



# Zambia Country Analysis Summary





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## ACRONYMS

<b>CA</b>	Country analysis
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FNDP</b>	Fifth National Development Plan
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GRZ</b>	Government of the Republic of Zambia
<b>HIV</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>ILUA</b>	Integrated Land Use Assessment
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>LCMS</b>	Living Conditions Monitoring Survey Report
<b>LMIC</b>	Lower middle-income country
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NRA</b> s	UN non-resident agencies
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>R-SNDP</b>	Revised Sixth National Development Plan
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SCT</b>	Social cash transfers
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SNDP</b>	Sixth National Development Plan
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNIC</b>	United Nations Information Centre
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WMA</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>ZDHS</b>	Zambia Demographic and Health Survey









# CHAPTER I





## INTRODUCTION

The Country Analysis (CA) for Zambia provides the analytical base for the next Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework, which will replace the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in 2016. The CA has been jointly produced by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in order to ensure alignment of UN efforts with national priorities and internationally agreed goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2016. The CA will also contribute to preparation of the Seventh National Development Plan.

The CA will guide the UNCT on the key development challenges that the United Nations in Zambia will address, and ensure that the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups are addressed. This will improve the understanding of

decision makers, partners and other stakeholders on the current socioeconomic situation in the country, the causes of inequality and inequities, and the status of the environment and natural resources, as the basis for identifying priority areas for UN support. The CA will also inform policy dialogue around emerging issues and support the United Nations to leverage strategic partnerships and resources for Zambia's national development aspirations.

The CA particularly identifies patterns of inequalities and discrimination/exclusion. It describes the situation of groups excluded, marginalised and/or otherwise facing vulnerabilities and discrimination, as well as impacts of environmental degradation and climate change. The CA also focuses on unfinished business, with respect to Zambia's MDG targets and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations.







## CHAPTER II





# BACKGROUND

## Overview

Zambia is a landlocked country located on the central plateau of the southern African region, with a land area of 752,612 square kilometres and a fast-growing population of over 15 million<sup>1</sup>. Zambia is one of the most urbanised countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with about 40 per cent<sup>2</sup> of its inhabitants living in urban areas. The number of people in urban areas rose from 3.5 million in 2000 to 5.1 million in 2010<sup>3</sup>. Migration has always played a central role in the history of Zambia. The movement of people into, out of and inside Zambia is a crucial element of the social fabric for all Zambians. This mobility is primarily responsible for the diverse cultural heritage enjoyed by Zambia today.

With a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of around US\$ 1,700<sup>4</sup>, Zambia is now a lower middle-income country (LMIC) with consistent and robust economic growth. It has progressed to the medium human development category<sup>5</sup>. Large portions of the population, however, have not shared in the overall improvement of national prosperity.

## Economic Performance

Zambia's economy has relied heavily on copper mining, which accounts for over 70 per cent of export earnings, but employs less than 2 per cent of the population<sup>6</sup>. The majority of people in Zambia (60 per cent) live in rural areas, where they depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. GDP growth averaged 6 per cent for the period 2006-2013, while inflation declined from 26 per cent towards the end of 1996 to less than 8 per cent in 2014<sup>7</sup>. GDP contribution by sector reflects the country's LMIC status, with wholesale and retail trade contributing 18.4 per cent, followed by mining and quarrying at 12.9 per cent; construction at 10.9 per cent;

agriculture, forestry and fisheries at 9.9 per cent; and manufacturing at 7.9 per cent<sup>8</sup>.

Economic growth has been concentrated in capital-intensive industries such as construction, mining and transport. Growth has taken place in urban areas, while the poorest tend to live in remote areas that are barely connected to markets and the cash economy. Economic growth has not been labour intensive, particularly in those sectors in which the poor tend to work (subsistence agriculture and the informal sector).

Zambia is blessed with abundant natural resources, but economic diversification is still a key development challenge. The majority of people in rural areas and even some urban areas rely on agriculture as the main source of livelihood. Agriculture is, therefore, the sector with the most potential for driving broad-based and inclusive economic growth, followed possibly by trade within both the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trading blocs.

## Human Development Challenges

Despite impressive performance in economic growth and global economic competitiveness, Zambia's indicators in terms of human development have been disappointing. In SADC, Zambia is among the top five performers in business competitiveness, but it is one of the five worst performers on human development indicators, along with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Despite the growth in GDP, poverty levels remain stubbornly high. The poverty headcount declined from 62.8 per cent in 2006 to 60.5 per cent<sup>9</sup> in 2010 with almost no change in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. Zambia

1. World Economic Database 2014 (estimate), IMF.

2. Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2013-2014.

3. UN-Habitat 2013.

4. World Economic Database 2014 (estimate).

5. Global Human Development Report, Human Development Index 2014, UNDP.

6. 2012 Labour Force Survey.

7. World Economic Database 2014, IMF.

8. Central Statistical Office, GDP 2010 benchmark estimates.

9. Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS) 2006 and 2010.



will not achieve the MDG 1 target of halving poverty by 2015. A similar situation is found in other countries of the region with a heavy dependency on extractive industries, including Angola (petroleum), and Botswana and Namibia (mining). None of these countries have been able to achieve rates of human development that match overall economic growth.

