted Medium-Term Refinancing Facility, with an initial amount of K10 billion to provide medium-term liquidity to help relieve the COVID-19-related liquidity constraints faced by financial institutions in meeting local business capital needs. This was in addition to another economic stimulus package which was financed through the issuance of a COVID-19 bond, aimed at strengthening the resilience of the financial sector in support of economic recovery.

Fiscal Measures

Tax relief measures were provided to ease pressure on companies, and these included: a waiver on interest on outstanding tax liabilities associated with the pandemic; suspension of excise duty on ethanol for use in the local manufacture of alcohol-based sanitisers and other medical-related commodities; removal of provisions of Statutory Instrument 90 relating to claim of value-added tax on imported spare parts, lubricants and stationery;

suspension of export duties on concentrates in the mining sector to ease pressure on the sector; and suspension of export duty on precious minerals and crocodile skins. Businesses also benefitted from other measures, such as expanded credit options, import and export waivers, and the K2.5 billion financial relief for businesses alluded to above, as well as import and export waivers.

Financial Sector Support

In May 2020, the Bank of Zambia cut the policy interest rate by 225 basis points and in August the rate was further reduced by 125 basis points. In addition, bank transaction limits were raised and the bank liquidity ratio was increased. Other measures were implemented to prevent the spread of the disease by minimising person-to-person contact in banking operations, decongesting banks and reducing the use of cash. These measures included: waiver of charges for person-to-person electronic money transfers of up to K150, which transactions were free; upward revision of transaction and balance limits for individuals, small-scale farmers and enterprises, and limits by agents to give them more float to process transactions;

removal of transaction limits on agents and corporate wallets; and reduction of processing fees for Real Time Gross Settlements.

When the various COVID-19 vaccines were approved, Zambia joined the rest of the world to vaccinate its citizens to prevent further spread of the disease. By July, 2022, a total of 5,119,087 citizens had been fully vaccinated while a total of 513,538 had received their booster vaccine. To help address vaccine hesitancy, the Government carried out a number of communication campaigns which helped to increase the vaccination rate.

Progress Towards Recovery from the Pandemic

Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Zambia has made notable progress in its efforts towards recovery from the pandemic, with continued signs of rebounding. One of the major achievements has been the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines. As of May 2023, 9,202,759 of the total eligible population were fully vaccinated; in addition, 4,237,375 and 1,157,862 had received their first dose and booster vaccines, respectively. The national vaccination rate as of May, 2023 was recorded at 84.4 percent which is higher than the 80 percent target for the country to reach herd immunity.

In addition to the successful vaccine rollout, progress was made in other areas. For instance, the Government implemented various measures to support businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic. This included financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises, tax relief for businesses, and increased direct cash transfers to vulnerable households. These measures helped to mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic and

provided a lifeline for many Zambians. Furthermore, Zambia has continued to implement strict health and safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Another area where Zambia has made progress is in education. Like many other countries, Zambia had to close schools to prevent the spread of the virus. However, the Government took steps to ensure that children continued to learn remotely. This included the provision of free educational materials, radio and television broadcasts, and online learning platforms. As a result, many children were able to continue their education.

Overall, while Zambia still faces significant challenges in its efforts towards pandemic recovery, there are some signs of progress and achievement. As the country continues to navigate the pandemic, it is important that these efforts are sustained, and that the Government continues to prioritise the health and well-being of its citizens.



Russia-Ukraine War

The war between Russia and Ukraine has created a new multifaceted risk for Zambia's economy. It has exacerbated supply chain bottlenecks and inflationary pressures on

food and fuel prices, derailing developmental progress and pushing the SDGs further out of reach (see Box 2).

BOX 2

Impact of Russia–Ukraine War on the Zambian Economy

— Threats

Oil and food security

The Russia–Ukraine conflict has had negative spill-over effects which have resulted in higher energy, fertiliser and food prices that have impacted the global economy. The international oil price has been significantly affected by the conflict. The average crude oil price in the first half of 2022 rose to US\$104.97 per barrel from US\$69.00 per barrel recorded during the same period in 2021. The behaviour of the international oil prices has been further affected by mounting fears of a global recession and speculation of further oil supply restrictions by OPEC+ countries. This has led to higher domestic petroleum pump prices. Similarly, the international price of fertiliser as measured by the Fertilisers Price Index, increased by 60.5 percent per metric tonne between August 2021 and August 2022.

As expected, the war has affected the supply and demand of certain commodities on the global market, such as food and fuel, resulting in price escalations in the short to medium-term. Petroleum oils account for 9 percent of Zambia's imports as they are critical to the country's transportation system. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Russia is the second largest exporter of oil in the world, selling about 5 million barrels a day. With the war, Russia has had to retain most of its oil to support the war. In addition, some countries have imposed bans on importation of Russian oil in response to the invasion of Ukraine; some of these sanctions were immediate, others imminent resulting in oil shortages on the international market. This has resulted in price increments of petroleum products in Zambia, reaching a 14-year high in March 2023.

Fertilisers play an important role in Zambia's agriculture sector and account for approximately 8 percent of total imports. Nitrogenous fertilisers were the fourth most imported product in Zambia in 2020. The global fertiliser market has, however, faced challenges with rising prices heightened by the Russia–Ukraine conflict. According to The Guardian newspaper, Nola urea, one of the easiest fertiliser commodities to track, is currently trading at a 34-year high of US\$880 per tonne, up from US\$182 in 2020. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, fertiliser prices have risen by 60 percent. Other products affected are cooking oil and wheat. Ukraine is also a significant supplier (approximately 10 percent of global supply) of grain (wheat specifically) and cooking oil (sunflower) on the international market. Zambia imports approximately 66 percent of its wheat and flour requirements. In general, it is expected that the price of certain commodities, like wheat and cooking oil, will increase in the short to medium-term.

The various sectors in Zambia will feel the effects of the war differently; the transport and logistics and energy sectors were already affected by the increase in the pump price of fuel by over 20 percent as at 1st April, 2022. It should be expected that the effect on transport and logistics will subsequently spread through to other sectors as transport cuts across almost all sectors in the economy.

Wholesale and retail will also experience cost escalations due to disruptions of related value chains brought about by increases in shipping costs due to fuel price increases and disruption of supply chains. Agriculture, too, will be affected as supply of some commodities, such as wheat, is affected by the war. However, this should be limited as the planting season in Zambia has already passed. The Zambia National Farmers' Union has assured the nation that there will be enough supply of grain (wheat, corn) to support domestic demand, thus, price escalations may not be severe. →

— Opportunities

Manufacturing and Trade

There is potential for regional production of fertilizer to meet local demand. Government has facilitated establishment of a new fertilizer factory which is expected to reduce country's fertiliser imports by around 60 percent while lowering fertilizer costs by approximately 40 percent due to the use of local raw materials and economies of scale. There is also potential for the development of non-urea nitrogen fertiliser products, such as the production of organic pellets from chicken manure.

Zambia is prioritising structural transformation that is green, inclusive and resilient. One of the key priorities is the development of a green economy, which focuses on sustainable growth while reducing the country's carbon footprint. The country has already made significant progress in this area, with over 90 percent of its electricity generated from renewable sources. The Government is also implementing policies to promote renewable energy investments and incentivising the adoption of clean energy technologies, with a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Furthermore, Zambia is leveraging on the on-going implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The country is well-positioned to benefit from the AfCFTA due to its strategic location, abundant natural resources, and diversified economy. By leveraging on the AfCFTA, Zambia can expand its production and market reach, increase its exports and boost its economic growth.

Zambia has already taken steps to promote trade with other African countries. In 2020, the Government launched the Zambia Trade Information Portal, an online platform that provides information on trade regulations and procedures to exporters and importers. This platform is expected to make it easier for Zambian businesses to trade with other African countries, reducing the barriers to entry. Further, Zambia is one of the countries receiving support under the Invest in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) platform supported by the European Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, ACP Secretariat, and International Trade Centre. The platform has profiles on over 80 Zambian greenfield, brownfield and joint venture investment opportunities. This offers investment opportunities to, in turn, expand the country's trade potential.

Catalysing the sustainable and inclusive transformation of food systems

Zambia has made positive strides in enhancing its food system as follows:

- improving trends in the nutritional status of children under five years old since 2000/2001, and decreasing prevalence of undernourishment between 2009 and 2018;
- continuing to increase agricultural production, driven by land expansion, adoption of improved seed varieties and sustainable land preparation methods;
- attained and maintaining the status as a net surplus producer and exporter of maize in the southern Africa region and a positive agricultural trade balance;
- continued rise in production of oilseed crops (such as soybeans, groundnuts and sunflower) in response to growing demand, including for stock feed in the country and the region.

To make its food systems more sustainable and resilient, Zambia is implementing policies to:

- promote agricultural diversification away from maize, to include other crops and food commodities;
- encourage consumption of healthy foods and improve availability of nutrition information and education;
- improve the provision of basic services and infrastructure, particularly in rural areas;
- offer incentives for rural investment in agricultural production and value addition, such as processing;
- promote adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices to build resilience in food production.



— 08 —

Means of implementation

Attainment of the SDGs requires substantial financial resources, which are being mobilised through various financing sources, including domestic sources, financing from multinational and bilateral development partners, development finance institutions, the private sector and other available financing mechanisms. This Chapter describes the country's means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the context of recovery from the pandemic, with respect to resource mobilisation, data provision and capacity building.



Accelerating Economic Recovery and Resource Mobilisation

Attainment of the SDGs requires substantial financial resources, which are being mobilised through various financing sources, including domestic sources, financing from multinational and bilateral development partners, development finance institutions, the private sector

and other available financing mechanisms. This Chapter describes the country's means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the context of recovery from the pandemic, with respect to resource mobilisation, data provision and capacity building.

Costing and Financing

The cost of achieving the SDGs in Zambia is driven by a range of factors, including the need to invest in infrastructure, health and education systems, and social protection programmes. The country also needs to address environmental challenges, such as deforestation, land degradation, and climate change.

One of the biggest challenges in financing the SDGs in Zambia is the limited availability of public resources. The Government's budget is already stretched, with limited funds available for new investments. This means that the country will need to rely on a range of financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships, foreign aid, and innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds.

Another challenge is the need to ensure that SDGs investments are prioritised and targeted to areas where they are most needed. This requires effective planning and coordination among government agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders. It also requires strong monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that investments are delivering the expected results.

Despite these challenges, there are some promising signs of progress in Zambia's SDGs journey. The Government has made a commitment to achieve the SDGs and has established a national implementation framework to guide

the country's efforts. The country has also received significant support from development partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, for the implementation of interventions towards attainment of the SDGs.

Motivated by the need to ensure availability of comprehensive data on the costing of the SDGs interventions, the Government, with the support of the UNDP has commissioned the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research to undertake a Development Finance Assessment. The assessment will bring to the fore various financing options the country can pursue to finance the 8NDP and the SDGs. This assessment will also serve as an important step towards the development of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

The INFF will ensure coordinated mobilisation of resources for the financing of the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063 and provide guidance on access to a wide range of government and other potential private financing options. The INFF will further outline a strategic approach for the Government and its development partners in mobilising the resources. The INFF will be supplemented by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.



Multilateral and Bilateral Support

Zambia continues to make progress in the implementation of reforms towards macroeconomic stability even as there are protracted delays from official bilateral creditors to discuss and finalise debt treatment under the G20 Common Framework. However, the Debt Sustainability Analysis conducted by the Government in 2020 indicated that the country was in debt distress, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the COVID-19 shock unfolded, financing pressures increased, the Kwacha depreciated, and inflation spiked, further increasing the external debt burden. This development led the Government to default on its Eurobonds in November 2020 and stopped servicing most of its external debt. To resolve the debt situation, the most viable option was debt restructuring.

To make debt restructuring discussions with the creditors possible, the Government and the IMF reached a Staff Level Agreement in December, 2021. Consequently, the Government and the Fund developed the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies, a document which outlines the economic and social objectives and sets out policies for the programme period.

In July, 2022, Zambia's Official Creditor Committee provided financing assurances based on Zambia's request for debt treatment under the G20 Common Framework. This development provided financing assurances to the IMF in support of Zambia's programme under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF). In this regard, the Executive Board of the IMF approved Zambia's request for a programme under the ECF in August, 2022.

The 38-month ECF programme facilitated the receipt of IMF financial support equivalent to US\$1.3 billion interest-free loan. In addition, the programme approval has enabled the country to advance the on-going debt restructuring negotiations with its creditors and facilitated further international financing. The IMF programme funds have had a catalytic impact, including improved market sentiments, addressing the balance of payments needs and supporting the reform agenda which is based on the four strategic development areas outlined in the 8NDP. The restoration of macroeconomic stability under the IMF-supported programme, together with the debt restructuring operation, is expected to underpin a gradual economic recovery.

The ECF aims to restore macroeconomic stability and foster higher, resilient, and inclusive growth. The programme reflects the goals of the 8NDP and is tailored to address Zambia's most pressing macroeconomic challenges,

namely restoring sustainability through fiscal adjustment and debt restructuring; creating fiscal space for social spending to cushion the burden of adjustment; and strengthening governance and reducing corruption vulnerabilities, including by improving public financial management. The programme seeks to ensure that monetary and exchange rate policies support the restoration of macroeconomic stability, return international reserves to adequate levels, and promote financial sector stability.

In addition to the IMF programme and engagements, Zambia has received bilateral and multilateral support from institutions and partners to address its development challenges and support socioeconomic development.

The World Bank approved US\$275 million concessional financing for Zambia in 2022, with the objective of supporting Zambia's Macroeconomic Stability, Growth and Competitiveness Programme. This followed the Government's continued engagement with development partners targeted at securing support for fiscal stabilisation and accelerated economic growth programmes.

In addition, the Government secured an estimated US\$300 million from the World Bank to promote agricultural diversification, sustainability and jobs in the agri-food sector. Zambia is also in the process of developing a second Millennium Challenge Compact with support from the American Government. The compact aims at directing investment towards supporting the growth of agriculture and agriculture processing, by enhancing agriculture production and productivity through investment in roads, borders and other market support infrastructure.

The Government also, through the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, obtained a Readiness Package Grant of US\$145 million in 2022 from the Adaptation Fund to facilitate the accreditation of Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank to the Fund. The grant will help strengthen the capacity to access climate adaptation financing, and the overall capacity to develop and initiate implementation of concrete projects and programmes that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, the African Development Fund approved a US\$14.4 million loan in 2022 to enhance food security in Zambia, a key supplier to countries in the region. The financing was anchored in the African Development Bank Group's African Emergency Food Production Facility.

Public Private Partnerships

To reduce the burden on the fiscus, public-private partnership (PPP) approaches are being promoted and implemented as an alternative source of financing for key developmental projects, particularly infrastructure-related. Further, to leverage PPP financing, the Public-Private Partnership Act No. 14 of 2009 is being revised to include provisions for the Minister responsible for finance to have the mandate to approve or reject PPP projects, based on potential fiscal implications. The review of the law will also provide support for the delivery of cost-effective, value for money, and sustainable infrastructure projects and service delivery as a means of stimulating economic recovery. In addition, the Government will take a proactive stance

in risk management of PPPs to avoid or minimise the incurring of contingent liabilities from PPP projects.

Further, in an effort to strengthen collaboration between the public and the private sector, the Government, in 2022, launched the Public-Private Dialogue Forum with the support of the development partners. The Forum provides an opportunity for the Government to interact with the private sector and provide practical solutions to the challenges hindering private sector growth. This underscores the Government's conviction that the private sector has a pivotal role to play in the country's developmental agenda and attainment of the SDGs.