In terms of the poverty gap ratio, indicating how far below the poverty line the poor are, the national ratio declined from 62 per cent in 1991 to 28 per cent in 2010, meaning the poor are becoming less poor. For urban areas, the ratio declined from 46 per cent in 1991 to 9 per cent in 2010. The rural poverty gap ratio declined from 70 per cent in 1991 to 38 per cent in 2010.<sup>10</sup>

The difference in the ratio of poverty reduction between urban and rural areas suggests that even the most successful development interventions have not targeted the most vulnerable populations. In both rural and urban households, poverty levels are highest among female-headed households, with extreme poverty levels of over 60 per cent in rural areas and over 15 per cent in urban areas. Except for the moderately poor and non-poor households, poverty head count levels for female-headed households have been highest at more than 62 per cent, with extreme poverty estimated at nearly 50 per cent, and with insignificant change between 2006 and 2010.<sup>11</sup> In addition, in urban areas, migrants and refugees are commonly found among the poorest households, particularly those in informal settlements in and around mining areas.

The proportion and absolute number of children (0-18 years old) living in poverty is much higher than in any other age group. In 2010, 4.6 million children and adolescents lived in poverty, representing 65 per cent of the total child population. Around 46 per cent of children and adolescents live in extreme poverty. Child poverty is predominantly rural: 85 per cent of

poor children live in rural areas.<sup>12</sup>

### **Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies**

Zambia's policies, strategies and programmes for poverty reduction have been articulated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2002-2004), the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP 2006-2010), the Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP 2011-2015) and the Revised Sixth National Development Plan (R-SNDP 2013-2016). R-SNDP is an investment plan that focuses on capital investment areas, with an emphasis on rural development and job creation. The country approved a National Social Protection Policy in June 2014 that includes social cash transfers (SCTs). The SCTs have a poverty reduction objective.

### **Inequality and Vulnerability**

Reducing inequality is Zambia's principal development challenge. By some measures, the situation is actually getting worse. The Gini coefficient, as a measure of income inequality, increased from 0.60 in 2006 to 0.65 in 2010. This resulted from worsening income inequality in rural areas, which rose from 0.54 in 2006 to 0.60 in 2010. On the other hand, the Gini coefficient for urban areas declined from 0.66 in 2006 to 0.60 in 2010. The richest 20 per cent of households in Zambia are responsible for 60 per cent of total expenditure while the poorest 80 per cent share 40 per cent of the total. Poor households spend 66 per cent of their resources on food, with those better off spending only 34 per cent.<sup>13</sup>

Zambia seems divided into two worlds based on formal and informal economies. While urban Zambia is associated with the formal economy and carries the majority of households in the formal sector, most rural areas are associated with the informal economy and accommodate many of the identified vulnerable groups. There are also significant differences among various provinces, constituencies and wards. Patterns of inequalities are associated with the following vulnerable groups:

10. CSO Poverty Trends Report 1996-2006 and LCMS 2010.  
11. LCMS 2006-2010.

12. Situation Analysis 2013, UNICEF.  
13. LCMS 2006-2010.

1. Small-to-medium scale subsistence farmers
2. Urban low-cost households
3. Female-headed households
4. Older household heads above the age of 65
5. Large household size
6. Unemployed and unpaid family workers
7. Children, adolescents and youth
8. Migrants and refugees, particularly those unable to access labour markets and social services under the same conditions as Zambians

### Causes of Vulnerabilities

The main reasons for higher poverty levels in rural areas include inability to afford agricultural inputs, while for people in urban areas, low salaries and wages, lack of employment and lack of capital for business are cited as major reasons. The World Bank (June 2012)<sup>14</sup> highlights two elements directly related to poverty: (i) the pattern of economic growth in Zambia has been highly unequal in remote rural areas, meaning that some sectors and populations have benefited much more than others; and (ii) overall economic growth has not increased the incomes

of the poor rapidly enough to lift them out of poverty. Various social, economic and cultural factors reinforce the vulnerabilities in society, and therefore a focus on underlying socio-cultural causes with intrinsic economic dimensions within the country context is critical.

It is clear that children, young people and women are most affected by poverty. Pervasive inequalities have contributed to women bearing the biggest proportion of poverty due to their limited access to and control over productive resources such as land, livestock, credit and modern technology. In addition, discriminatory laws that restrict women's legal capacity have a direct bearing on their income-earning capacities. For these reasons, women are over-represented in the informal and 'survival' sectors where income is extremely low and unreliable. All of these factors enhance women's vulnerability to poverty.