Improving Data and Evidence

To effectively monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs in Zambia, it is important to improve data and evidence for reporting. This will enable the Government, the private sector, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to make informed decisions and implement evidence-based policies and programmes. One of the key challenges in Zambia is the lack of reliable and timely data. This is particularly true for certain SDGs indicators, especially those related to poverty, hunger and inequality. In many cases, the data that is available is outdated, incomplete, or inconsistent, making it difficult to accurately measure progress.

To address these challenges, it is important to invest in data collection and analysis. In this regard, the Government is operationalising the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018 to ensure an integrated national statistical system for increased coverage and use of quality updated data and information on the SDGs and other national, regional and international frameworks. In addition, new technologies and innovations are being utilised to improve administrative data systems for provision of alternative data sources which include geospatial and big data to improve on the reporting on the SDGs.

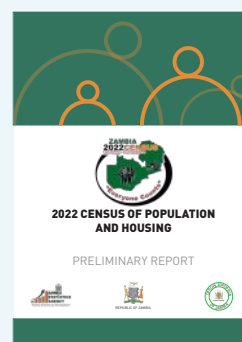
Further, the Government plans to undertake an exercise to rebase the GDP, an exercise last conducted in 2012. The rebasing of the GDP will provide the Government with an opportunity to update and develop appropriate social and economic indicators to measure progress towards attainment of the SDGs. The Government is also generating data on natural resources, through natural capital accounting, with a view to having a realistic assessment of the wealth that has to be harnessed to support sustainable development. Natural capital accounts for forest, land and water resources have been developed and are informing policies on the sustainable utilisation of these natural resources.

In addition to efforts towards improving data collection and analysis, the Government is promoting the use of evidence in policy and programme development through the use of information management systems. This is fostering a culture of evidence-based decision-making within government agencies and other organisations. It is also promoting the use of evaluation and impact assessment tools to ensure that policies and programmes are effective and delivering results.

Improving Capacity Building

To enhance human and institutional capacities in the implementation of interventions towards attainment of the SDGs, various investments and programmes to support capacity building are being prioritised (see Box 3). For instance, sector Ministries and other stakeholders have been trained in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit. The Toolkit is a web application sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and developed in response to the needs of African countries to simultaneously adopt and integrate both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 into their national development frameworks and enable them to report their progress in a harmonised manner.

In addition, the Government plans to continue with the capacity building programmes at sub-national levels as well as training CSOs. The capacity building activities are aimed at promoting the integration of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into development planning frameworks, sharing lessons learnt and good practices as well as popularising this and other regional and continental development agendas. The capacity building will also enhance technical skills required to collect and analyse data, as well as better equip officers to produce accurate and reliable reports.



BOX 3

Zambia's Commitment Towards Evidence-Based Policy Formulation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Cognisant of the need for evidence-based policy-making, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has made firm commitments and has already put in place the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018, the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020 and the National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy of 2019. This is in order to provide a framework for supporting generation of data and information for planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluating performance and general policy-making. These instruments also set the pace and the necessary policy and regulatory environment for the generation of relevant data and evidence on the SDGs.

As reported in the 2020 VNR, Zambia lacked significant data on the SDGs and in the midst of the COVID pandemic, the demand for data and real time information became more critical. This is because the Government and other stakeholders needed to understand the various challenges faced by the country in order to design appropriate support interventions, particularly at household level, including identifying and addressing the needs for the most vulnerable populations. To this effect, the Government through the Zambia Statistical Agency (ZamStats), working with development partners, prepared and launched the Integrated Household Survey in 2021, through a threepronged approach namely, the Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) of COVID-19 on Households; the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS); and the Enterprise Survey. It must be underscored that Zambia undertook the SEIA of COVID-19 at the peak of the pandemic through a hybrid format, embracing the new information, communication and technology tools.

The idea of integrating three surveys into one is in line with the government policy of optimising the use of resources by “doing more with less”. The SEIA was an important undertaking which generated information on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the socioeconomic status of households. This provided critical evidence to support the country's policy responses for mitigating the impact of the pandemic; provided input into the finalisation of the Eighth National Development Plan as well as tracking of progress towards attainment of the SDGs.

In 2022, Zambia also carried out a General Population and Housing Census, whose preliminary results were presented in December 2022. Furthermore, the Government has committed and will, this year (2023), undertake the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey and the Household Budget Survey. These major statistical interventions demonstrate Zambia's commitment on accelerated delivery of relevant data for evidence-based planning, including the critical data on the SDGs.

The LCMS was first conducted in 1996, and the most recent one was in 2022. The 2022 LCMS is the eighth such survey. To ensure the Survey achieves its intended purpose, an interactive consultative process on survey content, scope, and coverage with all the key stakeholders representing the UN, World Bank and other government institutions was followed. The 2022 LCMS is intended to highlight and monitor the welfare of the population, including other priority key indicators regularly used to monitor progress made towards attainment of selected national and global development targets.

Another example that Zambia would share in promoting evidence for decision-making is the measuring of the gross domestic product (GDP) at sub-national level. This demonstrates the country's commitment to address the lack of practical methodologies that yield reliable results to support decision-making at sub-national and city levels. Measuring city GDP enables cities to more accurately understand their economic contribution and performance as well as plan better to realise their full economic potential. It can also inform efforts to attract private investment and encourage benchmarking between cities. Better planning is possible if policymakers have a sound estimate of a city's economic size and potential barriers and opportunities to enhance economic performance. As part of this initiative, the City of Lusaka has developed and launched the GDP report under the leadership of ZamStats and technical support from the United Nations.



— 09 —

Conclusions and next steps





Conclusions

This VNR highlights achievements, challenges, lessons learnt and emerging issues to guide policy direction and programming for accelerated implementation of interventions towards the SDGs in Zambia. It also elucidates the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the attainment of the SDGs. The review further highlights the fundamental role of the local authorities, CSOs, development partners and private sector players in delivering on the SDGs. The findings of the VNR underline the commitment of the Zambian Government to implement the Sustainable Development Agenda, while focusing on economic transformation for improved livelihoods.

There is consensus that the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down progress towards the 2030 Agenda and has reversed progress made on many SDGs. However, the pandemic has also served as a “wakeup call” to tackle fundamental problems facing many countries. For Zambia, progress is being made in building back better and this is attributed to the ongoing interventions and responsive policy decisions carried out through various government flagship programmes with support from its development partners, including the private sector and CSOs. These interventions, focusing on economic growth and human development, remain crucial for accelerating the implementation of programmes towards the SDGs.

Despite the efforts, most of the targets for the SDGs are off-track, in part, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Zambia still has to work harder to build resilience to withstand pandemics and the effects of climate change in order to accelerate implementation. To sustain the gains made so far, Zambia will depend on careful planning and good governance across all sectors and all ministries, provinces and other spending agencies (MPSAs). To overcome the obstacles that delay the attainment of the SDGs, more attention will be paid to home-grown solutions and innovations on both domestic and external resources mobilisation for sustainable development. Focus will also be directed towards digital technology adoption, given its catalytic role in accelerating attainment of the 2030 Agenda. This VNR provides an opportunity to identify new and emerging issues that need specific interventions for a speedy recovery, while addressing the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against similar events in the future.

The call for enhanced support from all partners in development has never been louder. If the country is to accelerate its attainment of the SDGs, support will be required to complement Zambia’s efforts and commitment. The opportunities for foreign direct investment, technical and financial support from bilateral and multilateral development partners, and other domestic and international non-state actors, are abundant in Zambia.

Next steps

The VNR process has provided a comprehensive understanding of the country's achievements, challenges, and opportunities in advancing the global agenda for sustainable development. In this section, key areas that require attention, taking into account the lessons learnt from the VNR experience, are outlined. By highlighting the next steps, the aim is to inspire action, collaboration, and innovation among stakeholders at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and address the pressing issues that lie ahead.

1. Zambia will continue to mobilise and allocate domestic and external resources needed for accelerating the implementation of policies, reforms and programmes towards attainment of the SDGs, particularly in those goals and targets that are lagging behind. There is also need to further revitalise and develop strong partnerships. One such example is strengthening the use of the PPP mode to effectively mobilise the private sector in financing development plans and SDGs.
2. As a mechanism to assist streamline and push financing toward the SDGs, a number of nations have turned to implementing the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). With the help of development partners, a program is being implemented to evaluate national financing for sustainable development, build capacity in SDG budgeting and costing, and develop an INFF for Zambia.
3. The government will continue to support the use of digital technology to accelerated attainment of the SDGs. In the coming years, development efforts will be aided by increased digitisation and the deployment of technology across the private and public sectors. To improve service delivery and transform Zambia into a digital economy, the Government is implementing a digitisation and transformation agenda. This includes measures to digitise and enhance the quality of business-related government services, digitise tax-related services, as well as digitise trade facilitation procedures.
4. The Government will also continue to invest in data generation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting capacities to strengthen the national statistical system. The ZamStats and other data producers need to strengthen skills including through technical support, since the Government is increasingly embracing the need for access to disaggregated, high-quality data as essential for monitoring progress on the SDGs.
5. Zambia's vulnerability and increased susceptibility to the effects of climate change and numerous hazards, both natural and man-made, necessitate increased investment in the conservation of natural resources. To combat land degradation, deforestation, and climate change, ensure food security, and promote eco-tourism, the Green Growth Strategy will be implemented. Additionally, a National Climate Change Fund, which will be a repository of all resources for climate change responses in the country, will be established for mobilisation of resources for undertaking projects on adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
6. Finally, Zambia will scale-up collaborative efforts to build back better and faster from the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks, while pursuing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Partners will continue to be engaged in support of Zambia's development. Advisory bodies will continue to be strengthened so that the public sector, the private sector, CSOs, and development partners are active in the elaboration, follow-through and fostering of mutual accountability for interventions towards sustainable development. The Public-Private Dialogue Forum will also be used to bring to the fore, the bottlenecks hindering the effective contribution of the private sector to Zambia's development.



— ANNEXES —

List of good practices and success stories

The good practices and success stories below were written
and submitted by the organisations indicated.



Emergency cash transfers are helping households during the COVID-19 pandemic

— BY UNITED NATION CHILDREN'S FUND



† Elina with six of her grandchildren that she takes care of.

The poor and vulnerable in Zambia have not been spared from the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. To respond to the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), with technical support from UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, WFP) has been implementing the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) programme to support over 200,000 households in 25 districts in Zambia. The ECT programme was launched to help families avoid negative coping mechanisms, such as removing children from school, selling property or reducing on the number of meals. The COVID-19 ECT is financially supported by the European Union and the Governments of Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The ECT programme follows the

rationale that beneficiaries under the SCT are an identified vulnerable group whose needs have now increased, due to the pandemic. Elina Kangungu is one of the beneficiaries who qualified under the programme by virtue of being registered in the long-term SCT programme. Elina is a 54-year-old grandmother with no formal education, no husband or other support systems. She is supporting eight orphaned grandchildren.

Elina attended a community sensitisation meeting organised by the MCDSS and learnt about the COVID-19 emergency cash transfers.

She narrates: “Since COVID-19, my business has not been good. All suppliers of the goods I sell increased the prices and it was difficult for me to catch up. My business capital was almost exhausted as I had to buy extra soap

when I learnt washing your hands regularly keeps the virus away. Having all the kids at home also meant we had to consume more food, so I spent most of my business money on food. When I heard I was going to get a lump sum of K2,400 [through the ECT programme], I thought it was not true until the receipt of my first instalment of K1,200. We were encouraged to buy basic household items such as soap, nutritious food and face masks. I was excited to hear we could also invest the money in business, gardening or livestock.” she adds.

Like other beneficiaries in her area, Elina received the last instalment of K1,200 in May 2021.

“Twasanta bingi!” (Kaonde for “Many thanks!”) for the support as it has helped old people like me take care of their families” says Elina.



How Zambia has reduced maternal deaths by 300 percent in 16 years

— BY UNITED NATION POPULATION FUND

“Growing up in a remote village, I witnessed my grandmother, a traditional birth attendant, assisting women and girls to deliver babies. She would perform these deliveries at home, using local herbs to try and address complications. Many mothers and their newborns lost their lives during pregnancy and delivery. This made me sad.” said Michelle Simukayi, a student at Lewanika College of Nursing and Midwifery in Western Province.

She observed how the lives of pregnant women in her village in Shibuyunji District of Central Province were at risk due to long distances to health facilities and limited access to information. She decided to do something about it. After completing high school, she began researching the topic of maternal deaths and came across a book, Sellers' Midwifery by Pauline McCall Sellers. It changed the course of her life.

“I was determined to become a midwife to save the lives of women and girls in remote rural areas.” said Michelle, now a third-year student pursuing a Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery.

Reducing Zambia's Maternal and Newborn Deaths

Zambia has made significant strides in the past two decades to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes. The maternal mortality rate dropped nearly 300 percent in 16 years — from 729 deaths for every 100,000 live births in 2002, to 278 deaths per 100,000 in 2018. One of the key factors that has been critical in this achievement is the increased availability of skilled midwifery personnel. The number of births assisted by a skilled attendant more



than doubled over the same period, from 42 percent to 80 percent.

When midwives are well trained, adequate in number, and appropriately supported to provide better quality of care, they can avert about two-thirds of preventable maternal and newborn deaths. Unfortunately, in many underserved communities with high maternal and neonatal deaths, significant gaps remain in the availability of these essential health workers. The World Health Organisation recommends at least 4.2 midwives per 1,000 population.

Enhancing the Standards of Nursing and Midwifery

Opened in 1970, Lewanika College of Nursing and Midwifery offers Registered Nursing/Midwifery programmes, as well as a direct entry Midwifery programme which was introduced in 2018 to increase the number of trained midwives across the country. The College continues to play a key role in enhancing knowledge and skills in the management of maternal and neonatal health. With support from the United Nations Population Fund, in the form of scholarships and

learning/teaching models, more than 300 midwives have graduated from the College since 2018, and are currently serving in Western Province, including in hard-to-reach communities.

“Our learning at Lewanika College of Nursing and Midwifery has been fascinating from the start.” says Gift Chimovu, a third-year student. **“We have learned tutors who guide us through the theoretical aspects of nursing and midwifery, while our clinical instructors equip us with practical clinical experience in a wellequipped and conducive skills lab. I am able to diagnose a complication and make a decision on time to save a life.”**

Looking forward to graduating this year, he makes a call to action for decision-makers: “We need to train more pre-service midwives to increase the number of births assisted by a skilled provider, especially in remote facilities. Of equal importance is to ensure adequate availability of equipment and medical supplies in all facilities, coupled with continuous mentorship of midwives, so that they are able to diagnose a complication and make a decision.”

Men supporting partners to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Zambia

— BY UNITED NATION CHILDREN'S FUND

When Mr. and Mrs. Mwale went for their second pregnancy's antenatal booking, they were welcomed by a team of trained healthcare professionals called 'Mentor Mothers' at Ngungu health facility in Kabwe District of Zambia's Central Province. This facility has seven trained Mentor Mothers who, among other roles, offer support to adolescent girls and young mothers, aged 10–24 years, living with HIV, from pregnancy until the child is 2 years old.

The Mentor Mothers programme is supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the aim of providing peer support to pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV. The initiative provides a safe space for the young mothers to make friends and gain support for themselves and their HIV-exposed babies.

"My wife and I arrived at Ngungu health facility for antenatal booking of our second child. We received lessons and counselling on HIV. The information was detailed and explained in a way I have never heard people talk about HIV." Mr. Mwale said. "After the informative session, we went to the screening room to get registered. While in the room, the health workers encouraged us to consider taking HIV tests because it was important for our health and that of our unborn child. We agreed and had our blood samples taken for testing."