In sum, vulnerability in Zambia means: (i) parents have no or only primary education; (ii) they live mainly in a rural area, though poverty is evident in urban areas as well; (iii) their household has no safe drinking water, proper sanitation or electricity; (iv) they likely suffer from malnutrition; and (v) they have limited access to quality and affordable health and education services. One

### Leaving no one behind

*The Batwa are an indigenous people who inhabit remote parts of the Luapula, Western and Southern provinces in Zambia. Historically discriminated against, marginalised and excluded from mainstream development processes, the Batwa experience significant obstacles to realising their human rights, including the right to education, health, food, water and sanitation, and adequate housing.*

*Challenges in obtaining National Registration Cards (citizenship certificates), sometimes based on discrimination, have a significant impact on the Batwa accessing social services, and*

*participating in Zambia's economic and political life. As a result, their views and concerns remain unheard and excluded from decision-making processes.*

*In 2014, the United Nations in Zambia, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President, increased public awareness about the Batwa people, and the discrimination and vulnerabilities they face. All people are entitled to fundamental human rights, including through a social protection floor. This is key to building resilient and empowered communities.*

14. World Bank, 2012, "Zambia Economic Brief: Recent economic developments and the state of basic human opportunities for children," Lusaka.

result is that poverty in Zambia is transmitted across generations.

### Employment

In 2012, in a working-age population of 7.9 million people, the labour force participation rate was estimated at 76 per cent overall, about the same rate for men and women. The participation rate was highest in rural areas at 79 per cent compared to urban areas at 72 per cent. Between 1986 and 2012, there was little change in the labour force participation rate in rural areas, even though in urban areas it increased from 57 per cent in 1986 to 72 per cent in 2012. The highest proportion of employed persons (52 per cent) were in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry, followed by activities of households as employers (13 per cent); trade, wholesale and retail distribution (12 per cent); manufacturing (4 per cent) and construction (3 per cent). Some 53 per cent of employed persons were men who were self-employed, while 36 per cent of the women were self-employed. Unpaid family

workers largely comprised women at 52 per cent compared to men at 17 per cent. There were more men as paid employees at 30 per cent compared to women at 11 per cent<sup>15</sup>.

Unemployment and underemployment rates are as high as 7.9 per cent and 10.2 per cent, respectively. Unemployment rates are highest in urban areas at 14 per cent compared to 3 per cent in rural areas, leading to geographic inequality. In 2012, the urban youth unemployment rate (aged 15-35) stood at 17.2 per cent (19.8 per cent for females and 14.3 per cent for males). Among youth, male unemployment is particularly high for the age group 20-24, while female unemployment is high for the age group 15-24, standing over 25 per cent. Urban areas of Eastern, Western and Muchinga provinces have the highest proportion of women unemployed at more than 30 per cent<sup>16</sup>.

High unemployment levels and the pervasiveness of informal employment are core obstacles to



15. Labour Force Survey 2012, Zambia Central Statistics Office.  
16. Ibid.



poverty alleviation and decent work for most people in Zambia. Over time, formal sector employment has remained almost unchanged as a proportion of overall employment. Of the total employed population, only about 850,000 people (15 per cent) are formally employed; the remainder work in the informal economy. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector accounts for most informal employment

(nearly 60 per cent), but almost every sector of the Zambian economy has some informal element<sup>17</sup>. The overwhelming prevalence of informal employment impacts the ability of most Zambians and foreigners (including refugees and migrants) living in the country to access secure employment, regular and reasonable wages, better working conditions, gender equality, social security and representation. Decent employment

***Progress towards middle-income Zambia comes with addressing inequality, strengthening social protection and reducing vulnerabilities***

*One of the biggest contributors to vulnerability is inequality. It causes instability, increasing the frequency of big swings in the economy (United Nations General Assembly, 2013). Extremes of inequality mean that larger fractions of the population are in poverty, with lower ability to cope with shocks when they occur. Extremes of economic inequality inevitably lead to political inequality, with the result that governments are less likely to provide the systems of social protection that can protect those at the bottom from the consequences of shocks (United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2012 as cited in the Human Development Report, 2014).*

*Various social, economic and cultural factors, including discrimination, reinforce vulnerabilities in a society. Therefore, a focus on underlying socio-cultural causes with intrinsic economic dimensions within a country context is critical. In rural Zambia, large numbers of people are vulnerable as a result of their inability to afford agricultural inputs as well as to cope with climate change. In urban Zambia, youth, including those who are able and productive, especially in the informal sector, face economic vulnerability due to low salaries and wages, lack of employment and lack of capital for businesses.*

*Zambia has high income inequality that leaves a large number of people vulnerable to shocks. Progress towards prosperous middle-income Zambia by 2030 will come only with a reduction of inequality and by limiting vulnerability. Vulnerability has multiple causes and consequences and therefore requires a broad systemic perspective, cross-sector thinking and multiple interventions. For example, education and health enhance the ability of individuals to cope with shocks, as more educated individuals can easily move from one job to another. But strong social protection (e.g., social cash transfers, social security, maternity protection, micro-insurance) is the answer for many marginalised by unemployment, illness or disability, illiteracy, lack of identity documents or gender. As seen in Europe following the 2008 global economic crisis, strong universal social protection policies can improve individual resilience and encourage the resilience of the economy.*

*There is no single sector solution for reducing vulnerability. Universal social protection coverage, however, can help households avoid negative coping strategies, such as taking children out of school, postponing necessary medical care or selling assets, all detrimental to long-term well-being.*

17. Ibid.

is particularly elusive for refugees, migrants, young people, women, people with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

The bulk of workers have no safety net for dealing with unexpected problems or expenses. They are more likely to end up in the poverty trap if they lose their source of income. Although there are some government social protection programmes, these are underfunded, and payments are irregular.