Knowing the HIV status of expecting parents is crucial in Zambia, where 8 in every 100 women attending antenatal care are diagnosed with HIV. When results are positive, early initiation of HIV treatment is important as it can prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and keeps the parents healthy, setting up a better start in life for their child. In contrast,



← Mentor Mother Jacqueline with a 3-week-old baby during a visit at the clinic.

without treatment, a child with HIV can hardly survive to their second birthday.

"A few minutes after the blood samples were taken for testing, the health worker shared our results which came out negative for me, while my wife was found HIV-positive. I could see my wife's mood change yet having received the counsel earlier I knew it was my responsibility to be supportive and encourage her, especially for the sake of our unborn child." said Mr. Mwale.

"I did not expect that I would be found HIV-positive. My husband was and has been incredibly supportive. After the results were disclosed, he asked what the next step was, and the Mentor Mother available explained that we needed to go to the ART (antiretroviral treatment) clinic for guidance and treatment." Mrs. Mwale recalled.

The Mentor Mother, Jacqueline, accompanied the couple to the ART clinic and introduced them to one of the counsellors who further advised Mrs. Mwale to start ART and put Mr. Mwale on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a combination of ARV medicine given to HIV-negative

persons who are at great risk of contracting HIV (such as people whose sexual partners are living with HIV) to prevent them from getting the virus. PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV when taken as prescribed and reduces the risk of contracting sexually-transmitted HIV by about 99 percent.

After receiving the medicines, the couple agreed to be registered in the programme and continue getting support throughout the process. Since then, Jacqueline has been paying regular home visits and providing advice. **"Our baby is now 3 weeks old and extremely healthy. I am glad to have agreed to be part of this amazing programme and grateful for the support I have received from my husband who has always reminded me to take my medication on time." said Mrs. Mwale.**

With support from the Swedish International Development Agency, through a United Nations joint programme termed '2gether 4SRHR', UNICEF and the Ministry of Health have been working with 'mothers2mothers' to provide support to pregnant and breastfeeding adolescent girls and young women to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



How user-friendly data is mobilising communities for better quality education

— BY UNITED NATION CHILDREN'S FUND

Elvis Musonda always knew where his five children would go to school — he lives right next to Malama Primary School in Zambia's Northern Province. It is one of the few primary schools in the area and demand is high. The school caters for approximately 3,000 students, but the funding provided is only around K1 (US\$0.08) per child per year.

“There are too many students in a class... up to 100.” says Elvis. “Teachers focus on fast learners and most children feel neglected.”

Driven by his wish to see that his youngest child, a current student, would not fall behind, Elvis decided to take action. He volunteered to be an advocate for children's education and joined the school's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). And that's where the school profile cards came in.

“What keeps me going is seeing a child getting educated.” — Elvis Musonda, father and education advocate.

Making Data Usable

For a long time, teachers, parents and communities could not compare their own school's performance with others'. But with school profile cards things have started to change. Developed by the then Ministry of General Education with support from the United Nations Children's Fund, the school profile cards give a detailed overview of the challenges schools are facing, mapping out where needs are greatest. Designed with the help of parents and school teachers, the cards enable school leaders to identify gaps and track progress – while giving Elvis and other parents the information they need to demand a better education for their children.



↑ Elvis Musonda stands in front of newly-built classrooms at Malama Primary School.

“The school profile card paints a more objective picture of how we are doing compared to other schools.” explains Elvis. “With a glance at the card, you can see that learning outcomes in Malama Primary for English, Science and Mathematics are well below those of other schools in the district. The cards are on display in the head teacher's office and on the school notice board.” says Elvis. “We made about 100 copies. Both parents and teachers look at them.”

Aware of the pressing challenges at Malama Primary School that were revealed through the profile cards, the PTA called for an extraordinary meeting. Nearly 800 parents showed up. At the meeting, Elvis used the profile cards to help parents understand the barriers to improving learning at the school. The cards allow data to speak to all parents, regardless of their literacy level. **“I explained the symbols one by one for all parents to understand the challenges and progress of their children's school.” Elvis says.**

Transforming Data into Action

Realising the magnitude of the problem from the data they had, the PTA wrote more than 30 letters to political leaders and businesses in the district, requesting support. And parents asked school leaders to help the weaker students.

Their actions are having an impact and there is progress. Malama Primary School is now offering catch-up classes to students who are behind in the subjects identified in the profile cards.

“We decided we should give extra help to the students who still cannot read or write.” Elvis says with a smile. “The school profiles helped us to engage parents and we managed to do something to improve the education of our children.”

Building resilience for smallholder farmers through strengthening weather-based index insurance systems and services

— BY UNITED NATION POPULATION FUND

Zambia's efforts to combat poverty, reduce food insecurity and sustainably manage natural resources, are being compromised by increased climate variability. Current climate projections for Zambia show increases in extreme climate events, including high temperature, intense precipitation resulting in floods and in some cases deficit precipitation resulting in occurrences of prolonged dry spells and droughts. Climate change has had serious negative effects on agriculture, water resource availability, human and animal health, biodiversity and ecosystems, energy, and infrastructure. With the intensified climate-related risks, among the most negatively affected are the smallholder farmers who are unable to manage these risks.

The World Food Programme in Zambia has been working with national government authorities, to combat climate change by integrating climate risk management tools within government systems centred around providing access to index insurance solutions, in line with the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). Over five consecutive agricultural seasons, the Government, together with key partners, has been working on insurance product design (blended index-insurance on national FISP), capacity building on agriculture-related insurance products and enhanced private sector engagement for delivery of products to smallholder farmers. The agriculture insurance is aimed at supporting farmers in managing climate risk, thereby contributing to enhancing resilience for the most vulnerable rural populations. The programme has a significant nationwide coverage as exemplified in the 2021/2022 agriculture season, where 1,024,434 farmers were targeted as direct beneficiaries, as a result of increased efforts on the product design and



† Happy female smallholder farmers at the Pemba Weather Index Insurance payout in Kasiya.

delivery.

In 2021, Zambia ranked first worldwide, on the number of people covered with micro-insurance solutions, totalling 1 million people covered through FISP, out of which 95,000 received approximately US\$1.3 million in payouts the same year. Capacity building efforts have resulted in widening the scope of the index insurance to the development and implementation of a hybrid livestock insurance product, following the gains made on the agriculture insurance. The product is protecting 5,000 livestock smallholder farmers from climate-related shocks, including droughts and floods that may affect pasture availability for their livestock during the 2022/23 farming season, with plans to scale-up to 600,000 smallholder farmers across the country.

Additionally, support has been provided on the establishment of a

multi-ministerial Technical Working Group on Weather Index Insurance, and specialised advice to government authorities to improve the design of microinsurance solutions offered by the Government. Also, training has been provided to province and district-level government officers, including agriculture extension staff, who play a key role in increasing community awareness on the benefits of insurance schemes. The introduction of innovative micro-insurance projects under the FISP has enhanced interventions on shock-responsive systems, which have been key for achieving 8th National Development Plan and SDGs objectives. Additionally, the agriculture sector has seen a rise in strengthened inter-sectoral coordination in disaster risk management, contributing to the consolidation of enhanced national stakeholder capacities to promote constant improvements in the provision of weather index insurance.



Improved access to toilets and roads brings safety from dangers of wildlife and diseases to children and families

— BY UNITED NATION CHILDREN'S FUND

“We never had any modern toilets, only one pit latrine which was used by everyone in our village as well as the people passing by during their journey.” says Precious Kayola (29 years). Precious is a mother of two children and lives in Shungu Ward, Livingstone District, Zambia. Shungu is a remote village located on the outskirts of Livingstone, and home to many vulnerable and marginalised communities that struggle to make ends meet.

“The pit latrine was not in a good condition, so we always had to go to the bushes to relieve ourselves. Using a toilet should be comfortable but not everyone has the money to build one. Bushes have snakes and wild animals that attack you. And if you stay close to the road, without going deep in the bushes to hide from the sight of passersby, you risk being seen by people and we would never know who has seen us.” adds Precious as she remembers the challenges of not having a functional toilet in her village.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, has been supporting the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development under the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund. The Fund was launched in 2016 and is being implemented across the country. In 2021, UNICEF supported the local authorities to transition from activity-based budgeting to output-based budgeting that is being implemented by the Zambian Government. The output-based approach is results-oriented and focuses on improving public sector service delivery and provides a more explicit link between the spending agencies’ output to the 8th National Development Plan’s outcomes and strategies. This change strengthens



† A resident washes her hands with soap after using the newly-built toilet in her community.

budget transparency by providing more strategic and informative budget estimates.

Furthermore, this transition has proved to be more participatory and results-based, as it means soliciting inputs from the community. This builds a strong link of demand and supply between the highest and lowest levels — delivering results for the most vulnerable and marginalised. Among various other initiatives, in 2022, the Livingstone City Council, in coordination with the community representatives, built a toilet for the clinic in Shungu Ward — the first-ever proper toilet in the community.

“In 2014, my baby was very sick and I needed to take her to the district hospital in emergency. We waited as long as we could but the ambulance could not arrive due to absence of a road and the path had big potholes, so we had to travel on foot and take a taxi from the main road — and it took very long.” recalls Precious. “Construction of the road and repair of the potholes has made our lives easier. When going for work or coming home, even in the evening, I feel safe as the taxi now drops me close to home, which was not the case before.” she adds.

“

We never had any modern toilets, only one pit latrine which was used by everyone in our village as well as the people passing by during their journey.

”

Accelerating the provision of decent housing through public-private partnerships

— BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ZAMBIA



↑ Habitat for Humanity Zambia greenfield housing project in Makululu, Kabwe District.

Habitat for Humanity Zambia (HFHZ) is a nonprofit housing organisation working towards a vision where everyone has a decent place to live by building strength, stability, and self-reliance for families in need of decent and affordable housing, predominantly residing in informal settlements. Zambia has a relatively high urbanisation rate and has seen the proliferation of informal settlements, where 70 percent of the urban population resides in areas characterised by overcrowded housing conditions and inadequate basic service provision. This compromises the quality of life of residents and poses a threat to the natural environment, thus increasing vulnerabilities.

Housing is a fundamental human need. Its importance in human development was illuminated during the COVID-19 pandemic where “stay at home, save lives” emerged as a

mantra in the fight against the global pandemic, underscoring how central the home is to public health during a pandemic. The former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha, noted that housing became the frontline defence against the corona virus where housing had hitherto “rarely been a life-or-death situation”.

Since its inception in 1984, HFHZ has facilitated the provision of over 4,000 decent housing units to vulnerable groups such as widows, orphans, the aged and persons with disabilities. The housing units come with security of tenure, sanitation units and communal water systems as these are the most basic support services for human habitation.

The success of the housing delivery is underpinned by the deliberate engagement of People Public-Private Partnerships that are key in

accelerating housing provision for the poor not only in Zambia, but globally. HFHZ has signed strategic Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Zambia country office to contribute to the attainment of government policies, the 8th National Development Plan, Zambia’s Vision 2030 and the far-reaching Sustainable Development Goals.

HFHZ has equally partnered with local corporates, such as Stanbic Bank Zambia, Chilanga Cement, and Zambia Airports Cooperation Limited, all of whom have won prestigious Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards from the CSR Network Zambia for their support in fighting housing poverty in the country with Habitat Zambia.



Beyond the numbers: making the budget work for the people

— BY ZAMBIA COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The participation of citizens in the Zambian budgeting process has been underscored as an important aspect in the development of the country. However, Zambia has usually followed an elitist and exclusive way of budgeting since most of the citizens' participation is limited to a few corporate institutions, Lusaka-based civil society organisations (CSOs) and other stakeholders. There are low levels of uptake and ownership, particularly at sub-national and local levels. There are also inadequate levels of interest and skills among local communities to influence what they want to see in the national budget. Participation of key stakeholders through partnerships is minimal; thus, common Zambian citizens are unable to engage in a structured manner. The budget has traditionally been considered the exclusive domain of technocrats, economists and accountants. Furthermore, many official processes such as the preparation of annual government priorities, release of budget guidelines and ceilings by the Ministry of Finance, dates and deadlines for budget preparations or the requirement of citizens' participation, are not generally popularised to the general citizenry.

In contrast, Zambia alongside the global community has embraced the widely and globally acclaimed theme of the Sustainable Development Goals of “not leaving anyone behind”, thus challenging the status quo and promoting inclusivity in the preparation and development of the national budget. One way in which this was done was when the Government enacted the National Planning and Budgeting Act No. 1 of 2020 giving rise to every citizen having the legal right to participate in the national budgeting process. To this end, the Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD), in partnership with OXFAM Southern Africa and the Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council, with support from the European Union, is currently implementing a four-year project

dubbed “Beyond The Numbers: Making the budget work for people” whose overall objective is to promote greater accountability and better public service delivery through increased capacity and engagement of citizens and civil society in the formulation, enactment, implementation, and oversight of Zambia's national budget. This action aims at convening diverse civic spaces for non-state actors and citizen groups to seek accountability of duty-bearers on national planning, budgetary development and implementation, by building their capacity and facilitating opportunities for their engagement. In addition, the action is implementing a model that mobilises communities to establish Community Budget Groups (CBGs) at community level.

The following achievements have been recorded so far from the project implementation, but are not limited to:

- ZCSD piloted rural citizens' participation in the national budget by having a CBG member (Gender Justice) travel from Monze to make submissions to the National Assembly for the 2022 national budget. The following year, two districts, namely Mpika CBG and Rufunsa CBG also made submissions to the National Assembly for the 2023 national budget. It is envisaged that this year's National Assembly presentations will have all CBGs from the five districts participate and make their presentations for the 2024 national budget, thus ensuring and paving way for the participation of rural-based actors in the budget formulation, implementation and monitoring process at all levels.
- A total of 21 CBGs have been formed in the five targeted districts which include, Lusaka, Rufunsa, Monze, Mpika and Mufulira. The composition of the CBGs range from CSO representatives, women, youths, the business community, ward councillors, religious leaders, traditional leaders, government representatives from health, education, agriculture and

community development and persons with disabilities.

- ZCSD engaged with the leadership at district level — the District Commissioner, Members of Parliament, Councillors, traditional leaders, CSOs, women, men and youths to ensure that more awareness was done on citizens' participation in the national budgeting processes and oversight.
- Other surrounding districts and constituencies in which the project is not being implemented have expressed interest to have the initiative extended to them. Specifically, communities and stakeholders in Kabwe (Central Province), Itezhi-tezhi (Southern Province) and Kanchibiya (Muchinga Province) have expressed keen interest to be included on the initiative. This gives great potential for up-scaling the initiative to other districts, building on the expressed interest which coincides with the new Government's step to take resources to the districts closer to the needy people, including women and youths.
- ZCSD held an engagement meeting with 18 Members of Parliament, including 10 CSOs on the importance of engaging citizens in the national budgeting analysis and oversight. The result was the ZCSD CBG members being specifically invited to interact with legislators during the budget enactment process.
- Further, ZCSD engaged 30 Members of Parliament (who are members of the Parliamentary Committee on Budget Estimates and the Committee on Women, Youths and Children), during the submissions on the 2022 National Budget.
- ZCSD also engaged the new Kabwata Member of Parliament, 9 Councillors for Kabwata and Chawama Constituencies and the Mayor of Lusaka, to share with them on the objectives of the action and the importance of involving citizens in national budgeting and oversight.