Child labour is a widespread problem. According to recent International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates, 41 per cent of 5-14 year olds (1.3 million children)<sup>18</sup> are in child labour, mostly working in agriculture, and an estimated 169,000<sup>19</sup> children aged 5-17 have been exposed to hazardous forms of child labour.

#### **Nutrition and Food Security**

Cereals, mainly maize, supply 64 per cent of dietary energy. The national diet, over-reliant

on maize, is insufficient to fulfill energy needs. It does not provide adequate quantity and quality of protein, and is highly deficient in micronutrients, all of which have serious implications for human well-being. Stunting levels in children under age five peaked at 53 per cent in 2000-2002, but only fell to 40 per cent by 2013-2014. The prevalence of stunting is correlated with the educational status of mothers, but is still high, irrespectively: Children of mothers with no education had the highest levels of stunting at 51 per cent; children of mothers with primary education had a stunting level of 44 per cent; and children of mothers with secondary education and higher had levels at 40.3 per cent and 28.1 per cent, respectively. The number of underweight children declined from 21 per cent to 15 per cent between 1992 and 2013, but has shown no subsequent improvement. For wasting, the level has remained at 6 per cent since 1992 and is largely influenced by the incidence of childhood diseases<sup>20</sup>.



18. Update of the Situation Analysis of Children and Women 2013, UNICEF.

19. "Understanding Children's Work in Zambia," 2009, a study conducted by the ILO, UNICEF and World Bank.

20. Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) 2013-2014.

Inadequate dietary intake is common among adolescent mothers, resulting in low birth weight babies. Underlying causes operate at household and community levels, including household food insecurity, inadequate care for women and children, unhealthy household environments and lack of health services, with income poverty underpinning all of these. Therefore, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, improving educational levels and maternal nutritional status, family planning and disease prevention, among other factors, are inextricably linked to reducing undernutrition. Long-term improvement in food and nutrition security at various levels comes from sustained and robust growth, and macroeconomic and structural policies that promote job creation, economic inclusion, social empowerment and improved investment in key sectors.

### **Mortality and Morbidity**

Although both maternal and childhood mortality have declined over time, the country is still far behind in achieving the targets of MDG 4 on reducing child mortality and MDG 5 on improving maternal health. Maternal mortality declined from 729 deaths per 100,000 births in 2002 to 591 in 2007 and 398 in 2013-2014. Under-five mortality fell from 191 deaths per 1,000 births in 1992 to 75 in 2013-2014. Between 2007 and 2013-2014, under-five mortality decreased by nearly 37 per cent. Infant mortality has also dropped, from 107 deaths per 1,000 births in 1992 to 45 per 1,000 in 2013-2014. All mortality rates are generally higher in rural than urban areas, and correlate with the educational and income levels of mothers.

Improved health outcomes are constrained by poor quality health and medical services; non-availability of medicines, equipment and supplies; shortages of skilled human resources, especially in rural areas; and social determinants of health such as low income, gender inequality, lack of

information and access to services, infrastructure that limits physical access and weak community support systems.

Underlying causes of high mortality rates can be categorised as occurring at the individual, household, community, institutional and policy levels, including poverty, gender inequality limiting timely and positive household decision-making, unequal power relations that often lead to teenage pregnancy, and harmful practices such as early marriages<sup>21</sup>. HIV prevalence among people aged 15-49 is 13 per cent: 18 per cent in urban areas, 9 per cent in rural areas, 11 per cent among males and 15 per cent among females<sup>22</sup>.

### **Education**

Zambia's education system consists of pre-school, basic, secondary and tertiary education. The Education Act provides for the promotion, development and control of schools, educational institutions and services. Every child has the right to free basic education, and parents are expected to ensure that their children attend school. Primary school enrolment increased from 80 per cent in the early 1990s to nearly 94 per cent in 2010. Enrolment of girls rose from 69 per cent in 1990 to nearly 94 per cent in 2010, while enrolment of boys went up from 71 per cent to 93 per cent. Pupils reaching Grade 7 increased from 64 per cent in the early 1990s to nearly 91 per cent in 2010. The increase was higher for girls than boys, although girls still continue to have lower Grade 7 completion rates than boys. Between 1990 and 2010, national literacy levels for Zambian youth climbed from 75 per cent to 89 per cent<sup>23</sup>.

Primary education is free up to Grade 7, with high enrolment and retention up to this level. The transition to secondary or tertiary education is low, however, with high dropout rates. Another challenge arises from the school age population that has never attended school. In 2010, 16 per cent of this group had never attended school;

21. Joint general recommendation/general comment No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. CEDAW/C/GC/31-CRC/C/GC/18, 4 November 2014.

22. ZDHS 2013-2014.

23. Zambia MDG Progress Report 2013.

the proportion was not significantly different between girls and boys. The figure was 22 per cent in rural areas compared to 7 per cent in urban areas. Girls have a higher dropout rate than boys from the age of 12, coinciding with puberty. The main reason for dropping out for both girls and boys is economic at 27 per cent. The second reason is related to pregnancy, which accounts for 58 per cent of the girls who drop out of school in grades 10-12, followed by economic reasons and early marriage.<sup>24</sup>

There is a linear relationship between poverty and educational achievement. A household head with no or only primary education is seven times more likely to live in poverty than one who attained tertiary education. The current primary school dropout rate of 47 per cent suggests a bleak future for a large proportion of adolescents, with limited potential for income generation, good health, gender equality and participation in national development. Zambia has 561,269 children aged 7-18 who are not in school.<sup>25</sup>

### **Water and Sanitation**

The proportion of people without access to an improved water source declined from 51 per cent in the early 1990s to nearly 37 per cent in 2010. However, the proportion without access to improved sanitation increased from 26 per cent in 1991 to 67 per cent by 2010, which might be explained by worsening sanitary conditions in peri-urban settlements. Only 15 per cent of the population has a piped water supply onto premises, largely in urban areas, where 36 per cent of premises have piped water. About 50 per cent of rural households rely on surface water and other unimproved sources. This reflects both scarcity of clean water for washing, as well as lack of knowledge of the benefits of hand-washing. Improved sources such as boreholes and wells account for 48 per cent of drinking water in rural areas. Around 80 per cent of households use pit latrines: 95 per cent in rural areas and 65 per cent in urban areas<sup>26</sup>.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

There are two key dimensions of environmental sustainability in Zambia: climate change, and environment and natural resources management. Climate change impacts can be noted particularly in land-based activities. According to the Meteorological Department, there has been an increase in the frequency of extreme events, such as floods and droughts, in the last four decades, along with temperature rises. In the past three decades, temperature has been increasing at 0.6<sup>0</sup> Celsius per decade. Mean rainfall has decreased by 2.3 per cent<sup>27</sup> per decade, with shorter rainy seasons and more erratic rainfall events, leading to occasional droughts and floods in the last decade.<sup>28</sup>

Climate-induced changes to physical and biological systems are already exerting considerable stress on the country's vulnerable sectors. Agriculture and food security, wildlife, forestry, water and energy, health and infrastructure have been adversely impacted, thereby affecting the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development efforts.

The national land use assessment of 2005-2008 found that Zambia still has a forest cover of 66 per cent of the total land area. Forests are generally in good condition in that 63 per cent remain undisturbed or only slightly disturbed. On the other hand, 5.6 per cent of forest and other wooded land is heavily disturbed. These are forests where there is high human pressure for forest products and services, or the encroachment of agriculture. Cropland and built-up land together cover 24 per cent of total land area, while grassland occupies 10 per cent and land under water comprises 4 per cent.<sup>29</sup>

One of the major challenges to natural resource management relates to ownership and management of land. About 94 per cent

24. Situation Analysis 2013, UNICEF.

25. Educational Statistical Bulletin, 2014, Ministry of Education, Zambia.

26. Situation Analysis 2013, UNICEF.

27. Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources and FAO, 2008, Integrated Land Use Assessment (ILUA) Zambia 2005-2008, Lusaka.

28. Droughts in 1991-1992 and 2004-2005, and floods in 2006-2007 and 2009-2010.

29. ILUA, Zambia, 2005-2008.





of land is owned and managed by customary authorities, with only about 6 per cent being considered state land.<sup>30</sup> Twenty-four per cent of forestland is in state hands.<sup>31</sup> In this situation, it is difficult to manage forests sustainably, or to mitigate or adapt to climate change. Customary land is increasingly deforested and degraded, given pressure for alternative uses, especially among the poor, who cannot secure titles to rangeland. Lack of freehold ownership has been shown to reduce the incentive to manage the land sustainably. Poorer households have demonstrated a higher dependence on fuel wood, use of medicinal plants and other forest products that poses challenges to natural resource management and climate change adaptation.

In some areas of Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt, Northern, North Western and Southern provinces, environmental degradation arises

from land clearance for agriculture, unsustainable charcoal production and mining operations. The country has also been losing wildlife, thereby compromising potential nature-based tourism. The principal causes of environmental degradation include:

- High levels of poverty that leave the majority of people, particularly in rural areas, dependant on natural resources for livelihoods. Poor communities tend to resort to unsustainable management practices, which creates a downward spiral where both poverty and resource degradation mutually reinforce each other.
- High levels of economic growth with concomitant regulatory pressures, particularly in the mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors, and inequality in development between rural and urban areas. The former activities often displace people, who are forced to move into conservation or protected areas.

30. Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

31. ILUA, Zambia, 2005-2008.





### ***Where some are more equal than others...***

*In 2011, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences noted that gender inequality in Zambia is prevalent in many sectors, and is reflected in the low status and limited opportunities for women and girls. In addition to poverty, cultural and traditional practices continue to infringe on the rights of women and girls. Some customary practices that contribute to discrimination against women and fuel violence include sexual cleansing, initiation ceremonies that indoctrinate young women to be submissive to male domination, early marriages, malobola or lobola (bride price), and polygamy.*

*The Country Analysis noted: "Women and girls in Zambia, at all income levels and across all education levels, continue to suffer a variety of forms of violence including battery, sexual abuse and exploitation, rape, defilement and incest.*

*Physical and sexual violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive means by which gender inequalities are manifested and this has a strong nexus with the social, economic and cultural situation of women. These violent crimes against the female population have been reported from girl babies through all ages up to women in their 90s. Urban areas, and especially Lusaka province, tend to have higher levels of women experiencing both physical and sexual violence. However, the actual number of violence against women in rural areas could be higher as reporting of such cases in urban areas is likely to be higher than in rural areas. In 2014 alone, 15,153, cases of Gender Based Violence and crime were recorded. Out of them Violence Against Women and girls were 11,288 (Per day 31 girls and women faced violence)." (Data compiled by Zambia Police, the Ministry of Home Affairs of Zambia)*

- Policy and institutional weaknesses with inadequate monitoring and planning.
- The slow formulation and implementation of policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks. Out of 38 global conventions ratified, only two have been fully domesticated.
- Inadequate information and limited public awareness, thereby reducing opportunities for effective management and decision-making.
- Operational and technological deficiencies, such as inefficient farming techniques employing unsustainable agricultural practices.
- Limited alternative energy sources perpetuating unsustainable charcoal production.

### **Peace and Security**

The political and human rights situation in Zambia is generally described as stable, despite isolated violent political incidents. Zambia has managed political transitions well through largely peaceful democratic processes—five peaceful elections since the multiparty system was introduced in 1991—and has remained at peace for the 50 years since independence. Zambia has significant levels of violence and injustice, however, often in multiple and hidden forms. These span all levels of society. Discrimination and inequalities in gender, the rural-urban divide, educational attainment, limited employment opportunities and high levels of poverty are all contributing factors.

Meeting the imperatives of peace and security in society is often most urgent for highly vulnerable populations that include those living in poverty, women, children and the aged, people with disabilities, vulnerable migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and minorities. Lack of employment opportunities and hope within the growing youth population in particular, coupled with limited social protection mechanisms, pose risks of potential instability, crime and social breakdown.

Women and girls in Zambia at all income levels and across all education levels suffer a variety of forms of violence including battery, sexual abuse and exploitation, rape, defilement and incest. Physical and sexual violence against women and girls are among the most pervasive means by which gender inequalities and underlying discrimination against women manifest, underscoring the strong nexus with the social, economic and cultural situation of women and girls. Violent crimes against them have been reported at all ages, from infancy to women in their 90s.

### **Migration and Refugees**

Zambia experiences various migration flows through its territory, and is a source, transit and destination country for people on the move, including asylum seekers, unaccompanied and separated children, victims of human trafficking and labour migrants. A 2009 International Organization for Migration (IOM) study<sup>32</sup> estimated that approximately 17,000 to 20,000 irregular migrants journey from East and the Horn of Africa towards South Africa, often transiting Zambia, every year. Irregular migrants are often subject to physical, sexual and other forms of abuse, as well as violations of human rights, at the hands of migrant smugglers or human traffickers.

Zambia is a destination country for asylum seekers and refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the Horn of Africa. Zambia has a population of over 50,000 refugees and other persons of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who reside primarily in refugee settlements in the Western and North-Western provinces, although several thousand have self-settled throughout the country as well as in urban areas of Lusaka.<sup>33</sup> The economic vulnerabilities predominant in refugee settlements place refugee women and children at particular risk of being trafficked while seeking employment and livelihoods.

32. "Addressing the Multiple Dimensions of Poverty and Inequality in Zambia," United Nations Zambia Signature Issues Series #1.  
33. UNHCR 2015. See: [www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e485ba6&submit=GO#](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e485ba6&submit=GO#).

Managing irregular migration (i.e., migration outside the regulatory norms of the state), including human trafficking and migrant smuggling, presents a very real challenge for Zambia, particularly in finding a balance between managing security concerns and upholding the human rights of persons on the move. The cross-border nature of these issues requires inter-state and regional collaboration, including in the SADC region. Detention of migrants is often used as a strategy to manage irregular migration. Zambia has taken significant steps to respond to migration management challenges and is a signatory to the main international agreements on human rights relating to migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Many of the provisions of these protocols have been domesticated, and the country has taken strides forward in responding particularly to human trafficking. Zambia is a signatory to the COMESA Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Labour, and Services, but

has yet to sign the SADC Facilitation of Movement of Persons Protocol.

There are security and injustice issues associated with migration, both in-country from rural to urban areas, and across borders. Circular labour migration, for example, is one means through which gaps in labour supply and demand are filled. Issues such as internal trafficking, regarded as the most prevalent form of human trafficking in Zambia, constitute a harmful aspect of internal population movements. Individuals from rural communities, children in particular, are internally trafficked to work in the agricultural sector, domestic servitude or other types of forced labour, such as sexual exploitation.

Zambia continues to experience challenges, from the policy to the operational levels, in comprehensively managing migration and



upholding the rights of migrants. It has hosted refugees and asylum seekers since the 1960s, and currently hosts some 50,000 persons of concern to UNHCR, mainly Angolans, Rwandans and Congolese in two settlements in Mayukwayukwa near Kaoma and Meheba near Solwezi. Zambia has approved the local integration of 10,000 former Angolan refugees, but has imposed certain restrictions on the rights of refugees, most notably their freedom of movement and their right to work. The most visible manifestation of these restrictions is the 'encampment' policy, which assigns refugees to two settlements, from which their freedom of movement is controlled. Relaxing such restrictions would enhance the long-term economic benefit of the refugee population.

### **Governance**

Zambia's efforts in undertaking public service reform are noteworthy: Institutions, policies, plans and strategies are aimed at effectively delivering services. As part of public sector reform, the Government has introduced a Public Financial Management Reform Strategy, a National Decentralization Policy and a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. However, inadequate information and disaggregated data and limited use of available data to inform planning, programming, monitoring, budgeting and expenditure frameworks remain challenges. The current National Statistical System is limited in its capacity for coordination and harmonisation of statistical data production, with an increasing number of entities proliferating in the collection of data. Ineffective pro-poor policy planning and implementation, inadequate levels of transparency, and insufficient rule of law and public accountability frameworks have continued to undermine development results. The Auditor General's Report for 2013 shows recurrent audit

queries in 86 of the 130 audits undertaken that year. There is generally low public participation in national and democratic processes, which further weakens accountability for public resources, and has hampered effective delivery of key social services.

Contradictory legislative frameworks, including incongruence between statutory and customary laws, present challenges in implementation of international instruments. Other development concerns that remain pervasive include inequality in the participation of men, women and youth in leadership and gainful economic activities. While women made up 52 per cent of voters in the 2011 general elections, their numbers are low in political decision-making, both at the local council level at 6.3 per cent and in Parliament at 11.4 per cent. There is currently no youth representation in Parliament.

Zambia has ratified the main UN human rights conventions, but the challenge remains to bridge the implementation gap. According to the Mo Ibrahim Index 2014, Zambia ranks 13th out of 52 African countries, and is about equal to the countries of Southern Africa. Among African countries, Zambia ranks well in safety and the rule of law, national security, participation and the business environment. It does poorly in gender equality, public sector management, the rural sector, welfare and health. Relative to the other countries of Southern Africa, Zambia ranks well in participation, the business environment, personal safety, the rule of law and the rural sector, and poorly in infrastructure, gender equality, public management, accountability, welfare and health. The following table<sup>34</sup> presents a comparison of various dimensions of governance in Zambia relative to other countries in Africa and Southern Africa:

34. See: [www.moibrahimfoundation.org/country/zambia](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/country/zambia).



Index	Score	Zambia's rank in Africa (a)	Southern Africa regional score (b)	Per cent +/-, region
<b>Ibrahim Index of African Governance</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Safety and rule of law</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>+4</b>
- Rule of law	69.3	9	64.4	+8
- Accountability	44.9	14	50.4	-11
- Personal safety	51.1	19	47.0	+9
- National security	95.0	6	89.3	+6
<b>Participation and human rights</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>+2</b>
- Participation	69.5	12	59.3	+17
- Human rights	60.6	18	56.1	+8
- Gender equality	51.0	29	62.1	-18
<b>Sustainable economic opportunity</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>-2</b>
- Public management	47.6	28	52.4	-9
- Business environment	61.1	10	55.6	+10
- Infrastructure	38.2	22	47.8	-20
- Rural sector	57.0	24	53.3	+7
<b>Human development governance</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>-2</b>
- Welfare	51.0	28	56.0	-9
- Education	59.4	17	57.4	+3
- Health	73.7	25	75.5	-2

(a) Out of 52 countries (b) Average for the southern Africa region











# CHAPTER III



# KEY PRIORITIES FOR ENSURING EQUITY IN ZAMBIA

Various studies have highlighted the poverty and inequality patterns that result from spatio-geographical and economic drivers. Socio-cultural drivers, mostly at community and grass-roots level, result from some of the societal root causes of inequality that existing policies and resources in Zambia have not adequately addressed. The UN Signature Issue Papers on “Addressing the Multiple Dimensions of Poverty and Inequalities in Zambia” and “The Condition of Young People in June 2013”<sup>35</sup> reached several key conclusions:

- i. Combining targeted transfers with the provision of affordable and quality basic social services and infrastructure, and the reduction of gender imbalances, can be a powerful mix of instruments to reduce both poverty and inequality.
- ii. Zambia can use the ongoing development of a comprehensive national social protection policy to formulate bold policy intentions on the expansion of social assistance for the extreme poor. This includes the rationalisation of the existing and multiple social protection schemes. Adequately targeting the extreme poor is not an easy exercise, and is one where data and information have to be constantly monitored and updated. When done well, however, it has the potential to significantly reduce poverty and inequalities. The National Social Protection Policy should, ideally, link to efforts to improve the pro-poor targeting of agricultural subsidy support programmes.
- iii. Measures to shift budgetary resources to ensure adequate coverage through targeted school feeding, public education and health services for the poor, and social cash transfers are means through which well-resourced and implemented social policy effectively contributes to narrowing the gap between the rich and poor.
- iv. The need to redirect national policy and expenditures to inequality- and poverty-reducing goals are necessary if Zambia is to shift gear to have a real impact on its relatively static high levels of poverty and growing inequalities.
- v. The United Nations must continue and intensify its collective efforts in data gathering and impartial analysis to ensure an accurate and current picture of poverty and inequality in Zambia. It needs to share this information and continue to advocate for the issues in the public domain; ensure on-time policy support to national decision makers; and invest its programme resources to support national initiatives that aim directly at reducing poverty and inequality.

35. See: [www.zm.one.un.org/our\\_policies](http://www.zm.one.un.org/our_policies).







## CHAPTER IV







## COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN ZAMBIA

The United Nations in Zambia maintains a unique comparative advantage as a dedicated partner of the Government in its ability to respond to specific development needs of the country. Guided by universally recognised human rights standards and international norms, the United Nations in Zambia offers its services and support in: i) promotion of innovative and thought leadership; ii) development of policies and normative frameworks, and their implementation in line with international conventions and treaties to which Zambia is a state party; and iii) innovation—piloting new initiatives, and developing knowledge networks and sharing, including to promote South-South learning. Such comparative advantages mean the United Nations in Zambia is well placed to forge partnerships to leverage the technical expertise, capacities and resources of external partners to support Zambia in achieving transformative results.

A 2014 survey<sup>36</sup> to assess whether or not the United Nations in Zambia has, in particular, i) the mandate to meet emerging development challenges in Zambia and the capacity to do so, and ii) is better positioned to act in responding to those challenges than others, highlighted the fact that the United Nations in Zambia is adept at ensuring an integrated approach, working

across sectors and providing specialised advice to address complex multi-sectoral development challenges. The survey underscored that the United Nations operates as a neutral and impartial broker. It maintains a comparative advantage also in its skill in advocating effectively; building institutional capacity at all levels; collaborating with both the Government and non-government actors, especially in empowering marginalised and vulnerable populations; and fostering intergovernmental partnerships to address regional and international issues.

The United Nations in Zambia strives to reach the highest standards of accountability, transparency and impact as it prepares to roll out its first Partnership Framework in 2016, and to provide coherent support to Zambia's progress towards achieving sustainable development. This includes supporting Zambia as it decides how to localise the SDGs through meaningful and ambitious national targets. The UNCT comprises: 13 resident<sup>37</sup> UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies, and 12 non-resident<sup>38</sup> agencies. The Bretton Woods organisations, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, are part of the UN System, and they contribute to Zambia's development priorities in close coordination with the UNCT.

36. United Nations Comparative Advantage and Stakeholder Survey 2014.

37. FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNV, WFP and WHO.

38. IAEA, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNODC and WMA.





# CHAPTER V





## WAY FORWARD

Zambia's Vision 2030 envisages the gradual transformation of the structure of the economy. The strategic focus of the Government is to address low levels of employment, invest in rural development and reduce widening inequalities. In its national planning, the Government utilises a number of strategies to achieve socioeconomic transformation for a "prosperous middle-income" Zambia. It is clear from this Country Analysis that extreme poverty is widespread in Zambia, and that the levels and patterns have hardly changed over time. Children, adolescents, young persons and women comprise the most vulnerable groups who experience greater burdens from inequalities. Poverty, disadvantage and vulnerability, particularly in rural areas, are passed from one generation to another.

Breaking this cycle of vulnerabilities requires a strategic shift that cuts across the four dimensions of sustainable development: inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security. A fundamental shift from sectoral interventions to integrated investment in areas that will help develop a Zambia with a well-educated, healthy and aspirational population is the need today. This is possible when duty-bearers are held accountable by empowered and educated rights-holders, who are sensitised on how to claim their rights, supported by evidence on the magnitude and manifestations of existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Sustainable development is for both present and future generations, for all people, old and young, rich and poor, female and male, without exception. Eradicating poverty by 2030 is the overarching objective of the sustainable development agenda, which Zambia has fully embraced in its Vision 2030. Pro-poor economic growth should lead to inclusive and equitable

prosperity. In this sense, the equitability of an economy can be measured by the degree to which it meets the needs of all its people, and by how sustainably and equitably it does so. This means addressing persisting income inequalities, and improving access by a large marginalised population to prosperity and economic opportunities, including productive assets and sustainable livelihoods.

Participatory democracy, peaceful and inclusive societies with empowered women and men, and adherence to rule of law, rooted in compliance with international human rights norms and standards are the essence of sustainable development. Governance challenges in Zambia remain across political, economic and social spheres, however. To address these challenges, there is a need for transformation across systems and society. Key to this is to create an enabling environment that embraces the rule of law, legislative reform and accountability in line with international standards and universally recognised human rights norms and principles.

First, using the United Nations's comparative advantages and working with the Government of Zambia according to national priorities for socioeconomic transformation should be the focus of the next Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework. Second, building new partnerships with a broad array of stakeholders should be at the heart of the Partnership Framework design and implementation process. This will ensure knowledge sharing and predictable investments for required interventions. Finally, to manage potential risks emanating from this fundamental shift in approach of the United Nations' development work, participatory monitoring and evaluations of progress should be integral to Partnership Framework implementation.

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