Promoting participation for women and youths in governance and elections in zambia project

— BY ZAMBIA COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hamuleya Misper, Jongola Ward, Gwembe District

Misper Hamuleya (30 years) is Area Councillor for Jongola Ward in Gwembe District of the Southern Province of Zambia. He is currently one of the youths in Bweengwa Constituency that managed to win the position as civic leader in the August 2021 tripartite elections and is already firming up an amazing story with his peers.

He contested for the position of Councillor against the backdrop of numerous encouragements from the Ward within which he lives and his peers. **His campaign received great support from fellow youths and women who believed in his campaign message of “working with the community members to locally find solutions for the challenges facing the Ward”.**

Without waiting for the Constituency and Ward Development Funds disbursement, the Councillor had set the ground by inspiring and supporting the formation of eleven community clubs comprising of youth and women who are committed to change their lives through agriculture and trading. Five of these clubs have commenced onion farming while six are dealing in other businesses. In order to ensure that the clubs that are producing onions have a ready market, Councillor Misper has approached Monze Cross-border Association to be buying the onions from the five clubs. This has been commended by the club members as they do not have to worry where to take their onions to. Further, Councillor Misper has linked the clubs to Saro Agro, a company that is ready to sell agro-equipment to the five clubs in order to mechanise their works. The clubs will be holding meetings with Saro Agro in September 2022 to conclude the arrangements. Councillor Misper believes this is

the difference that the youth bring to the table of decision-making and leadership. He is focused on encouraging a mindset change that helps the youths focus on being the change they want to see rather than sitting back to wait for government support or jobs when they can create jobs.

Judith Kalunga, Lumbala Ward, Mpika District

It is a moving story that you can only get from a determined focused, and passionate community leader. Councillor Judith Kalunga is now serving as Councillor of Lumbala Ward in Mpika Central Constituency of Mpika District. At the age of 42 in 2020, she sat for the Grade 12 examinations and in the year 2021 contested for the position of Councillor. The determined Councillor is now living her dream of serving her community as a civic leader.

According to Ms. Kalunga, many women today are potential leaders as they have good intentions of serving their communities diligently, but the stumbling block is that of not having attained the relevant educational requirements. Not to be frustrated by this, Ms. Kalunga made a pivotal decision to go back to school at Grade 9 level in 2010. She wrote her ninth-grade examinations which she passed and progressed to Grade 12 in 2020 and managed to acquire a Grade 12 certificate, bringing her back on track to pursue what she wanted to become — an inspirational community leader. Through Act No. 2 of 2016 which amended the National Constitution, Zambia changed its laws and set the Grade 12 certificate as a minimum requirement for one to contest as a Councillor. The gender audit report cites this as another barrier, albeit progressive, that saw

many aspiring female candidates fall out of the political race and aspiration of representing their communities as leaders.

Having overcome this constitutional change and met the legal requirements for local government leadership, Councillor Kalunga contested for the position of Councillor and due to her good reputation and standing and community spirit, it was easy for people to support her candidature. **Making things even easier for her, the ZCSD Carter Centre-supported project dubbed “Promoting Women and Youth in Governance and Elections in Zambia,” supported her campaign through the available free media space on the local Mpika Radio and she was among the female and youth candidates for whom the project developed campaign posters calling on electoral stakeholders and voters in particular to support female and youth candidates.** She is now serving her community as a dedicated Ward Councillor. Her appeal to the women is that education requirements should not be seen as a barrier and advises that they go back to school and prepare to serve Zambia in any desired positions during elections. Councillor Kalunga believes that women are better leaders than men as they do not believe in corruption during elections. **She noted that “women are trustworthy, respectful and humble leaders, who commit their time to providing quality leadership each time they are given an opportunity to do so.”**



Volunteers working in various sectors contributing to the achievement of the SDGs

— BY UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS AND MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Service delivery in Zambia has mainly been supported with the help of Volunteers in various sectors. For instance, in the Ministry of Health (MoH) it has been found to be essential to ensure effective and efficient community health service delivery through frontline health workers in the formal setting who collaborate with the informal setting of voluntary support. The engagement of Volunteers in the sector resulted in the MoH coming up with the Community Health Strategy (CHS). The CHS is laid out to strengthen the operationality and functionality of their relationships and facilitate quality and sufficient community health care thereby contributing to SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being.

In a study conducted on the Volunteers' contributions to the achievement of the SDGs in Zambia, the findings indicated that Volunteers' contributions have a bearing across all the 17 SDGs in different sectors. The Volunteers also exist in most government ministries and civil society organisations (CSOs), assisting in service delivery. There is, however, a limitation to ascertain or quantify the actual Volunteer contributions in the absence of in-depth studies and the lack of documentation in local voluntary CSOs.

The World Health Organisation recognises poverty as one of the social determinants of health, and the Volunteers who work on social welfare and support Social Cash Transfer (SCT) implementation through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and primary healthcare programmes under the health sector, are not only contributing to SDG 1 but to SDG 3 as well. In the health sector for instance, it has been long appreciated that the scarcity in human resources of health

workers experienced at every service delivery level, including at community outreach interventions, poses a challenge requiring concerted efforts through community engagement. The MoH has recognised the shortages of human resources in service delivery of quality health care being critical to the provision of services. The Volunteer cadre known as Community Welfare Assistants Committees (CWACs) under the MCDSS are involved in many programmes, among them community case management and the 1st 1,000 Days under the SCT, piloted in selected districts. The 1st 1,000 Days is a nutrition programme meant to support parents/families as they embark on the journey of raising their children.

The contributions made by the Volunteers under the SCT and social welfare and health-related programmes have been immense with about 90,006 Volunteers working under health and 87,750 volunteers for the various programmes under MCDSS. The SCT was initially implemented on a pilot basis in Kalomo District in August 2003. Twenty years down the line, the programme has spread to 116 districts with over 1 million beneficiaries. The increase in beneficiaries exerted pressure on the public service workers who were implementing, but CWACs have been filling the gap as Volunteers.

List of tables

TABLE 1	Data Availability Challenges and Policy Response	27
TABLE 2	Systemic Issues and Policy Response	29
TABLE 3	Core Health Workforce Density	42
TABLE 4	Number of Women in Decision-making Positions	56
TABLE 5	Disaggregation of Agricultural Holding Deed Holders	56
TABLE 6	Type of Project/Programme Intervention by Cost	61
TABLE 7	Number and Proportion of Children Aged 5–17 Years Engaged in Child Labour	68
TABLE 8	Major Taxonomic Groups	90
TABLE 9	Official Development Assistance Received in Zambia	91

List of boxes

BOX 1	Preservation of Peace and Justice Through Upholding of the Constitution	21
BOX 2	Impact of Russia–Ukraine War on the Zambian Economy	105
BOX 3	Zambia's Commitment Towards Evidence-Based Policy Formulation, Monitoring and Evaluation	111



List of figures

FIGURE 1	VNR Process	15
FIGURE 2	8NDP Strategic Policy Direction	18
FIGURE 3	Institutional Framework for Agenda 2030 and SDGs	28
FIGURE 4	Mortality Due to Cardiovascular Disease, 2017–2020	40
FIGURE 5	Death Rate Due to Road Traffic Injuries, 2016–2020	40
FIGURE 6	Completion Rates at Primary School Level, 2014–2020	46
FIGURE 7	Completion Rates at Lower Secondary School (Grade 9) Level, 2014–2020	46
FIGURE 8	Completion Rates at Upper Secondary School Level, 2014–2020	46
FIGURE 9	Development milestones by Age, 2022	47
FIGURE 10	Enrolment (Numbers) in TEVET Institution, 2020–2020	48
FIGURE 11	Gender Parity Index for Learners, 2011–2020	48
FIGURE 12	Higher Education Scholarship Awarded Undergraduate, 2021–2020	49
FIGURE 13	Higher Education Scholarship Awarded Postgraduate, 2021	50
FIGURE 14	Proportion of Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work by Sex, 2021	54
FIGURE 15	Proportion of Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work, by Sex and Age Group, 2021	55
FIGURE 16	Proportion of Mobile Phone Ownership, 2015–2022	57
FIGURE 17	National Installed Electricity Generation Capacity, 2023	60
FIGURE 18	Total Final Energy Consumption, 2019	60
FIGURE 19	Annual Growth Real GDP and GDP Per Capita Growth Rates, 2018–2022	64
FIGURE 20	Growth Rates of Real GDP Per Employed Persons, 2018–2021	64
FIGURE 21	Average Hourly Earnings of Paid Employees by Occupation, 2021	65
FIGURE 22	Unemployment Rates of Overall Population by Sex, 2018–2021	66
FIGURE 23	Unemployment Rates of Overall Population and Population Living with Disability, 2021	66
FIGURE 24	Unemployment Rates of Overall Population by Age Group and Sex, 2021	67
FIGURE 25	Proportion of Youth NEET by Sex, 2018–2021	67
FIGURE 26	Tourism Direct GDP as a Proportion of GDP, 2018–2021	68
FIGURE 27	Number of Commercial Bank Branches per 100,000 Adults, 2017–2021	69
FIGURE 28	Number of ATMs per 100,000 Adults, 2017–2021	69
FIGURE 29	Passengers and Volume of Cargo by Air, 2019–2022	72
FIGURE 30	Volume of Cargo Transported by Rail, 2019–2022	73
FIGURE 31	Mpulungu Cargo Statistics, 2019–2022	73
FIGURE 32	Volume of Cargo Transported by Road, 2019–2022	74
FIGURE 33	Proportion of Manufacturing Employment, 2018–2021	74
FIGURE 34	Population Coverage by Type of Mobile Network, 2015–2020	75
FIGURE 35	Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area, 2010–2020	88
FIGURE 36	Total Government Revenue as a Percentage of GDP, 2019–2022	94
FIGURE 37	Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes, 2019–2022	94
FIGURE 38	Official Development Assistance as a Proportion of Total Domestic Budget, 2019–2022	95
FIGURE 39	Remittances as a Proportion of GDP, 2019–2022	95
FIGURE 40	Proportion of Individuals Using the Internet, 2015–2022	96

Abbreviations and Acronyms

8NDP	Eighth National Development Plan	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	NDC	Nationally-Determined Contribution
ATM	Automated Teller Machine	NDCC	National Development Coordinating Committee
BUR	Biennial Updated Report	NDP	National Development Plan
CAG	Cluster Advisory Group	NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
CDF	Constituency Development Fund	NSDS	National Policy on Climate Change
CFR	Case Fatality Rate	NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide	ODA	Official Development Assistance
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease-2019	OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	PDCC	Provincial Development Coordinating Committee
DDCC	District Development Coordinating Committee	PPP	Public-Private Partnership
ECE	Early Childhood Education	R&D	Research and Development
ECF	Extended Credit Facility	SADC	Southern African Development Community
FISP	Farmer Input Support Programme	SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
FSP	Food Security Pack	SCT	Social Cash Transfer
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GCF	Green Climate Fund	SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	TAZARA	Tanzania-Zambia Railways
GPI	Gender Parity Index	TB	Tuberculosis
HFHZ	Habitat for Humanity Zambia	TEVET	Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training
HFO	Heavy Fuel Oil	UN	United Nations
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IDP	Integrated Development Plan	US\$	United States Dollar
IMF	International Monetary Fund	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
INT	Integrated National Financing Framework	VNR	Voluntary National Review
INFF	Integrated National Registration Information System	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
K	Zambian Kwacha	WDC	Ward Development Committee
LGAZ	Local Government Association of Zambia	WHO	World Health Organisation
MCDDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services	Zamtats	Zambia Statistics Agency
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	ZCSD	Zambia Council for Social Development
MPSA	Ministries, Provinces and Other Spending Agencies	ZRL	Zambia Railways Limited
MT	Metric Tonne	ZWIP	Zambia Water Investment Programme
MW	Megawatt		



References

1. Bank of Zambia (2017). Zambia Finscope Survey.
2. Bank of Zambia (2021). Zambia Finscope Survey.
3. Central Statistics Office (2015). Zambia Demographic and Health Survey.
4. Central Statistics Office (2018). Zambia Demographic and Health Survey.
5. Decentralisation Secretariat (2020). Rapid Assessment of Local Authorities to Perform their Functions.
6. Edna Kabala, Simukunku Manchishi and Kalemba Mpandamwike. (2022). The Ukrainian– Russian Conflict, Global Impact and Effect on the Zambian Economy.
7. Electoral Commission of Zambia (2021). Women in Decision-making Positions.
8. Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board (2021). Annual Progress Report.
9. Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board (2022). Annual Progress Report.
10. International Monetary Fund (2023). Zambia Technical Assistance Report — Governance and Anti-Corruption Assessment. IMF Country Report No. 23/3.
11. International Telecommunication Union (2022). Measuring Digital Development. ITU Report.
12. Local Government Association of Zambia (2022). Revenue Enhancement Strategies for Local Authorities.
13. Minister of Green Economy and Environment (2022). Ministerial Statement on the COP 27.
14. Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (2022). Ministerial Statement on Social Cash Transfer.
15. Ministry of General Education (2019). Education Statistics Bulletin.
16. Ministry of General Education (2020). Education Statistics Bulletin.
17. Ministry of Education (2022). Ministerial Statement Update on Recruitment of 30,000 Teachers.
18. Ministry of Energy (2019). Energy Balance.
19. Ministry of Finance (2019). National Budget Speech.
20. Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2006). Vision 2030.
21. Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2021). National Budget Speech.
22. Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2022). Annual Economic Report.
23. Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2022). Eighth National Development Plan (2022–2026).
24. Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2022). National Budget Speech.
25. Ministry of Gender (2021). Rapid Gender Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Zambia.
26. Ministry of Health (2017). Annual Health Statistical Report, 2017–2021.
27. Ministry of Health (2022). National Health Strategic Plan 2022 to 2026.
28. Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security (2022). Ministerial Statement on Implementation of the Integrated National Registration Information System.
29. Ministry of Justice (2023). Statement on Zambia's Fourth Cycle National Report on the Universal Periodic Review Delivered by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Mulambo Haimbe, SC, MP, at the 42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, Held in Geneva, Switzerland.
30. Ministry of Labour and Social Security (2020). Zambia Decent Work Country Programme 2020–2022.
31. Ministry of Lands (2023). Deeds Registry.
32. Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development (2022). Ministerial Statement on Constituency Development Fund.
33. Ministry of National Development Planning (2017). Seventh National Development Plan (2017–2021).
34. Ministry of Higher Education (2020). TEVET Bursary Report.
35. Ministry of Tourism (2018). Tourism Master Plan (2018–2028).
36. Ministry of Transport and Logistics (2022). Annual Report.
37. SADC Secretariat (2022). Preliminary Impact Assessment of the Ukraine–Russia Conflict.
38. Government of the Republic of Zambia (2018). Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018.
39. UNDP (2021). Zambia COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment and Recovery Framework 2021.
40. UNDP (2022). Rapid Assessment by the Regional Bureau for Africa: The impact of the war in Ukraine on sustainable development in Africa.
41. United Nations (2023). Voluntary National Review Handbook.
42. United Nations (2021). Food Index Report.
43. United Nations (2021). UN Common Country Analysis of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Zambia.
44. Zambia Information and Communications Authority (2015). Annual Report.
45. Zambia Information and Communications Authority (2018). Annual Report.
46. Zambia Information and Communications Authority (2022). Annual Report.
47. Government of the Republic of Zambia (2016). Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016.
48. ZAMPHIA (2021). The Zambia Population-based HIV/AIDS Impact Assessment 2021.
49. ZamStats (2022). Census of Population and Housing, Preliminary Report.
50. ZamStats (2022). Labour Force Survey, 2021.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

© 2023

Ministry of Finance and National Planning
P.O. Box 50062, Lusaka, ZAMBIA
Tel: +260-211-252395

www.mofnp.gov.zm



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA