



UNITED NATIONS
ZAMBIA



UN Zambia Annual Report 2025



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Foreword



In the year marking the United Nations' 80th Anniversary, 2025 emerged as one of the most testing periods for the people in Zambia. The country faced a convergence of environmental and economic pressures, with widespread power shortages triggered by the devastating 2024 drought, resulting in shrinking across many sectors of the economy. Although the GDP in 2025 was expected to grow to around 5.8%, up from 3.8% recorded in 2024, the growth did not lead to poverty reduction. In 2025, poverty levels remained high at around 60% with commodity prices continuing to rise, despite inflation dropping to 12.3% from around 16% in 2024. The electricity crisis starkly revealed the country's vulnerability to its heavy dependency on hydropower and traditional farming systems.

The increased geographical tension, unforeseen climate impact, and shifts in global financing demanded extraordinary agility and unity from the United Nations Country Team. What began as a year of crisis slowly became a strong demonstration of national resilience and collaborative determination.

Guided by the Eighth National Development Plan and our Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027), the UN in Zambia moved decisively from emergency response to driving deeper systemic transformation. This shift enabled us not only to address immediate needs but also to help lay the foundation for long-term sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Significant progress was made across all areas of our work. In advancing prosperity and green growth, we continued to champion Zambia's Just Energy Transition, supporting efforts to align climate action with industrial growth so that the transition to a low-carbon economy generates decent jobs as well as accelerating the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. To improve livelihoods and productive capacities, our support reached over 72,100 smallholder farmers with climate-smart agricultural training, while 30,000 households received drought-tolerant seed packs. These were critical interventions that protected livelihoods and helped safeguard future harvests.

Even amid economic difficulty, investments in people remained unwavering. Zambia sustained uninterrupted national vaccine availability throughout the year, and through the "Big CatchUp,"

more than 461,000 zero-dose children were reached with lifesaving immunization services. Advances in maternal and newborn health were equally encouraging, with notable reductions in neonatal prematurity and birth asphyxia, reflecting strengthened health systems and improved service delivery.

Our commitment to leaving no one behind was reinforced through expanded social protection, delivering regular cash assistance to 1.3 million households. An additional 60,000 vulnerable families were enrolled for health coverage under the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIMA). We also deepened engagement with young people, equipping more than 14,000 youth with entrepreneurial skills and digital literacy, enhancing their opportunities for meaningful participation in the economy.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Zambia, our development partners, private sector, civil society, and the people in Zambia for their steadfast collaboration. As we look to 2026, the UN remains committed to accelerating the impact, leveraging data from the recent Population and Housing Census to ensure precision in planning, policy formulation and delivery. Together, we are building a Zambia that is not only more resilient to future shocks but is emerging as a regional model for sustainable development.

Beatrice Mutali
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zambia

UN in Zambia

United Nations Country Team

Resident



Non- Resident



Key Development Partners





Country Context

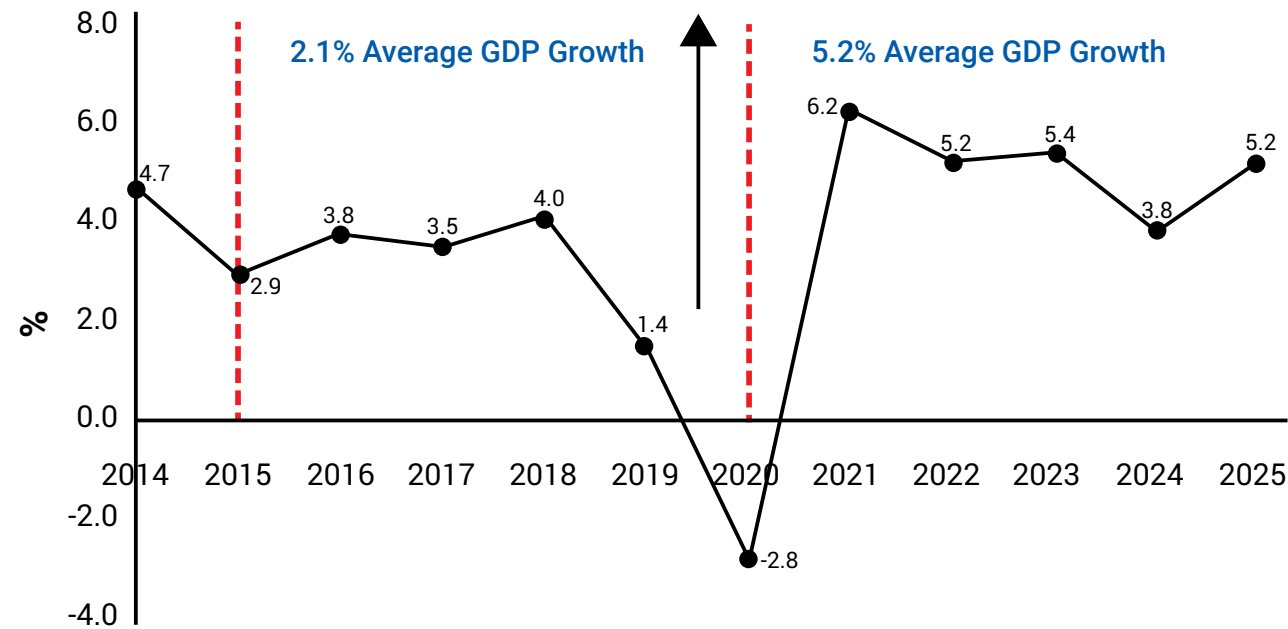
Zambia's central location in Southern Africa, bordered by eight countries, positions it as a potential regional trade and transport hub. Its "land-linked" status offers opportunities for cross-border commerce, logistics, and resource-driven growth.

In 2025, Zambia made remarkable progress in stabilizing its economy through debt restructuring, reaching agreements on about 94% of its US\$13.3 billion external debt. This historic achievement enabled the country to exit default status and secure credit rating upgrades, boosting investor confidence. As a result, fiscal pressure eased significantly, with external debt servicing costs dropping from approximately US\$2.3 billion to around US\$900 million. These developments strengthened Zambia's macroeconomic fundamentals, laying a solid foundation for sustained economic growth and long-term development.

Key Economic Indicators for 2025

Zambia recorded a strong economic recovery with GDP growth estimated at 5.2%, up from 3.8% in 2024. This rebound was fueled by high copper exports, revitalized agricultural output, expansion in manufacturing, growth in ICT, and increased investments in the energy sector. The improved performance reflects the government's commitment to fiscal discipline and its determination to tackle socio-economic challenges, positioning the country on a more sustainable development path.

GDP growth rate for Zambia (2014 to 2025)



Source: Ministry of Finance

Toward the end of 2025, the Zambian Kwacha emerged as the world's best-performing currency, a dramatic turnaround from its poor performance in 2024 and early 2025. After hitting a low of ZMW29.10 per US D in January 2025, the Kwacha rebounded strongly by March, trading at around ZMW19.4 per US D. This appreciation was driven by rising copper prices, increased foreign exchange supply, effective monetary policies that emphasized local transactions, and improved agricultural performance, signaling renewed strength in Zambia's economic fundamentals.

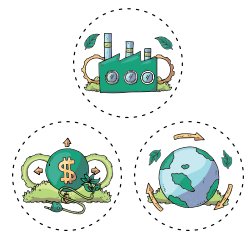
Zambia's population has grown steadily at 3% annually over the past decade, reaching 19.6 million in 2023 from 13.1 million in 2010, with youths making up 65% of the population. Over 60% of citizens live in rural areas, highlighting a significant demographic shift and a youthful median age, with youths accounting for about 26% of the total population. In response, the government introduced the National Youth Policy in 2025 to mobilize resources that empower young people to realize their potential and contribute to national goals, including Vision 2030, the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP), the African Union Agenda 2063, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Zambia remains one of Africa's most peaceful nations, recognized regionally and internationally for its history of non-violent power transitions and credible, transparent elections. The political environment is currently stable, though the upcoming 2026 general elections will require close monitoring to safeguard freedom of speech, democracy, governance, and human rights while addressing issues of tribalism and corruption. Progress has been made, including the adoption of the Access to Information Act and amendments to the Marriage Act, but further efforts are needed to fully implement these laws and align them with international human rights standards.



UN Development System Support
To National Priorities Through
The Sustainable Development
Cooperation Framework

Prosperity Pillar



By 2027, all people including the marginalized and vulnerable groups, benefit from an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy that provides equitable, diverse and sustainable opportunities for decent jobs, livelihoods and businesses



Economic Transformation and Job Creation



Key Highlights

Outcome 1:

By 2027, all people in Zambia, including the marginalized and vulnerable groups, benefit from an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy that provides equitable, diverse and sustainable opportunities for decent jobs, livelihoods, businesses.

Output 1.1:

Improved capacities of the state and non-state actors to design, implement and monitor coherent and inclusive policies, and financing strategies that promote decent employment, livelihood opportunities and sustainable growth

Regional and National Policy Impact

- ▶ A SADC Just Energy Transition (JET) Policy Framework was established, creating a regional instrument to drive inclusive, low-carbon, climate-resilient economic growth.
- ▶ Zambia achieved strengthened national policy coherence, integrating energy, industrial, climate, and social policies to support a just and affordable energy transition.

Improved Climate Financing Capacity

- ▶ A national policy brief on financing climate action and the JET framework enhanced Zambia's capacity to mobilize domestic and international climate finance.

- ▶ Strengthened Public Financial Management
- ▶ Finalization of the Local Authorities Budgeting Manual enabled harmonized budgeting and stronger financial management across local authorities.

Enhanced Urban Governance and SDG Localization

- ▶ Lusaka City Council's capacity for SDG localization improved, strengthening municipal finance, service delivery, and accountability for vulnerable urban communities.

Institutionalization of Rural Resilience Interventions

- ▶ Completion and documentation of the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative facilitated its transition into government and partner systems, ensuring sustainability beyond the project.

Increased Smallholder Farmer Resilience

- ▶ Over 70,000 smallholder farmers improved resilience and market access through gains in year-round production, post-harvest handling, nutrition, and financial inclusion.

“Over 70,000 smallholder farmers improved resilience and market access through gains in year-round production, post-harvest handling, nutrition, and financial inclusion.”

Stronger Multi-Stakeholder Governance

- ▶ Multi-stakeholder oversight of **Integrated Landscape Management** in Mumbwa district strengthened, with coordination across **44 institutions**, improving environmental governance.

Accelerated Youth Empowerment Outcomes

- ▶ More than **15,000 young people** reached through national platforms (entrepreneurship fair, Youth Indaba, major events), significantly enhancing **youth participation and skills development**.
- ▶ **170 youth- and women-led MSMEs** strengthened through enterprise development, market linkages, and AfCFTA readiness, with top innovators receiving seed funding.
- ▶ Youth skills development expanded with **financial and digital literacy gains** and **350 youth graduating** from a standardized empowerment programme.

Improved Local Governance for Decentralization

- ▶ A new **Sub-District Structures Alignment Framework** standardized roles and coordination, enabling **more efficient service delivery, reduced duplication, and stronger community participation**.
- ▶ Supporting the government with the development of a Cross Border Market in Luangwa District with the borders of Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Enhanced National Readiness for AfCFTA

- ▶ Strengthened national capacity to engage in **regional and continental markets**, improving Zambia's readiness for AfCFTA implementation.

Output 1.2:

Improved capacities of people, particularly the marginalised and vulnerable, to pursue sustainable livelihoods, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship

Skills & Education Systems Strengthened

- ▶ Mining Sector Skills Strategy and Body launched to enhance sector skills coordination and skills anticipation and matching.
- ▶ Agriculture and Tourism Sector Review Studies completed which identified and categorizes the occupational and skills needs
- ▶ Skills Development Fund (SDL) assessment conducted which has determined the relevance, achievements and has provided strategic and operational recommendations
- ▶ A **competence-based climate change and behavioural change curriculum framework** validated for **Early Childhood to Tertiary** levels.
- ▶ The Apprenticeship Act review resulted in a new **Work-Based Learning Bill** to better align skills acquisition with industry needs.

Livelihoods & Productive Capacities Improved

- ▶ **Solar-powered irrigation systems installed at 6 sites**, enabling off-season production and increasing household climate resilience.
- ▶ Over **30,000 drought-affected households** supported with input packs for climate-resilient crops, including **1,200 refugee households**.

- ▶ **72,100 smallholder farmers** and **195 Ministry of Agriculture staff** capacitated in climate-smart and regenerative agriculture.
- ▶ Supported the medical processing and resettlement of 807 refugees to Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Norway
- ▶ Conducted medical assessments for 1,132 immigrants.
- ▶ supported voluntary returns for four stranded migrants from Zambia to their countries of origin.
- ▶ supported the reintegration of 44 Zambian returnees with the provision of start-up kits (laptops, printers, phone accessories, in-kind assistance for household renovation).

Higher Education & Research Capacities Enhanced

- ▶ **15 postgraduate scholarships** awarded in behavioural change and renewable energy; more planned for 2026.
- ▶ **20 lecturers** strengthened in renewable energy teaching and research through a Germany exchange programme with **Technical University of Ingolstadt**.

Agricultural Innovation & Digital Systems Expanded

- ▶ **CropScope pilot deployed on 1,000 hectares**, offering real-time satellite-based crop and climate monitoring.
- ▶ **Government capacity strengthened with 100+ staff trained**, and **995 hectares** geotagged for monitoring.
- ▶ The **Maano Virtual Farmers' Market relaunched**, enhancing access to training, finance, and weather insights for 122,000 smallholder farmers.

Refugee & Host Community Livelihoods Improved

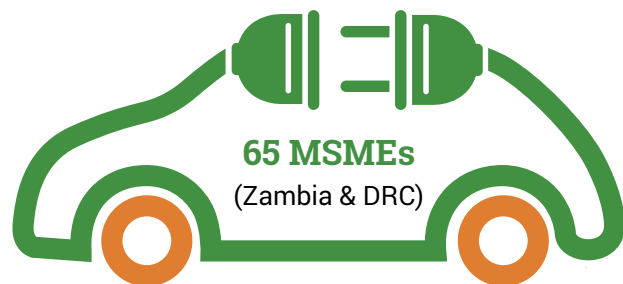
- ▶ **50 households** in Mayukwayukwa received **land tenure support** benefiting approximately **225 individuals**.
- ▶ **2,775 individuals** benefited from livelihood support (aquaculture, cassava value chain, and agribusiness); **555 trained**, surpassing targets.
- ▶ Technical planning and environmental approvals completed for **improved irrigation and domestic water systems** in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements.

Women's Economic Empowerment Strengthened

- ▶ **70 women-led businesses** capacitated on AfCFTA, digital tools, and competitiveness through regional B2B engagements.
- ▶ **30 women and youths** trained in **gemstone value addition**, enabling participation in higher-value markets.

Food Systems & Resilience Advanced

- ▶ Progress on the **Zero Hunger Project** expected to enhance productivity and resilience for **200+ households** in Mumbwa and Lufwanyama districts.



strengthened in readiness for Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) value-chain opportunities.

Labour Market Intelligence Improved

- ▶ **30 officials** trained in LMIS data modeling, expanding national labour market data tables from **~300 to 400+**, and supporting development of a new **Skills Module**.
- ▶ Supported Ministry of Labour to develop and validate Guidelines on Ethical Recruitment for Employment Agencies, strengthening fair recruitment practices, protection of migrant workers' rights, and alignment with international labour standards.

Output 1.3:

Strengthened capacities of formal and informal sector businesses to participate in economic activities

MSME Competitiveness & Market Access Improved

- ▶ **25 MSMEs onboarded** into the Supplier Development Programme with confirmed **offtakers**, strengthening product quality and market linkages.
- ▶ **143 cooperatives** enhanced their ability to access input and output markets through strengthened private-sector linkages.
- ▶ **65 MSMEs** (Zambia & DRC) strengthened in readiness for **Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)** value-chain opportunities.
- ▶ **35 SMEs** improved participation in regional automotive value chains through applied training on sustainable procurement, supplier standards, and market access.
- ▶ National and regional enterprise visibility increased through operationalization of the **SADC Online Trade, Technology & Investment Platform**.

Financial Inclusion Deepened

- ▶ **1,083 VSLAs** (16,900 members, 70% women) accessed **ZMW 12.8 million** in FAST loans and **ZMW 9.8 million** in irrigation loans, significantly expanding financial access for rural groups.

Farmer Market Participation Strengthened

- ▶ **Over 28,500 smallholder farmers** (including **10,224 youth** and **12,411 women**) gained access to predictable markets through improved aggregation systems, resulting in sales of **11,135 MT** of nutrient-dense crops valued at **ZMW 30.5 million**, plus livestock, milk, and fish sales.
- ▶ **Over 1,800 aggregators** gained strengthened capacity in crop marketing, standards, and inclusion, improving farmer access to markets.



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Digitalization & Technology Uptake Increased

- ▶ **ASM digital administrative system** advanced to improve governance, safe mining, and access to finance and market information.
- ▶ **ZIAMIS datasets integrated** via APIs into the e-business directory, improving national data interoperability.
- ▶ **Hello Tractor** pilot demonstrated effective digital mechanization access, leading to **80 tractors** equipped under Mechanize 360 for improved service efficiency across **10 provinces**.
- ▶ **Geodata digitization** progressed, improving online access to geological information for ASM sector players.

Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems Strengthened

- ▶ Engagement with **22 private-sector companies** through multi-province B2B sessions to strengthen commercial linkages and market reliability for farmers to the Home-Grown School Meals Programme, off-takers and financial service providers.

Output 1.4:

Improved capacity of the state to extend shock-responsive universal social protection and strengthen the resilience for all people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised

Strengthened Financial Sustainability Evidence for National Health Insurance Authority (NHIMA)

- ▶ A **second actuarial valuation** of the NHIMA scheme was initiated, generating evidence required to strengthen **financial sustainability** and inform future **policy reform** decisions.

Improved Efficiency & Transparency in NHIMA Operations

- ▶ NHIMA operations were strengthened through a business process review, improving **cost-effectiveness**, **data interoperability**, and **transparency**, and enhancing readiness for migration to OpenMIS.

Social Protection Service Integration Enhanced

- ▶ A fully completed **automated Single Window Management Information System** (web & mobile) is ready for rollout, improving **coordination and integration** of social protection services.

Disability Inclusion Strengthened

- ▶ Disability inclusion capacity improved through training and placement of **Disability Focal Point Persons (DFPPs)** and support to women-led OPDs, enhancing **mainstreaming of disability inclusion** in social protection programmes, resulting in improved identification, referral and enrolment of persons with disabilities in social protection services, and strengthened safeguarding and accessible feedback pathways.

- ▶ A **digital register** for organisations of persons with disabilities was developed and operationalized, improving **coordination and inclusion outcomes**.

Expanded Social Protection Implementation Capacity

- ▶ **100+ government officials** trained through **TRANSFORM**, improving readiness to implement social protection programmes (1 of 5 targeted districts completed).

Strengthened Foundation for Social Security Convention Ratification

- ▶ Progress toward ratification of the **ILO Social Security Convention No. 102** achieved through capacity building and completion of a **comparative analysis report**, forming the basis for **2026 ratification**.

Increased Health Coverage for Poor and Vulnerable Households

- ▶ A health services extension pilot through NHIMA resulted in **registration of 60,000 Social Cash Transfer (SCT) households**, expanding access to national health insurance services for vulnerable populations.



Disability Focal Point Persons (DFPPs) and support to women-led OPDs, enhancing mainstreaming of disability inclusion

Beneficiary Voices

Turning Sunlight into Opportunity: Clean Energy Driving Rural Livelihoods

For years, Elizabeth Phiri's mornings began the same way. Before sunrise, she walked to the stream, filled her buckets, and made the slow journey back. One trip was never enough. Day after day, season after season, she carried water because her crops needed more than she could bring at once. It was exhausting work that quietly wore her down.

That routine ended in June 2025, when her community in Kalichero gained access to a solar-powered drip irrigation system. Now, Elizabeth starts her day by switching on the drip lines. "Things are now easier," she says. For someone who spent years carrying water on her head at dawn, the change has been life-altering.

Kalichero is part of the PAZESA Horticultural Community Action Group, a cooperative of 41 members across three communities in Chipangali District, Eastern Zambia. Twenty-eight members are women, whose labour, knowledge and persistence keep the group running. In June 2025, PAZESA received a USD 25,000 grant through the Productive Uses of Electricity Project, a UNDP Climate Promise initiative supporting clean energy use for farming and income generation.

With the grant, PAZESA installed an 11kV off-grid solar system, drilled six boreholes, set up drip

irrigation and purchased two solar-powered freezers. Land that was once dry and difficult now spans 320 hectares producing cucumbers, tomatoes, maize, Irish potatoes and William bananas under a system that did not exist two years earlier.

The impact was immediate. Since June 2025, Kalichero earned over K380,000 from cucumber and tomato sales. The December 2025 maize harvest added K250,000. Young banana plants were projected to yield K300,000 every quarter from February 2026 onwards. For communities that once struggled for water, these returns are significant.

PAZESA's innovation goes beyond irrigation. The solar freezers, initially meant for preserving fish and produce, are also used to make ice blocks and freezits, creating a steady side income. Fifteen

solar-powered fishponds now hold over 15,000 tilapia, providing food and an additional source of earnings.

In neighbouring Chingaibe, eight members grow cucumbers, beans, lemons and oranges using irrigation powered by two solar panels and PAZESA's inputs. Together, they earned K65,000. For Mary Banda, her K19,000 share meant building a house, buying household items and food for her grandchildren. Her story reflects the quiet power of opportunity earned through farming.

A third group, Thazwela, formed in February 2025 with 12 members and one hectare, operates a revolving model. Profits support new groups after the initial grant ends. They expect to earn over K52,000, which they plan to invest in fencing, a borehole and a van.



People Pillar



By 2027, all people in Zambia, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, have equitable access to and utilisation of quality, inclusive and gender- and shock-responsive universal social services



Human and Social Development



Key Highlights

Outcome 2:

In 2025, the UN in Zambia made significant progress in strengthening national and sub-national systems to expand equitable access to essential social services across health, nutrition, education, WASH, social protection, disability inclusion and livelihoods with a strong focus on adolescents, young people, women, persons with disabilities and crisis-affected communities. Health and nutrition systems became more resilient and higher-quality, education and youth initiatives improved learning and skills development, and social protection systems delivered greater equity and responsiveness, including cash support for 1.3 million households.

Progress also advanced in data systems that improved evidence-based planning. Overall, 2025 marked a year of expanded service coverage, strengthened systems, and improved accountability, setting the foundation for more inclusive and equitable outcomes.

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Output 2.1:

The capacities of state and non-state actors are strengthened to plan and effectively and accountably deliver quality, inclusive, and gender and shock responsive universal social services

Improved Health Outcomes

- Improved reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health outcomes, including:
 - Increased early antenatal care attendance among adolescents
 - Sustained high coverage of 4 or more antenatal visits
 - Improved access to emergency obstetric care
 - Reductions in neonatal prematurity, stillbirths and birth asphyxia

More Resilient Primary Health Care & Immunization Systems

- Maintained uninterrupted national vaccine availability
- Expanded cold-chain capacity
- Introduced new vaccines
- Reached 460,000+ zero-dose children
- Improved outbreak preparedness through laboratory upgrades and reactive vaccination campaigns

Strengthened HIV Prevention & Adolescent Health Outcomes

- Expanded evidence-based HIV combination prevention for adolescents and key populations
- Nearly 30,000 adolescents and young mothers reached with targeted services

- ▶ Expanded **long-acting PrEP access**
- ▶ Strengthened STI prevention planning
- ▶ Improved multisectoral engagement and rights-based HIV responses for marginalized groups

More Robust Evidence & Data Systems

- ▶ Strengthened national evidence systems through:
 - Use of **Population and Housing Census and DHS data**
 - Improved **HMIS and EMIS tools**
 - National strategy reviews, surveys, and school-based studies
- ▶ Enabled more **data-driven planning and accountability**
- ▶ Supported government to finalize the report of the Social Protection-Fill the Nutrient Gap identifying barriers to accessing nutritious and healthy diets and opportunities for policy and programme interventions to improve access to nutritious foods within the social protection field in Zambia.
- ▶ Supported the development of the Single Windows Management Information System to serve as a decentralized case management system for Social Protection Programmes.
- ▶ Development of the National Migration Data Strategy (2026-2030)
- ▶ Establishment of the Integrated Migration Management and Information System (IMMIS)
- ▶ Strengthened cross border referral mechanisms between Zambia and Malawi on migration health

Improved Nutrition Outcomes

- ▶ Expanded **nutrition service coverage**
- ▶ Improved **micronutrient interventions**
- ▶ Strengthened **governance and financing mechanisms**
- ▶ Increased **district-level coordination** accelerating progress toward **stunting reduction**

Expanded & Strengthened Early Childhood Development and Education Outcomes

- ▶ Increased access to **ECD/ECE services**
- ▶ Improved **foundational learning outcomes** in primary schools
- ▶ Enhanced **secondary education and skills development** through digital learning and system sustainability measures
- ▶ Supported the Ministry of Education to establish gardens, install energy-efficient stoves and handwashing stations in 50 schools, and train of 415 participants in 18 districts, benefiting 48,509 learners (24,740 girls and 23,769 boys) under the Home-Grown School Meals Programme.

Stronger Youth Empowerment & Participation

- ▶ Improved youth **leadership, life skills, employability and entrepreneurship capacity**
- ▶ Strengthened MSME development and **digital/financial literacy**
- ▶ Improved **school retention mechanisms**

Strengthened Social Protection Systems

- ▶ Improved **financing, equity, and shock responsiveness**
- ▶ Delivered **timely emergency cash responses**
- ▶ Strengthened **national social registry**
- ▶ Improved **safeguarding systems**

Advanced Disability Inclusion

- ▶ Strengthened **organizational capacity** of OPDs
- ▶ Improved **accessible policy dissemination**
- ▶ Expanded **community-based inclusive development**
- ▶ Strengthened **representation** in decision-making
- ▶ Supported development of **national action plans**
- ▶ Disability-inclusive national policy frameworks operationalized and made accessible. Zambia transitioned from reliance on draft disability instruments to the formal launch and nationwide dissemination of the National Disability Mainstreaming Guidelines and the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities in both standard and braille formats.
- ▶ Disability-inclusive public finance strengthened through the finalization of the National Planning, Budgeting and M&E Training Handbook. This shifted disability inclusion from ad-hoc practices to a coherent methodology, enabling ministries and OPDs to engage more consistently, transparently, and accountably in the National Budget Development Process.
- ▶ OPD institutional capacity and economic empowerment enhanced through the production of a comprehensive OPD Capacity Assessment Report, providing evidence and actionable roadmap for strengthening disability representation across national systems. Complementary entrepreneurship training for OPD representatives supported a shift towards economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

More Equitable & Climate-Resilient WASH Services

- ▶ More sustainable, climate-resilient, and equitable WASH service delivery through advances in:
 - Policy reform
 - Sector financing
 - Institutional capacity
 - Data systems
 - Coordination mechanisms

Capacity of state and non-state actors to provide quality RMNCAHN services strengthened (EmONC, Commodity security, ANC, eMTCT etc)

Improved RMNCAH-N Service Outcomes

- ▶ **Early antenatal care among adolescents** (10–19 years) increased from 39.7% to 42.3%.
- ▶ **Coverage of 4+ ANC visits** remained consistently high (>100%).
- ▶ **Access to emergency obstetric care improved**, with caesarean section rates rising from 11.5% to 12.5%.
- ▶ **Newborn health outcomes improved**, including reductions in:
 - Neonatal prematurity (17.2% → 15.2%)
 - Stillbirths (12.1 → 11.0 per 1,000 births)
 - Birth asphyxia (3.1 → 2.6)

Strengthened Provider Capacity for Reproductive Health

- ▶ **45 healthcare workers** trained as trainers in long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) services, improving availability of contraception in underserved provinces.
- ▶ **40 providers** trained as trainers for **comprehensive abortion care**, expanding the national pool of skilled providers.

- ▶ **54 midwives** underwent in-service training for deployment to rural and underserved areas.
- ▶ A total of 158 health and non-health service providers have been trained to deliver responsive SRHR/HIV, GBV, and other related services tailored to the needs of young people, vulnerable populations, and sex workers.
- ▶ UNFPA built capacity of 80 midwives and clinical instructors in Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) to ensure specialized skills in Intrauterine devices (IUD) and implant insertion at the facility level.
- ▶ Mentorship provided to 198 health providers in Comprehensive Abortion Care and EmONC in Central and Northwestern Provinces.

Expanded Nutrition Service Coverage & Treatment

- ▶ **IYCF services** expanded to 2,832 health facilities, reaching 3.18 million caregivers.
- ▶ **Malnutrition treatment scaled**, reaching:
 - 26,376 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
 - 64,965 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)
- ▶ Nutrition commodities integrated into the **national electronic LMIS**, strengthening sustainable supply management.

Strengthened Human Resources for Nutrition

- ▶ **297 health workers** and **860 community health workers** gained skills to deliver maternal, adolescent and young child nutrition services (MAIYCN).

Improved Access to Essential Medicines & Reproductive Health Commodities

- ▶ UN-supported logistics accounted for 7% of **last-mile distribution** of essential medicines and reproductive health commodities.
- ▶ **Government domestic financing** for reproductive health commodities increased to **US\$4.3 million in 2025**.
- ▶ Facilitated procurement of 80% of government RH commodities and 28% of 245M condoms via UNFPA third party modalities, ensuring cost effectiveness, quality assurance, and reduced lead time.

Formative standards and guidelines on quality healthcare developed, adapted or reviewed

Improved Quality of Care Across Health Facilities

- ▶ **58 hospitals** implemented standard **Quality of Care (QoC)** protocols, improving consistency and quality in service delivery.
- ▶ Post-training technical support was extended to 35 health facilities across Chipata, Katete, and Vubwi, strengthening service delivery capacity and ensuring sustained quality.

Strengthened Clinical Standards & Provider Capacity

- ▶ National clinical guidelines for **EmONC, IMCI, community case management, postnatal care, and Kangaroo Mother Care** were revised and standardized.
- ▶ **173 health workers** trained on these updated guidelines, improving nationwide application of evidence-based practices.

Enhanced Health Promotion & Preventive Systems

- ▶ A **national health promotion strategic framework** guided preventive and promotive interventions across multiple settings.
- ▶ **Healthy settings guidelines** for markets and correctional facilities strengthened community health promotion.

Expanded HIV Prevention Options

- ▶ National HIV prevention guidelines updated to include **long-acting injectable PrEP**, expanding prevention choices, especially for high-risk populations.
- ▶ During the Ncwala cultural event in Eastern Province, 58,840 male condoms were distributed, contributing to increased access to HIV prevention commodities and promoting safer sexual practices among attendees.

Strengthened Tobacco Control Policy

- ▶ Approval of **comprehensive tobacco control legislation** and strengthened fiscal measures, including **increased excise duty**, led to stronger national tobacco control outcomes.
- ▶ Nationwide behaviour change communication supported adoption and enforcement.

Improved Vaccine Safety Oversight

- ▶ National **AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunization) manual** updated, improving national vaccine safety systems.

Strengthened Maternal Care Standards

- ▶ Development of the **Midwifery Model of Care Guidelines** improved standardization and quality of maternal care nationwide.

Increased Private Sector Engagement in HIV Response

- ▶ Implementation of a **Private Sector Engagement Strategy and Workplace Wellness Guidelines** in three provinces enhanced collaboration with private and informal sectors in addressing HIV.

Capacities of the primary healthcare (PHC) system strengthened to effectively manage, deliver life-saving vaccines and quality immunization services

Sustained National Vaccine Availability

- ▶ **No national vaccine stockouts** recorded in 2025, ensuring uninterrupted immunization services.

Improved Cold-Chain & Vaccine Management Systems

- ▶ Cold-chain reliability strengthened through improved coordination and implementation of the **Effective Vaccine Management** improvement plan.
- ▶ Delivery of new equipment (refrigerators, cold boxes, carriers, temperature monitors, maintenance kits, transport assets) **reduced stock loss** and improved temperature control.
- ▶ 14 cold-chain management devices were deployed across 14 healthcare facilities in Lusaka, enhancing the capacity for safe storage and handling of vaccines and other temperature-sensitive medical supplies

Major Progress in Zero-Dose Child Immunization

- ▶ Under the Big Catch-Up / Zero-Dose Acceleration Initiative, **461,243 children** were vaccinated — 51% of the national zero-dose target.

Introduction & Expansion of New Vaccines

- ▶ **R21 malaria vaccine** introduced in 83 high-burden districts.
- ▶ **HPV vaccine coverage** increased significantly from 52% to 85%.

Expanded Health Facility Electrification for Cold-Chain Stability

- ▶ **Solar electrification** expanded to 258 health facilities, including installation of a 100-kW system at the **National Vaccine Store**, improving storage reliability.

Increased Demand for Immunization Services

- ▶ Advocacy, communication, and social mobilization efforts reached **over two million people**, increasing demand for routine immunization.

Strengthened Outbreak Preparedness & Response

- ▶ Upgraded laboratory capacity and updated deployment plans improved preparedness for outbreaks.
- ▶ **Reactive oral cholera vaccination campaigns** vaccinated:
 - **1,486,511 people** aged one year and above
 - **220,000 people** in high-risk areas
 Achieved **full coverage** in targeted districts.

Improved Access to Essential Medicines & Reproductive Health Commodities

- ▶ Regional medical storage capacity expanded through advanced construction of 2 regional medical hubs. This progress positions the country for decentralised storage and distribution of essential supplies resulting in efficiency and resilience of medical supply systems.

Intensive Care Service Capacity Strengthened

- ▶ Intensive care service capacity was strengthened at Level I and II hospitals through the procurement and delivery of 70 advanced ICU ventilators resulting in increased access to ICU services, directly improving the health system's ability to manage severe and life-threatening conditions.

Capacity of state and non-state actors to implement evidence-based HIV combination prevention for young people and key, marginalized and vulnerable populations strengthened

- ▶ **29,985 adolescents, young mothers and partners** reached with targeted HIV prevention services, including HIV testing (21,687), PrEP (2,962), condoms (13,949) and family planning (7,163).
- ▶ **Adolescent-friendly services strengthened** in 55 facilities, improving access and quality.
- ▶ **591,000 condoms** distributed, improving commodity availability.
- ▶ **Long-acting injectable PrEP introduced**, expanding prevention options nationally.
- ▶ **71 young women** gained economic resilience through integration into agricultural value chains and financial services.
- ▶ **Improved harm-reduction coverage** for people who inject drugs through strengthened micro-planning and mapping.
- ▶ **591,000 condoms** distributed, improving commodity availability. This number doubled by the end of 2025.

- ▶ Distributed more than 1,615,317 condoms (Third-party distribution -3PL), significantly expanding access to modern contraception and HIV prevention tools among adolescents and young people.

Capacity of state and non-state actors to provide quality and equitable antiretroviral treatment is enhanced

- ▶ A **minimum package of prioritized HIV services** improved cost-efficiency and continuity of essential HIV treatment and care.
- ▶ Updated national hepatitis guidelines **expanded antiviral prophylaxis for pregnant women**, improving prevention of HBV vertical transmission.
- ▶ **Improved access to timely and quality hepatitis services** through increased point-of-care testing and expanded laboratory diagnostic capacity.

Capacity of state and non-state actors to address HIV inequalities enhanced

- ▶ Integrated adolescent interventions **reached adolescents aged 10–29** across **8 provinces**, addressing SRH, HIV and NCD needs.
- ▶ A national HIV financing roadmap strengthened **domestic resource mobilization** for sustainable HIV prevention.
- ▶ **40 law-enforcement officers** trained in harm reduction strengthened rights-based approaches and improved access to HIV services for key populations.

Data systems and evidence built on relevant and current population dynamics strengthened (ZDHS, MPDSR, District Carrying Capacity Assessment, EmONC Assessment, Sub-national analysis using Census, HMIS, EMIS etc.)

- ▶ **Population and Housing Census and Demographic and Health Survey** released, expanding high-quality disaggregated data for national planning.
- ▶ **2024 Annual Health Statistics Report** and mid-term review of the 2022–2026 NHSP completed, enhancing evidence-based decision-making.
- ▶ **Measles post-campaign coverage survey confirmed 76% coverage**, guiding programme improvement.
- ▶ **Global School-Based Health Survey and School Health Policies and Practices Study** completed in all 10 provinces, covering 3,150 learners.
- ▶ HMIS revised to integrate finer age disaggregation, improving data quality.
- ▶ **EmONC assessment completed** across all 10 provinces, generating comprehensive facility-level obstetric and newborn care data.
- ▶ Standardized tools for the **2025 Rural Agricultural Livelihoods Survey** developed and field-tested, strengthening the national evidence base for food systems and rural livelihoods.
- ▶ Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) was successfully coordinated in four border districts Chadiza, Chasefu, Chipata, and Mambwe, providing critical data to inform cross-border health and development interventions.

- ▶ Diaspora skills mapping on climate change was conducted, identifying expertise within diaspora communities to support climate resilience and sustainable development initiatives.
- ▶ The diaspora web portal was upgraded through the provision of software and licenses, improving functionality, accessibility, and engagement for diaspora stakeholders.
- ▶ UNFPA, through the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, conducted a Gender Transformative District Carrying Capacity Assessment, producing a consolidated population database of demographic, spatial, and service indicators to strengthen evidence based planning and resource allocation at national and sub national levels.

Government and partners have strengthened capacity to implement multisectoral and coordinated nutrition programs (financing, governance, policy, and evidence generation) to reduce stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies

- ▶ Multi-sectoral nutrition district coordination mechanisms **expanded from 17 to 86 districts**, strengthening local governance.
- ▶ National budget call circular mandated inclusion of **nutrition budget lines** for 2026, advancing sustainable financing.
- ▶ Nutrition-sensitive agriculture scaled under SUN II:
 - **360 extension officers and 1,200 lead farmers** trained and cascading high-impact practices.
- ▶ **36 nutrition focal point staff** strengthened to coordinate multisectoral interventions.

- ▶ National capacity enhanced through review and validation of the **National Nutrition Program**, improving coherence and implementation readiness.

Stakeholders capacity to provide, expand and stimulate demand for quality and inclusive early childhood development and education strengthened

- ▶ Integrated ECD programme reached **40,000+ children** and **31,000 caregivers** nationwide.
- ▶ Expansion of ECD/ECE services into **10 new districts** in Luapula and North-Western Provinces.
- ▶ **More than half of Grade 1 entrants** now have prior ECE experience — exceeding national targets.
- ▶ Expanded community-based ECD services for **0–3-year-old children**.
- ▶ Improved learning environments through new **ECDE hub sites**, expanded **safe water access**, and increased availability of **child-friendly learning spaces**.
- ▶ National ECE quality strengthened through **updated standards, learning resources**, and integration of ECD in teacher training curricula.



153,881 learners benefited from the expanded Catch-Up programme across four districts.

- ▶ ECD policy advancement and engagement of traditional leaders reinforced sustainability and inclusivity in early learning systems.

Stakeholders capacity to deliver quality and inclusive primary education in a supportive learning environment enhanced

- ▶ **153,881 learners** benefited from the expanded Catch-Up programme across four districts.
- ▶ In Luapula, literacy improved from 31% → 67% and numeracy from 19% → 63% (2022–2024).
- ▶ Over 2,500 learners returned to school due to strengthened community safeguarding.
- ▶ 30,000 learners reached through improved school health and nutrition (gardens, clean cookstoves, handwashing facilities).

Stakeholders capacity to deliver quality and inclusive secondary education and skills development programs improved

- ▶ **35,000+ adolescents and young people** gained digital skills, life skills, leadership and SRH knowledge.



35,000+ adolescents and young people gained digital skills, life skills, leadership and SRH knowledge.

- 292,000 learners accessed digital learning in 300 connected schools.
- 27,213 learners accessed national e-learning platforms (including offline pilots).
- Grade 12 Mathematics pass rate improved from 31.3% → 51.6%.
- 120 vulnerable youth gained entrepreneurship skills, improving economic resilience.

Capacity of state and non-state actors including youth led and serving organizations enhanced to improve youth involvement and participation in development processes

- 15,000 young people engaged in policy dialogue, entrepreneurship, climate action and innovation.
- 170 youth- and women-led MSMEs strengthened through enterprise support, market linkages and regional trade readiness.
- 5 MSMEs received seed funding following high performance.
- 800+ youth developed leadership, advocacy, digital and financial literacy skills.
- 18 youth-led organisations established as agrifood incubators; 40 youth mentored through Training of Trainers' programmes.



292,000 learners accessed digital learning in 300 connected schools.

Capacity of state and non-state actors for both in and out of school Life Skills Health Education (LSHE) formerly (CSE)

- LSHE curriculum integration strengthened through enhanced lecturer and Standards Officer capacity.
- Updated CSE monitoring tool aligned with national curriculum, improving tracking and quality assurance.

Capacity of state and non-state actors to adequately and equitably finance social services increased

- Revised National Social Protection Policy launched, strengthening a lifecycle approach to child-sensitive protection.
- 1.3 million households received regular Social Cash Transfers with increased transfer values, improving household ability to meet children's needs.
- Drought-affected households reached through expanded emergency cash transfers (vertical & horizontal expansion).
- Nutrition-sensitive cash support aligned with emergency responses, improving resilience and coherence of assistance.



27,213 learners accessed national e-learning platforms (including offline pilots).

Capacity of state and non-state actors to effectively and equitably deliver social protection programmes improved

- Decentralized Single Window MIS strengthened case management, referrals, tracking and accountability.
- PSEA systems scaled nationally:
 - 250 master trainers trained
 - 10,107 pay-point managers trained
 - Accessible reporting mechanisms established nationwide
- Targeting equity improved through development of the National Social Registry using harmonized tools and data strategies.

Improved capacity of state and non-state actors to provide adequate services for persons with disabilities

- National OPD assessment produced action plans to strengthen governance, planning, safeguarding and gender equity.
- Youth policy accessibility improved through Easy-Read and Braille versions.
- Community-based inclusive development expanded through national trainers and harmonized guidelines.
- OPD representation strengthened in decentralized development, including participation in constituency development committees.
- National Action Plan for protection of persons with albinism developed.

The Government has strengthened capacities to develop and implement policies and budgets that enable safely managed, climate-resilient, sustainable, gender-responsive and equitable WASH services

- ▶ Water sector budget increased from ZMW 2.46B (2025) → ZMW 2.69B (2026); VAT zero-rated for piped water; transfers to utilities increased by 300%.
- ▶ 610 government staff, 33 utility operators, and 388 health facilities supported to strengthen WASH service quality.
- ▶ 340 health facilities completed WASHFIT assessments; 270 developed improvement plans.
- ▶ Distribution of WASH equipment and meters benefited utilities, serving ~8 million people.
- ▶ National WASH data systems strengthened through revised tools, updated borehole inventories, integration of WASH indicators, and initiation of a national WASH survey.

Output 2.2:

More people, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable groups, are empowered to identify, demand, and utilize quality, inclusive and gender and shock responsive universal social services

Strengthened Integrated Service Delivery Systems

- ▶ National and sub-national systems **improved capacity to deliver integrated, inclusive and shock-responsive services** across health, nutrition, WASH, education, social protection and livelihoods, benefiting **vulnerable populations**.

Expanded Access to Integrated HIV, SRHR & GBV Services

- ▶ Access to integrated HIV, SRHR and GBV services for adolescents and young people **improved across eight provinces** through coordinated policy and multisectoral programming.
- ▶ **533 tertiary students** reached with strengthened SRH, life skills and GBV leadership and peer-engagement programmes.

Emergency Health Access Expanded Through Mobile Clinics

- ▶ **1,917 integrated mobile clinics** deployed, serving as primary healthcare access points in drought-affected regions.
- ▶ Clinics reached **390,000 people**, including **45,347 women** and **31,114 adolescent girls**, providing SRH care, HIV/STI testing, GBV support and nutrition services.

Improved Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health Outcomes

- ▶ Sick newborn care strengthened with **new care units established in 15 districts**.
- ▶ **Paediatric HIV services expanded**, with **93% of ART facilities** providing paediatric treatment.

Improved Access to Essential Health & Nutrition Services

- ▶ Primary health care capacity enhanced through iCCM scale-up and facility rehabilitation.
- ▶ Acute malnutrition prevention and treatment capacity **significantly expanded**—including increased screening, SAM/MAM treatment,

supply chain strengthening, and improved facility readiness.

Expanded Access to Safe & Resilient WASH Services

- ▶ Access to safe water and sanitation increased through expanded infrastructure and hygiene promotion reaching **over one million people**.
- ▶ Disease surveillance and infection-prevention systems strengthened at local level.

Strengthened Shock-Responsive Social Protection & Livelihoods

- ▶ Social protection and livelihoods systems reinforced through Cash Plus expansion, supporting **food security, income diversification and climate resilience** for vulnerable households.

Improved Education System Capacity & Learning Accountability

- ▶ National education sector capacity and accountability improved through the **End Learning Poverty initiative** and strengthened sector M&E frameworks to guide data-driven reforms.

Key and vulnerable populations, including adolescents and young peoples have skills and opportunities to exercise their rights to access integrated HIV, SRHR and GBV services strengthened

- ▶ **Access to integrated SRH, HIV prevention, and wellbeing services for adolescents and young people improved**, supported by coordinated multisectoral programming.

- ▶ **Long-term HIV prevention financing advanced** through the development of a national financing roadmap, strengthening domestic resource mobilization.
- ▶ **Rights-based SRHR programming strengthened** through regional capacity building of civil society, improving ability to monitor and respond to organized opposition.
- ▶ **Integrated adolescent programmes expanded across eight provinces**, addressing adolescent pregnancy, HIV and noncommunicable diseases for young people aged 10–29.
- ▶ 11,331 young people, migrants, and sex workers accessed SRHR/HIV and related support services including family planning, HIV/STI screening, HIV testing, ART, and psychosocial support, improving health outcomes and strengthening protection for vulnerable populations.

Capacity of state and non-state actors to create demand for comprehensive integrated essential Sexual Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent, Health and Nutrition including HIV enhanced

- ▶ **National service delivery frameworks strengthened**, with integrated guidelines established for adolescent substance-use disorder and SRH services.
- ▶ **Community access to contraception and safe abortion improved**, supported by strengthened provider capacity.
- ▶ **Demand for SRH, HIV and GBV services increased**, enabled by improved referral pathways through strengthened peer-educator networks.

- ▶ **Health system capacity expanded**, with over 600 health workers trained in RMNCAH-N.
- ▶ **Newborn care improved** through establishment of functional sick newborn care units.
- ▶ **Paediatric HIV treatment coverage strengthened**, with 93% of ART facilities providing paediatric ART.

Improved access to quality essential health and Nutrition services (Wasting/SAM/ NCD/NTD/ Malaria/TB and other communicable diseases) characters

Primary health care capacity improved, supported by strengthened workforce and upgraded infrastructure.

- ▶ **Outpatient malnutrition treatment sites increased more than threefold**, from 30 to 100 facilities, improving early detection and continuity of care.
- ▶ **National malnutrition screening coverage expanded**, reaching 1.15 million children and 85,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women monthly.
- ▶ **26,376 children with SAM, 64,965 with MAM, and 16,875 women with supplementary nutrition.**
- ▶ **SAM service availability expanded nationwide**, with 1,523 facilities delivering treatment supported by reliable therapeutic food supply chains.

Capacity of community actors to promote nutritional behavioral change enhanced

Expanded Coverage of Nutrition Services

- ▶ **IYCF services expanded to 2,832 facilities**, exceeding annual targets by 22%.
- ▶ **3.18 million caregivers** reached with population-level counselling on infant and young child feeding.
- ▶ **4.27 million children** received Vitamin A supplementation, increasing national coverage for child survival.

Improved Maternal and Child Nutrition

- ▶ **226,409 pregnant women** reached with iron and folic acid supplementation, and multiple micronutrient supplementation introduced during drought response.
- ▶ Complementary nutrition interventions improved dietary practices for **55,799 beneficiaries** and supported safe meals for **150,000 learners**.
- ▶ Forty five women and girls with obstetric fistula in Northwestern and Luapula Provinces underwent successful surgical repair, restoring health and bodily integrity.



226,409 pregnant women reached with iron and folic acid supplementation

Strengthened Community-Based Nutrition Systems

- ▶ **271,000 Nutrition Support Group Volunteers** trained to deliver essential counselling and social support services.
- ▶ Peer-to-peer Nutrition Support Groups integrated into community health systems, creating **sustained mechanisms** for nutrition behavior change.

Expanded Nutrition-Sensitive Agricultural Outcomes

- ▶ **1,200 lead farmers** strengthened to apply nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices, resulting in **68% GAP adoption** and benefiting **119,590 direct beneficiaries**.
- ▶ **77 lead farmers** strengthened in seed multiplication, enhancing **local access to climate-resilient seed** and improving household dietary diversity.
- ▶ **400 farmers** gained mechanization capacity for nutrient-dense crops, increasing **efficiency, productivity and nutrition outcomes**.

Access to safely managed and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services in communities and institutions increased

- ▶ **Capacity to deliver safe, inclusive and climate-resilient WASH services** strengthened nationwide, improving service quality in communities, schools and health facilities.
- ▶ **Access to safe water increased** through expanded boreholes and solar-powered water schemes in climate-affected areas.

- ▶ **Sanitation outcomes improved**, with gender- and disability-inclusive sanitation facilities constructed and **218,000 people adopting improved sanitation practices**.
- ▶ **Over one million people reached with hygiene promotion**, improving community-level hygiene behaviours.
- ▶ **Local WASH system sustainability strengthened** through enhanced capacity for operations, maintenance and governance.
- ▶ **Infection prevention and control systems reinforced** in health facilities, improving readiness for public health risks.
- ▶ **Disease preparedness and surveillance capacity enhanced**, including strengthened water quality monitoring and wastewater surveillance to support early detection and response.

Cash plus initiative is supported to address the vulnerabilities of the poor and marginalized

- ▶ **Government's Cash Plus Strategy strengthened**, with the revised strategy informed by consolidated stakeholder inputs and integrated into the national policy framework.

“Zambia became the first country to launch the End Learning Poverty initiative, reinforcing national and continental commitment to foundational learning.”

Food security and livelihood programmes are rolled out to address food insecurity and vulnerabilities

- ▶ **Access to sustainable livelihoods and household food security improved** in Chipangali District through expansion of the Alternative Livelihoods Initiative, enabling **1,500 farmers** (up from 500) to transition from tobacco to diversified, climate-smart livelihood activities. This resulted in **better household nutrition, increased income diversification, and enhanced environmental protection**.

National and subnational stakeholders and schools have strengthened capacity to deliver and stimulate demand for quality and inclusive primary education, focusing on learning outcomes

Key Results (Outcome-Level Achievements)

- ▶ **National commitment to improving learning outcomes strengthened**, driven by enhanced advocacy, evidence generation and accountability mechanisms.
- ▶ **Zambia became the first country to launch the End Learning Poverty initiative**, reinforcing national and continental commitment to foundational learning.
- ▶ **Evidence for education reforms strengthened** through analytical studies on numeracy competencies and the Teacher Education and Training Strategy, providing actionable guidance for programme and policy improvement.



- ▶ **Education sector monitoring strengthened**, with a new national M&E framework enabling the Ministry of Education to track priority indicators, assess progress and guide evidence-based planning to improve education quality and learning outcomes.

Output 2.3:

State and non-state actors have increased capacities to strengthen the resilience of people and use innovative approaches to prevent reduce the impact of shocks and crises on access to and utilization of quality services

Stronger National & Sub-National Shock Preparedness

- ▶ **National and sub-national systems strengthened** to prepare for, respond to, and recover from health, nutrition, climate and displacement-related shocks while sustaining essential services.

Expanded Emergency Preparedness & Response Coverage

- ▶ **Emergency preparedness plans developed in 87 districts** (75% of the country), significantly enhancing national readiness for outbreaks.
- ▶ **Cholera response reached 1.2 million people** across 14 high-risk districts through risk communication, surveillance, treatment and referral.
- ▶ **1,020 community volunteers and 510 health workers** strengthened for emergency response, improving community-facility readiness.
- ▶ **Integrated surveillance systems strengthened**, detecting 5,395 diarrhoea cases and enabling over 2,400 referrals.
- ▶ **Oral cholera vaccination protected ~800,000 people**, expanding population-level resilience.

Increased Disease Preparedness & Early Detection

- ▶ **Mpox preparedness expanded to 19 districts**, reaching 258,000+ people.
- ▶ **Integrated disease surveillance screened 56,000+ children for measles and 54,000+ for malnutrition**, strengthening early detection systems.
- ▶ **Genomic surveillance and outbreak supply chains** were expanded, increasing national capacity to detect and respond to emerging threats.

Strengthened Shock-Responsive Social Protection & Food Security

- ▶ **700-MT agro-bulking centre launched in Mambwe**, improving market access, climate resilience and safe storage for 7,000+ smallholder farmers.

- ▶ **National drought response review** generated actionable recommendations, **improving readiness for faster, flexible future responses**.

Enhanced WASH & Service Delivery in Displacement Settings

- ▶ In Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements, coordinated planning and assessments **strengthened readiness for safe water and sanitation delivery**, including boreholes, mechanized systems and ablution facilities.
- ▶ **Environmental and social safeguards secured**, reducing implementation risks for WASH infrastructure.
- ▶ **Feasibility studies for solar-powered reticulation systems completed**, supporting irrigation, domestic water access and public services in refugee and resettlement contexts.

Systems at national and sub-national levels have strengthened capacities to prepare for and respond to health and nutrition emergencies while continuing to deliver essential services and addressing emerging public health issues

- ▶ **National emergency preparedness and response capacity strengthened**, with 87 districts (75% of the country) developing emergency preparedness and response plans.
- ▶ **Cholera response reached approximately 1.2 million people** across 14 affected districts through surveillance, communication, treatment and referral services.

- Community-facility readiness improved, with 1,020 community volunteers and 510 health workers strengthened for emergency response.
- Early detection systems strengthened, with community surveillance identifying 5,395 diarrhoea cases and facilitating 2,400+ referrals.
- Mpox prevention and response expanded to 19 districts, reaching 258,121 people, identifying 2,534 suspected cases, and improving referral and home-isolation systems.
- Integrated disease surveillance scaled, screening 56,608 children for measles, 54,503 for malnutrition, and identifying 1,800 AFP cases, strengthening national resilience.
- National laboratory and genomic surveillance capacity expanded, with over USD 300,000 in outbreak supplies procured, 21 national laboratory trainers trained, and skills cascaded to 300+ health workers.
- Oral cholera vaccination protected approximately 800,000 people, increasing population-level immunity.
- Mobile clinics expanded access to essential services, with 10 mobile clinics delivering integrated health, GBV and SRH services in five underserved districts.

The resilient and shock-responsive social protection system has enhanced capacities to rapidly and effectively prepare for and respond to shocks or crises

- Climate resilience and food security improved through expanded climate-smart infrastructure and strengthened shock-responsive systems.

- A 700-metric-ton agro-bulking centre was launched in Mambwe District, expanding safe storage and market access for over 7,000 smallholder farmers, reducing post-harvest losses and improving rural incomes.
- The facility's solar-powered and climate-smart features enhanced community resilience and supported sustainable water and sanitation access.
- National capacity to respond to climate-related shocks strengthened through a drought response after-action review.
- The review produced practical recommendations that strengthened the humanitarian–social protection nexus, enabling faster, more flexible and better-coordinated responses to future climate shocks.

Systems at national and sub-national levels have strengthened capacities to prepare, respond to and continue to deliver quality education in emergency settings

- Continuity of learning during emergencies was strengthened, with a coordinated national response ensured through UN and Ministry of Education co-leadership of the Education Cluster on Emergencies.
- Government's Emergency School Feeding Programme supported with complementary yellow split peas reaching 970,000 learners in 1,700 schools covering the three school terms in 2025.

State and non-state actors have increased capacity to respond to forced displacement

- Capacity to sustain safe and resilient WASH services in emergency and displacement-affected settings strengthened, particularly in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba.
- Technical readiness for expanded WASH infrastructure improved, with assessments completed for 15 boreholes, six mechanized water systems, and 10 ablution blocks, ensuring evidence-based planning for service delivery.
- Environmental and social safeguards secured, including completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment and Project Briefs, reducing implementation risk and enabling regulatory clearance.
- Feasibility studies completed for solar-powered reticulation systems, enabling improved irrigation in 12 farm blocks and enhanced water access for ~200 households and 10 public institutions.
- Sub-national capacity for resilient WASH service delivery strengthened, with procurement processes advanced and construction positioned to begin in early 2026.

Feasibility studies completed for solar-powered reticulation systems, enabling improved irrigation in 12 farm blocks and enhanced water access for ~200 households and 10 public institutions.

Beneficiary Voices

Impact Story: Turning Transfers into Transformation in Hinjali Village

In the quiet village of Hinjali in Zambia's Southern Province, 45-year-old Destiny Hachoohe has turned every Kwacha of the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme into an engine of resilience, dignity, and long-term progress. A widowed mother of seven, Destiny could easily have been pushed into deeper vulnerability after losing her husband in 2012. Instead, she chose a different path—one shaped by determination and resourcefulness.



Destiny enrolled in the SCT programme in 2014, starting with a modest ZMW 400 received every two months. From the beginning, she refused to view the support as a mere hand-out. She treated each transfer as seed capital—money with purpose. When the government increased the transfer amount to ZMW 800 in 2019 to help households cope with the impacts of drought, Destiny seized the opportunity to grow her efforts.

She joined a village banking group and quickly became one of its most active contributors. With deliberate discipline, she reinvested 20 percent of her savings back into the group—both expanding her own financial base and strengthening the safety net for other vulnerable members in her community.

“Every Kwacha has its job,” she says proudly. And indeed, the impact is visible in her homestead. Destiny now bulk-buys maize from the Food Reserve Agency, grinding it into mealie meal and samp to ensure consistent meals for her children. Her careful saving also enabled her to replace her old thatched roof with durable iron sheets, providing her family with a dry and secure home during the rainy season.

Her vision extends beyond daily needs. Destiny has invested in a small herd of goats—her **“living savings.”** This livestock not only grows in value but also serves as her long-term exit strategy: if cash transfers were to stop, she can sell a goat to sustain her family. That foresight is already paying off. Her eldest son, Daliso, is now attending college, supported by her savings, while the younger children benefit from the Government of Zambia's Free Education Policy. With tuition worries lifted,



Destiny channels resources toward school supplies, ensuring her children have the stability and opportunities she once feared they might lose.

Destiny's story reflects the transformative impact of the GRZ–United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection (UNJPSP II). Through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services—and with funding from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland—the programme delivers more than financial support. It restores hope, strengthens dignity, and empowers people to shape their own futures.

Today, Destiny is not just a participant in the SCT programme; she is the chairperson of her village banking group. She has become a leader, a role model, and a living example of how strategic investment and social protection can break the cycle of poverty—one deliberate choice at a time.

Peace Pillar



By 2027, all people, including the marginalized and vulnerable groups, participate in and benefit from sustained peace, democracy, human rights, rule of law, justice, non-discrimination, equality and inclusive and transformative governance.



Governance and Environment



Key Highlights

Outcome 3:

By 2027 all people including the marginalized and vulnerable groups participate in and benefit from sustained peace, democracy, human rights, rule of law, justice, non-discrimination, equality and inclusive and transformative governance.

Output 3.1:

Institutions and systems for legal identity, peace, justice, and essential social services at central and decentralised levels have the required policy/legal frameworks and capacities to accountably & transparently deliver effectively, efficiently, and inclusively on their mandates, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised including in crises

National capacities for civil registration, birth registration and vital statistics strengthened

The Government of Zambia, with UN support, has strengthened **national capacities for civil registration, birth registration, and vital statistics**. Efforts focused on enhancing legal identity and access to services for refugees, while also expanding birth registration services to underserved districts.

Key results include:

- **Refugee protection:** Legal identity and protection mechanisms were strengthened for unregistered asylum seekers, ensuring

lawful movement to designated refugee settlements. A total of **1,493 asylum seekers** were profiled by the Commissioner for Refugees (COR).

- **Birth registration expansion:** Services were extended to **10 additional districts**, five in Luapula Province (Chiengi, Kawambwa, Mwansabombwe, Chifunabuli, Nchelenge) and five in NorthWestern Province (Kabompo, Mumfumbwe, Zambezi, Mwinilunga, Mushindamo).
- **Capacity building:** **48 district officials** (34 male, 14 female) from the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship (DNRPC), Health, Education, and Social Welfare were trained on integrated birth registration services.

These interventions have improved access to legal identity, strengthened protection for vulnerable populations, and expanded the reach of birth registration services, contributing to better governance and social inclusion.

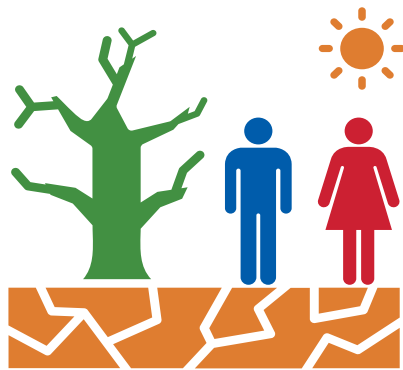
Enhanced capacities of institutions at national and sub-national level for constructive, inclusive, transparent, and accountable delivery on constructive dialogue and public services

- The UNDP launched the **Development of Basic Infrastructure in Settlements for Displaced Persons and their Host Communities (DBI) Project** to address critical development challenges in the resettlement schemes of Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. These areas face inadequate infrastructure, limited access to social services, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities worsened by climate change and resource constraints.

The project is designed to strengthen resilience and improve living conditions for both displaced persons and host communities.

- ▶ In addition, the UN supported the **development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the National Strategy to End Child Marriage**, providing government and partners with a structured tool to track progress, measure impact, and strengthen accountability in efforts to eliminate child marriage nationwide. This led to:
 - ▶ Infrastructure development initiated in resettlement schemes to improve access to services and reduce vulnerabilities.
 - ▶ A national M&E framework established, enhancing the ability to monitor, evaluate, and coordinate interventions to end child marriage.

Together, these actions demonstrate progress in addressing both humanitarian and social development priorities, improving conditions for



611,343 community members in **8** drought-affected districts were sensitized on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse

displaced populations while reinforcing national systems to protect children and advance social inclusion.

Enhanced information management systems of government to collect, analyse and utilize gender and youth disaggregated data for policy formulation, decision-making and service delivery (e.g. GBVMIS, Migration Data IS, EMIS, CPIMS)

The UN continued to strengthen national systems and community resilience through targeted technical support and outreach:

- ▶ Migration management: An Integrated Migration Data System was developed, alongside the National Migration Data Strategy (2026–2030), to enhance data-driven policymaking and programming.
- ▶ Education statistics: Technical support enabled the Ministry of Education to publish, print, and disseminate the 2024 Education Statistical Bulletin, improving access to reliable education data.
- ▶ GBV response: The National GBV Intake and Assessment Form was finalized in partnership with the University of Zambia, the Gender Division, and service providers, standardizing survivor assessment processes and strengthening coordination and data quality.
- ▶ Community sensitization: **611,343 community members in eight drought-affected districts were sensitized on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse**, GBV risk mitigation, and reporting channels, contributing to safer environments for women and children.

- ▶ Child protection systems: UNICEF supported a review of national child protection case management tools, leading to recommendations for a harmonized, interoperable system. Findings informed the engagement of a consultant to revise SOPs, harmonize tools, and strengthen supervision and monitoring frameworks.

This enhanced data systems for migration and education, standardized GBV survivor support, large-scale community sensitization on protection issues, and strengthened child protection case management, all contributing to improved service delivery, accountability, and safeguarding of vulnerable populations.

Improved capacity to develop, coordinate and implement gender sensitive, adolescent friendly, rights-based and evidence informed HIV/SRHR response plans in with the 8NDP, NASF Priorities and Global AIDS strategy

This intervention ensured that vulnerable communities received lifesaving health services alongside emergency food support, strengthening resilience and safeguarding wellbeing during the drought.

Through the health and drought response, the UN supported the Ministry of Health to expand access to integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services by aligning **27 outreach sites** with food distribution points in drought affected areas. A total of **8,109 individuals** accessed essential services, including antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, STI/HIV screening and treatment, GBV response, maternal health services, and outpatient care.

Output 3.2:

More people, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, are empowered to access information and claim their rights, seek protection and remedies from the State and participate in democratic processes

Strengthened institutional capacities and enhanced oversight of electoral processes to ensure inclusion, transparency, accountability and peace

Zambia now has its first validated National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, completed consultations on electoral reforms, and a dedicated project to strengthen democratic processes ahead of the 2026 elections. This was possible through:

- ▶ The collaboration with the Gender Division, UNDP and UNFPA provided technical and financial support for Zambia's **first National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325**, which has been validated and is pending national launch for implementation. UNFPA and UNDP supported the Gender Division to develop and validate the first-ever Zambia National Action Plan for Women Peace and Security.
- ▶ UNDP's support to the **Electoral Reform Technical Committee (ERTC)** to conclude nationwide consultations on electoral and legal reforms, strengthening the reform process.
- ▶ The launch of the Deepening Democracy Project by UNDP, to prepare for Zambia's 2026 General Elections, addressing key recommendations from the 2023 Needs Assessment Mission.

CSOs engaged, capacitated and empowered to protect and advance specific human rights issues, including UPR follow-up

- ▶ OHCHR coordinated human rights engagement through the official visits by the UN Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression, Ms. Irene Khan and Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Nazila Ghanea. These visits strengthened dialogue between the Government and international human rights mechanisms, reinforced national ownership of commitments, and enhanced Zambia's visibility and cooperation with the UN Special Procedures system.

Strengthened capacity of populations at risk of or affected by HIV to remove barriers and reduce risks and vulnerabilities through targeted integrated HIV/SRHR services, community-led HIV responses and social contracting

- ▶ Through life skills and health education, **UNESCO reached 5,314 university and college students (3,121 males and 2,193 females) with information and services on HIV prevention, GBV, information on contraceptives or family planning, mental**



9,309 refugees in Mantapala received monthly cash transfers to meet immediate food needs.

health, and safer sex, increasing knowledge and access to essential health skills and strengthening students' capacity to make informed decisions and safeguard their wellbeing.

Enhanced capacity for food insecure people affected by shocks (including refugees) to meet their essential food security and nutrition needs

- ▶ Targeted interventions supported families affected by drought in Mantapala settlement, approximately 9,309 refugees received monthly cash transfers to meet immediate food needs, while 443,372 drought-affected people across 30 priority districts were assisted through cash, vouchers, and in-kind food. Additionally, 1,000 refugees in Mantapala received agricultural implements and inputs to strengthen self-reliance. Vulnerable households and refugees were provided with food security, livelihood support, and improved infrastructure, enhancing resilience and self-reliance in drought-affected and displacement-affected areas.



443,372 drought-affected people across **30** priority districts were assisted through cash, vouchers, and in-kind food.

Output 3.3:

More people and the State have capacities to jointly take measures to end discrimination and exclusion, resist negative social norms and practices, and end violence against women and children, including in humanitarian settings

Enhanced national capacity to end violence, negative social norms and practices, discrimination and exclusion of women and children and other vulnerable groups in line with national and international human rights instruments

National frameworks were strengthened to prevent GBV, enhanced child justice mechanisms, and improved monitoring of child marriage interventions, advancing protection and empowerment of women, girls, and children. This was possible through:

- ▶ Support from UNDP, UNESCO, and UNFPA, through the finalisation of the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 Project Document, a joint programme aimed at driving a transformational shift in social norms to end GBV, particularly violence against women and girls, including domestic and intimate partner violence.
- ▶ Child protection and justice through Court Rules for implementing the Children's Code Act were finalised in collaboration with the Judiciary, National Prosecution Authority, and Zambia Police Service, strengthening child justice systems.

- ▶ Ending child marriage where UNICEF supported the Gender Division to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, which was validated and launched in the second quarter of 2025.

National capacity to empower women to participate in peace and security enhanced

- ▶ UNDP provided technical support to the Zambia Police Service for the development of an AntiSexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (AntiSHEA) Policy, promoting gender equality within the service.
- ▶ Through UNDP support, accommodation facilities and a daycare at the Geoffrey Mukuma Paramilitary Training Centre in Kafue District was completed, improving working and living conditions for female officers. This enabled enhancement of gender equality and improved the welfare of female police officers.

Enhanced gender-responsive legal frameworks, policies, strategies and mechanisms that foster human rights, non-discrimination and equality for a just and inclusive society

- ▶ OHCHR coordinated the finalization and submission of the 7th, 8th, and 9th UNCT Shadow CEDAW Reports, supporting Government engagement with the CEDAW Treaty Body. The reports reinforced national efforts to prioritize gender equality, strengthened Government reporting capacity, and enhanced alignment between international commitments and national development objectives.

Mechanisms for Prevention and Reporting of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse among communities (especially children and women, PWDs, & other vulnerable groups), vendors and partners strengthened and other marginalised populations

- ▶ Through PSEA coordination, the 2024 IASC PSEA Country Mapping Exercise was launched, demonstrating the impact of the PSEA Coordination Model at country level.
- ▶ There was enhanced advocacy around International Albinism Awareness Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities reinforced national efforts to promote inclusion, raise awareness, and protect the rights of marginalized groups, advancing the LNOB principle.
- ▶ With UNESCO's technical support, all implementing partners adopted PSEA guidelines, and 100% of staff and partners completed mandatory PSEA training, strengthening accountability and safeguarding measures.
- ▶ UNICEF facilitated awareness for 553,964 community members in eight drought-affected districts on SEA prevention, GBV risk mitigation, and reporting channels, and translated SEA posters into four major languages (Tonga, Nyanja, Silozi, Bemba).
- ▶ UNFPA institutionalized PSEA as lead agency, embedding grievance mechanisms into aid operations. This included training 121 Community Protection Monitors as decentralized liaisons and supporting toll free helplines (116, 933) during mobile humanitarian interventions, fostering inclusivity across 23 partner organizations.

- ▶ Grievance desks at mobile interventions and distribution sites recorded 476 complaints across four Western Province districts. The system flagged 22,000 cases of kickbacks and unfair targeting in food and cash distributions, enabling corrective action to safeguard beneficiaries.
- ▶ Community awareness and sensitization on PSEA reached 6,710 individuals in high risk areas.
- ▶ A standardized SEA Incident Reporting and Response Flowchart was developed to improve access to information and services.

These interventions strengthened national safeguarding systems, enhanced inclusion of marginalized groups, improved accountability across programmes, and expanded community awareness and protection against sexual exploitation, abuse, and GBV.

Strengthened Government capacity on legislation, policies and regulatory frameworks, with adequate budget, to ensure a protective environment for children, adolescent girls and boys, vulnerable and other marginalised populations

- ▶ UN Human Rights analyzed the concerns and implications of cyber laws (Cyber Security Bill and Cyber Crimes Bill), highlighting potential human rights violations, particularly regarding freedom of speech and privacy. UN Human Rights recommended that the Government align these laws with international human rights standards and practices.
- ▶ UNDP supported the finalisation of the Project Document for the Spotlight Initiative 2.0, a joint initiative which aims to contribute towards to transformational and sustainable shift in social norms that Gender Based Violence especially Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including domestic violence (DV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).
- ▶ Statutory Instruments to operationalize the National Coordination Committee for Children were endorsed by the Cabinet. UNICEF provided technical support to the judiciary in finalizing Court Rules on the implementation of the Children's Code Act while the National Prosecution Authority and the Zambia Police finalized the guidelines on handling children in the criminal justice system. A Prosecutors Guideline in the management of Children in the criminal justice system aligning with the Children's Code Act was also finalized.
- ▶ UN Human Rights analyzed the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Bills, highlighting risks to freedom of speech and privacy, and recommended alignment with international human rights standards.
- ▶ UNDP, UNESCO, IOM and UNFPA supported the finalisation of the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 Project Document, aimed at driving a transformational shift in social norms to end GBV, including violence against women and girls, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence.
- ▶ To operationalize the National Coordination Committee for Children, the Zambian cabinet endorsed Statutory Instruments, UNICEF provided technical support to finalize Court Rules for implementing the Children's Code Act, while the National Prosecution Authority and Zambia Police completed guidelines for handling children in the criminal justice system. A Prosecutors Guideline aligned with the Children's Code Act was also finalized.
- ▶ These activities reinforced human rights safeguards in lawmaking, advanced national frameworks to prevent GBV, and reinforced child protection and justice systems, ensuring greater accountability and protection for vulnerable groups.

Output 3.4:

State institutions have enhanced capacities to domesticate, deliver on and, together with non-state actors, track progress, hold institutions and individuals to account, facilitate remedies for violations, and report on Zambia's domestic regional and international commitments

Capacities of national institutions to protect, promote and monitor human rights violations including for women, youth, PwD and other marginalized vulnerable populations including awareness and understanding of the normative content of rights enhanced

- ▶ Following toxic waste contamination of the Mwambashi Stream by a mining company, the Government intervened immediately using agricultural lime. UN Zambia (UN Human Rights) and UNDP initiated a comprehensive environmental assessment to determine the extent of damage and guide restoration efforts. Expected results include strengthened environmental policies, improved community health measures, and long-term ecological rehabilitation to mitigate social and economic impacts.



Strengthened early warning and early response system as well as increased awareness of national actors and institutions on human rights

- ▶ There were improved Government coordination, monitoring, and reporting on human rights commitments, reinforcing national accountability and alignment with international standards, owing to the UN's technical support provided to establish the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and FollowUp (NMIRF). Capacity building was provided to strengthen the operationalisation of the National Steering Committee, enhancing institutional capacity to develop the National Recommendations Tracking Database.

Enhanced strategic advocacy and engagement to enact laws, policies and mechanisms supporting the rights of victims to remedy for all human rights violations

- ▶ The UN Human Rights assessed the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Bills, identified risks to freedom of speech and privacy, and recommended alignment with international human rights standards. This strengthened legal framework to protect digital rights while maintaining cybersecurity in line with global best practices.
- ▶ There was an analysis of proposed constitutional changes highlighted issues of inclusivity and transparency in women's political participation, youth engagement, constituency restructuring, and electoral reforms.

- ▶ A major stakeholder workshop aligned 226 accepted UPR recommendations with Zambia's National Development Plan and the UN Cooperation Framework. This increased national ownership, and reinforced Government capacity to monitor and implement human rights commitments within the broader development agenda.

Enhanced capacity of state and non-state actors in business & Human Rights

- ▶ The UN supported the Government in developing Zambia's first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). Key milestones included establishing the National Steering Committee and Technical Working Group, with the first draft completed by December 2025 and validation planned for early 2026. Despite funding constraints, OHCHR and UNDP provided financial and technical assistance, advancing regulation of human rights impacts in key industries such as mining.
- ▶ The UN supported national advocacy under the theme Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials. Messages from the President and Resident Coordinator reaffirmed dignity, equality, and protection for all, with emphasis on vulnerable groups. Visibility was enhanced through exhibitions, social media outreach, video messages, and dissemination of the UDHR.

Beneficiary Voices

Breaking Barriers: Zambian Women in Uniform on the Frontlines of Peacekeeping

In conflict zones marked by insecurity and loss, Zambian women police officers are redefining what it means to serve on the frontlines of peace. Through the Women in Peacekeeping Operations Project, funded by the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations and implemented by UNDP and the Zambia Police Service (ZPS), women officers are gaining the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to take on UN peacekeeping roles. With USD 932,072 invested in Zambia, the project is breaking long-standing barriers and advancing SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Although Zambia has committed to women's empowerment, female officers have historically faced limited access to deployment information, heavy domestic responsibilities, and cultural perceptions that discourage international service. Institutional gaps—such as the absence of a clear Anti-SEA policy—further hindered progress. The project is helping change this by creating fairer, more supportive pathways for women to deploy.

The experience of Assistant Superintendent Memory Neba, who served in Liberia, shows the profound impact women can make. Working closely with women and children, she helped raise awareness on education and security while

distributing vegetable seeds in partnership with FAO. “Families were able to grow food, earn income, and send their children to school,” she recalls—small actions that helped communities rebuild.

In South Sudan, Inspector Lilian Lishomwa led an initiative called My Police My Teacher, teaching basic English to South Sudanese women officers. “By the time I left, 35 women could speak and write in English,” she says. “It made a huge difference in their confidence and ability to serve.”

To date, 29 Zambian women officers have been trained in essential peacekeeping skills—from report writing and computer literacy to interviews and firearm handling. For Assistant Superintendent Ruth Nawila, this preparation made her transition into the mission area easier. While deployed, she helped local women develop business skills. “Many

had no income of their own,” she explains. “Our programs gave them confidence and direction.”

Women peacekeepers have also strengthened responses to gender-based violence. Assistant Superintendent Vincent Riggy Chibesa notes that female officers make it easier to gather sensitive information and support survivors respectfully.

For the women who serve, peacekeeping is transformative. “I was shy and hesitant before,” Lilian reflects. “But peacekeeping gave me the courage to fight for my goals.” Ruth adds, “When you come back, you're not the same—you understand the world differently.”

Their message is clear: more women are needed in peace operations. As Lilian puts it, “We are not just peacekeepers—we are pioneers shaping a more peaceful future for all.”



Planet Pillar



By 2027, ecosystems are healthier, and all people, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, are more resilient and continue to benefit from the sustainable management and use of natural resources and environmental services, and more effective responses to climate change, shocks and stresses



Environmental Sustainability



The pillar in its implementation approach combined upstream advisory support with downstream demonstration and scale up. What the upstream entailed is that the UN provided technical assistance for the NDC 3.0 process, green taxonomy, climate education frameworks, and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) improvements. Midstream, capabilities for climate services were strengthened through training and equipment, including installation of automatic rain gauges and the use of drones for environmental monitoring. Downstream, investments targeted health facility energy security, WASH systems, agro-ecological practices and market access, complemented by indexed insurance and small grants for producer organizations. Throughout, government leadership was central, with ministries and local authorities guiding planning, co-financing and oversight, and communities engaged in design, operation and maintenance of assets.

Output 4.1:

Strengthened laws, policies and programmes for the sustainable management of natural resources, effective responses to climate change and access to inclusive environmentally friendly basic services and infrastructure are designed, implemented and monitored at national and sub-national levels

The UN accelerated Zambia's shift toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development by advancing key national frameworks. The validation of **NDC 3.0** clarified emission-reduction and

adaptation pathways and aligned national planning with global climate goals. A new **Green Finance Taxonomy** now directs capital to sustainable investments, while updated sectoral tools—including **WASH-FIT** and the **National Water Policy**—embed resilience, equity and inclusion across service delivery systems. Collectively, these reforms strengthened the pipeline from international commitments to operational programmes and budgets.

Stronger national policy architecture

- ▶ **NDC 3.0** finalized and validated, providing clear sectoral mitigation and adaptation trajectories.
- ▶ National planning and budgeting aligned with global climate goals, improving Zambia's capacity to deliver on international commitments.
- ▶ A **Green Finance Taxonomy** established to steer public and private capital toward climate-compatible investments.
- ▶ A **climate change education framework** developed, strengthening long-term human capital for resilience.

Improved risk information and early warning

- ▶ The Zambia Meteorological Department's capacity enhanced through training and deployment of **109 automatic rain gauges**, expanding spatial coverage and improving the speed and accuracy of rainfall data.
- ▶ Training in sub-regional weather observation strengthened operational forecasting and seasonal outlooks, enabling more precise and actionable advisories.

Enhanced preparedness and anticipatory action

- ▶ In partnership with DMMU, a **National Anticipatory Action Plan** and **multi-hazard contingency plan** were developed, integrating triggers, thresholds and pre-agreed actions for faster coordinated responses to climatic and public-health shocks.
- ▶ A **nature-related risk study** and progress on the green taxonomy improved risk screening and informed climate-aligned capital allocation.
- ▶ These measures collectively strengthened the country's ability to protect lives and livelihoods while directing resources toward resilience-focused investments.

Output 4.2:

People in Zambia, particularly the marginalized, including the most vulnerable groups, have improved knowledge and capacities to demand, adopt and implement environmentally friendly, gender responsive and climate-smart sustainable natural resource management practices, and utilize basic services and infrastructure



Over **50,000** farmers adopted climate-smart and regenerative agriculture through field schools and extension services, improving household resilience to climate shocks.

Capacity development targeted farmers, communities, technical institutions and public officials. As a result, farmers expanded the use of climate-smart practices, communities made greater use of seasonal forecasts, and sensitization in ten chiefdoms strengthened household and community risk-management capacities.

- ▶ **Over 50,000 farmers** adopted climate-smart and regenerative agriculture through field schools and extension services, improving household resilience to climate shocks.
- ▶ **WFP support reached 72,100 smallholders** and **195 Ministry of Agriculture staff** with integrated resilience packages and seasonal advisories, broadening climate-informed decision-making across farming communities.
- ▶ **30,000 drought-affected households** received input support with nutrient-dense, drought-tolerant crops, directly improving food security and adaptive capacity.

Water access and productive assets expanded

- ▶ Under the Climate Recovery and Resilience Facility, **10 hectares of irrigation** were established in Monze and Chipangali, complemented by **three irrigation schemes**



490,000 people have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services.

and **16 water points**, increasing reliable water supply for farming.

- ▶ A new **bulking centre in Msoro** now serves **3,200 farmers**, improving aggregation, logistics and price discovery.

Risk-management mechanisms strengthened

- ▶ **Livestock indemnity and weather-index insurance products** were developed to protect **25,000 farmers** against climate shocks.
- ▶ **20,000 calves** were vaccinated against East Coast Fever, improving herd health and productivity.

Clean energy for basic services

- ▶ **16 institutional clean cookstoves** were installed across **11 schools** implementing school feeding programmes, reducing fuelwood reliance, lowering exposure to indoor air pollution and easing burdens on school staff.
- ▶ These clean-energy solutions improved the safety, efficiency and sustainability of school feeding, supporting better nutrition and environmental outcomes.



72,100 smallholders receive integrated resilience packages and seasonal advisories, broadening climate-informed decision-making across farming communities.



Output 4.3:

State and non-state institutions and communities have capacities to translate international commitments into national and sub-national laws, policies, programmes and financial instruments (including budgets), and monitor and report on progress of implementation at all levels

Institutional capacity to translate global climate commitments into national and local action was significantly strengthened. UN support advanced anticipatory action planning, multi-hazard preparedness, nature-related risk assessment, and climate-finance readiness, equipping national and sub-national institutions with tools to manage overlapping risks and align resources with resilience priorities.

Landscape restoration scaled up

- ▶ A USD 12 million GEF-financed programme was launched across priority districts to restore degraded landscapes, conserve biodiversity and reduce climate vulnerability through nature-based solutions.
- ▶ 906 community members were trained in community forestry and agroforestry, and 660 fast-growing fruit trees (including mango and Leucaena) were planted, providing both environmental benefits and nutrition/energy co-benefits.

Genetic resources and circularity strengthened

- ▶ **20 seed species** were conserved at the National Forest Research seed bank, safeguarding genetic resources critical for long-term climate resilience.
- ▶ Circular economy models were demonstrated through the recycling of **10,000 plastic bottles** and the upcycling of **15,000 kg of feathers** into **1,500 pillows**, creating green livelihood opportunities while reducing waste.
- ▶ **K10 million in small grants** supported nine producer groups to develop community-led, nature-positive enterprises that link income generation with ecological stewardship.

Output 4.4:

State and non-state institutions and people in Zambia including the Ministry of Science and Technology vulnerable and marginalized groups have strengthened resilience and improved capacities to anticipate, respond to and recover better from crises including climate-related shocks, epidemics and natural disasters

Strategic Investments for Shock-Resilient Basic Services

Targeted investments in energy for health facilities, WASH emergency supplies, risk-transfer solutions for smallholders, and drought-responsive agricultural inputs significantly reduced community vulnerability to climate and public-health shocks. Together, these measures strengthened the enabling environment for anticipatory and early action by national authorities, ensuring faster and more coordinated responses to future emergencies.

Energy for Essential Services – Key Results

- ▶ **Reliable energy for health delivery expanded:** The National Vaccine Store was solarized, securing cold-chain reliability for immunization services.
- ▶ **Large-scale solarization underway:** Procurement was completed for photovoltaic systems across **423 health facilities** (2,124 kWp) and **three medical warehouses** (300 kWp), with installations prioritizing high-burden and off-grid districts.
- ▶ **Nationwide scale-up initiated:** Solarization began across an additional **250 facilities**, expanding clean-energy access for essential services.

Institutional and market systems strengthened

- ▶ Public officials and cooperatives were trained to integrate renewable energy into devolved financing mechanisms (CDF and CEE-Z), strengthening their capacity to allocate resources toward sustainable solutions.
- ▶ Technical education institutions received laboratory equipment, building a skilled workforce to support the energy transition.
- ▶ Targeted support to MSMEs accelerated deployment of quality-assured off-grid products and after-sales services, improving community-level access to reliable clean energy.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – Key Results

- ▶ **Systems strengthened for resilience and equity:** The WASH-FIT tool was revised to integrate climate resilience, inclusion and equity, supporting risk-sensitive improvements at facility level.

- ▶ The **National Water Policy** was aligned with Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines, anchoring risk-informed planning and investment across the sector.
- ▶ **Service access expanded and emergency response scaled:** Development and humanitarian programming provided **safe water to 45,500 people**, **sanitation to 217,718 people**, and hygiene services to 230,215 people.
- ▶ During cholera, Mpox, acute watery diarrhoea and drought events, emergency WASH supplies reached an additional **404,880 people**, stabilizing public-health outcomes and reducing cascading risks.



Beneficiary Voices

Traditional Leaders Drive Behaviour Change as Climate Impacts Deepen in Rural Zambia

As climate change continues to tighten its grip on rural Zambia, the communities most affected are increasingly turning to a familiar source of guidance: their traditional leaders. With unpredictable rainfall, depleted soils and shrinking forest resources threatening rural livelihoods, climate-smart solutions are more necessary than ever — yet adopting them often requires people to rethink long-standing habits and social norms.

Recognizing this challenge, the Facility for Action for Climate Empowerment to Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions (FACE-NDC) is working with traditional chiefs and community leaders to promote behavioural change and strengthen local climate action. Through non-formal climate education and community dialogues, the initiative is helping rural households understand the impacts of climate change and adopt sustainable practices that protect both their environment and their way of life.

FACE-NDC is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the Government of Germany (IKI-Germany) and implemented by FAO, UNESCO, UNITAR, the University of Zambia and the Copperbelt University.

While climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry and renewable energy solutions are widely known, many communities struggle to adopt them because they require shifts in daily routines and long-held land-use practices. Behavioural science is therefore a core part of the initiative's approach — helping identify what prevents people from changing and how trusted local voices can support new community norms.

In rural Zambia, traditional leaders are central to these efforts. As custodians of culture and land, they influence how communities manage natural resources, resolve disputes, and make decisions that affect future generations. By partnering with chiefs, FACE-NDC ensures that climate messages are not only heard but embraced as part of existing cultural values and community priorities.

During recent dialogues held under the initiative, Chiefs Macha, Cooma and Ndake underscored the need to blend local knowledge with science to develop solutions that communities can truly own.



"It is a very good move that indigenous knowledge is being appreciated and included into local climate change solutions," said Chief Macha. "I am more than happy to be part of such an initiative that invests in local people while leveraging our traditions."

For many leaders, the motivation is personal as well as communal. Erratic rainfall, depleted forests and crop losses are already affecting households across their chiefdoms.

"We are more than happy to collaborate and learn more about climate change to help our community," noted **Chief Cooma**. "Its effects are visible and no one is spared."

Beyond technical solutions, the dialogues highlighted a deeper issue: the need for mindset transformation. Even when farmers understand the benefits of climate-smart practices, fear of risk or attachment to familiar routines can slow adoption. Chiefs, as respected community figures, are uniquely positioned to help shift those attitudes.

Chief Ndake captured this sentiment clearly: "The key to true change lies not only in the resources we provide but in the minds we transform."

Through community-driven education, peer-to-peer learning and leadership engagement, FACE-NDC aims to strengthen climate-resilient behaviours across rural Zambia. By rooting climate action in local traditions, values and leadership structures, the initiative is helping communities move from awareness to meaningful action.

As climate pressures intensify, the voices of traditional leaders may prove to be one of the country's most powerful tools — guiding rural communities toward sustainable practices that safeguard both their livelihoods and their cultural heritage.





Humanitarian Interventions in Zambia

Coordination of Humanitarian Response

The UN System in Zambia, working with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), strengthened humanitarian coordination through the Disaster Management Consultative Forum (DMCF). The UN and DMMU co-chaired this high-level platform, bringing together government, UN agencies, NGOs, and development partners. They also jointly led humanitarian response clusters with line ministries, which improved disaster response implementation, predictability, accountability, and partnerships.

Clusters for disaster response in Zambia



Support to In-depth Vulnerability and Needs Assessment and Contingency Planning

The UN in Zambia played a key role in the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) under the DMMU, providing financial and technical support for food security and drought impact assessments. This included SMART surveys, Rapid Qualitative Assessments, and capacity building for disaster risk management. With UN support, the DMMU conducted vulnerability and needs assessments that guided preparedness, response, and recovery during the 2024/2025 rainy season. The UN also supported the development of the National Multi-hazard Contingency Plan (NMCP), enabling clusters and the DMMU to deliver timely, coordinated responses to anticipated hazards, reducing the impact of floods on people, livelihoods, and the environment.

Drought Response and Food Security

The 2023/2024 El Niño-induced drought, declared a national disaster in February 2024, affected over 9 million people across more than 70% of Zambia's districts, causing severe crop losses, livestock deaths, and heightened rural vulnerability. By mid-2025, humanitarian aid and improved weather conditions helped stabilize food security, leading to Zambia's removal from the global Hunger Hotspots list.

UN and OCHA Support to Zambia's Drought Response

In support of Zambia's drought response, the UN and partners launched a USD 197 million Flash Appeal to assist 3.3 million people from May 2024 to June 2025. By mid-2025, 39% of the appeal was funded, reaching 2.8 million people with food, agriculture, nutrition, protection, and safe water. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) strengthened system-wide coordination, facilitating Humanitarian Country Team meetings, inter-sector planning, and response monitoring. OCHA also enabled financial tracking and helped secure CERF Underfunded Emergencies funding, ensuring priority needs were addressed in alignment with national efforts

“2.8 million drought-affected people reached with food, agriculture, nutrition, protection, and safe water through UN and partner support”

CERF UFE Implementation Progress

The CERF Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) window provided rapid, flexible funding to address urgent drought-related needs. WFP and FAO supported food security and agricultural recovery through drought-tolerant inputs, irrigation rehabilitation, livestock restocking, and climate-smart agriculture. UNFPA strengthened protection by delivering integrated GBV, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV services via mobile clinics, counselling, and community referral systems. UNICEF scaled up climate-resilient nutrition and WASH services, screening 34,085 children, expanding acute malnutrition treatment, and advancing solar-powered water systems and sanitation training. Implementation progress highlights:

- ▶ **WFP:** Trained 40 extension staff, reached 5,531 farmers, supported irrigation/borehole rehabilitation, and provided rice inputs to 674 farmers in Lunga.
- ▶ **FAO:** Registered 2,772 farmers for crop inputs and 800 for livestock support, engaged suppliers/agro-dealers via e-vouchers, and built climate-smart agriculture capacity.
- ▶ **UNFPA:** Reached 15,885 people with GBV, SRH, and HIV services, provided counselling to 955 individuals, and strengthened 'GBV and PSEA referral/reporting systems.
- ▶ **UNICEF:** Exceeded child nutrition screening targets, expanded malnutrition treatment, improved WASH in health facilities, and promoted climate-resilient sanitation.

Joint Programmes (JPs)

In 2025, the UN in Zambia has 13 active JPs with a budget of USD 89.9 million. All programmes integrated gender equality (GEM 2 or GEM 3).

The JPs had cross-cutting themes on youth empowerment, women's rights, disability inclusion, climate resilience, health systems strengthening.



Agriculture & Climate Resilience

Agencies involved: FAO, UNDP, WFP, WHO, UNITAR, UNESCO

- ▶ Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) – Soybean value chain, irrigation
- ▶ SCRALA – Climate resilience in Agro-Ecological Regions I & II
- ▶ Alternative Livelihoods to Tobacco Production – Farmers shifting to diversified crops
- ▶ Facility for Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE-NDCs) – Renewable energy & forestry PhDs
- ▶ ZaMPPR – Pandemic preparedness & response



Social Protection & Inclusion

Agencies involved: UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, WFP

- ▶ GRZ–UN Joint Programme on Social Protection (Phase II) – Targeting female-headed households
- ▶ Disability Inclusion JP – Access to CDF, inclusive planning for PWDs

- ▶ Ending Child Marriage (Phase II) – Legislative reform & policy advocacy
- ▶ Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment – Spotlight 2.0 – Baseline study & implementation rollout



Health & HIV/AIDS

Agencies involved: WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, WB, IOM, UNODC

- ▶ UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS – Full implementation by Joint UN Team
- ▶ Enhancing Youth Health (NCDs & Mental Health) – Governance & policy for prevention



Energy & SDG Localization

Agencies involved: UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA

- ▶ Accelerating Renewable Energy Technologies – Deployment & adoption in Zambia
- ▶ SSDG localization in Zambia - Steering Committee formed and programme completed as per 2025 work plan

Success Stories Under Joint Programmes

Building Futures, Ending Child Marriage

Since 2016, UNFPA and UNICEF, working with the Government of Zambia, have implemented the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, now in its third phase. Operating in ten districts across three provinces, the programme engages traditional and religious leaders as key partners in shifting harmful social norms. Chiefs such as Chief Chikwa of Chama district have taken strong public stands, inspiring other community leaders to commit to ending child marriage and directly intervening in cases to protect children.





In 2025, the programme expanded mentorship and education efforts:

- ▶ 6,587 girls received guidance from volunteer female coaches.
- ▶ 12,555 boys participated in Coaching Boys into Men sessions to foster positive attitudes.
- ▶ 15,632 adolescents benefited from case management services, connecting them to support and resources.

- ▶ 1,714 out of school adolescents were reenrolled in school, while 4,801 adolescents accessed scholarships and support services.
- ▶ Peer educators reached over 42,000 adolescents with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender based violence, HIV, and child marriage laws the disaggregated data peer educators reached over 42,000 (27,349F and 14,651M).

These efforts are helping adolescents build knowledge, agency, and resilience, while promoting education as a pathway to dignity and development. However, challenges remain: limited resources restrict expansion to other high prevalence districts; teenage pregnancy rates remain high, and national coordination structures are not yet fully operational.

From Struggle to Strength: How Zambia's Cash Plus Approach Transformed a Farmer's Life

In rural Zambia, the Government's Cash Plus policy is changing lives by combining Social Cash Transfers with healthcare, skills training, agricultural support, and other social services. For Luka Mudekwa, a farmer in his seventies, this integrated support has been transformative.

A father of six and grandfather of four, Luka depends on a small maize field to feed his family. Two years ago, he learned about the Social Cash Transfer programme through a community sensitization campaign. The modest but regular payments gave him stability, helping him sustain his household and invest in his farm.



Through the Single Window Service Delivery Initiative (SWI), Luka was later linked to the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIMA). Living with a hearing impairment and struggling with worsening eyesight, healthcare had long been out of reach. But NHIMA provided free medical services, including eyeglasses that restored his vision and allowed him to continue farming.

For Luka, the SWI platform has made government services more accessible, eliminating the need to travel long distances for information or enrolment. Today, he describes the programme as life-changing with health insurance and cash support; he and his community feel more secure and hopeful about the future.

"I am thankful for the support from NHIMA," Luka says. "Without it, I would not be able to do what I can today despite my sight challenges."

Rain didn't come, but hope did: How one family in Hinjali village is turning Emergency Social Cash Transfer support into a brighter future

In Hinjali village of Monze district, where dry winds sweep across cracked fields and crops have failed for yet another season, a quiet resilience is taking root. It lives in the determination of **Vivian Nzala**, a mother committed to keeping her three school age children in class despite the crippling drought. With small but steady support from the **Drought Emergency Social Cash Transfer (DECT)** programme, Vivian has begun rebuilding her family's future.

As part of the Government of the Republic of Zambia's 2024 national drought emergency response, more than **2.2 million vulnerable households** received **K800 (USD 28)** every two months to cushion against food insecurity. Led by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, with financial backing from the World Bank, cooperating partners and technical support from the GRZUN Joint Programme on Social Protection, the programme ensured timely assistance for families facing widespread crop failure.

Vivian is a mother of four: eight-month-old Brance, five-year-old Brenda, 10 year-old Brigitte and 12 year-old Brandina. Except for the baby, all attend school regularly. Even as the drought devastated her crops, wiping out all 20 kilograms of seed she planted. Vivian remained focused on her children's education. She learned about the DECT programme through a community sensitization meeting where CWAC members explained the eligibility criteria. Discovering she qualified brought relief and renewed hope.

With her first payment, Vivian bought a 50kg bag of maize to feed her family. Subsequent payments allowed her to start saving, and by the fourth cycle she had purchased a nanny goat, which has since multiplied to three. She now also keeps chickens that provide eggs and meat. "I have learned to plan and use the little I receive wisely," she says. "My children eat better, and I have something to fall back on."

While Zambia's education reforms have removed school fees, many children in droughtaffected areas still struggle with hunger, impacting

attendance and concentration. The DECT programme is helping close this gap by enabling families to afford basic food.

At **Hinjali Primary School**, absenteeism is low thanks to the GRZ school feeding programme, which provides one nutritious meal a day for all 450 learners. The school also benefits from the **Keeping Girls in School** initiative.

Vivian's story reflects the power of coordinated support, resilience and social protection. Through cash transfers, school feeding and education reforms, families like hers are not just surviving the drought—they are nurturing hope for a better future.



Business Operations Strategy

Efficiency Gains from Delivering as One

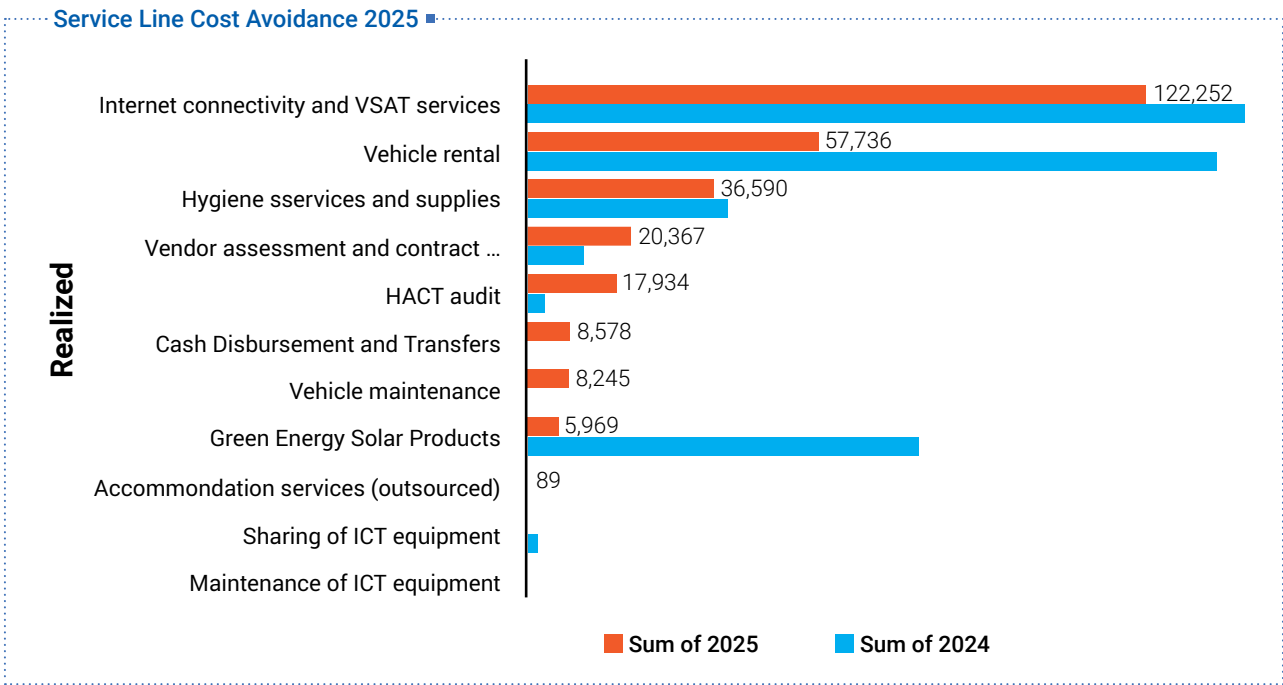
The UNCT continued implementing the **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)** in line with UN Development System Reform and the Management and Accountability Framework. The BOS serves as a key tool to **enhance operational efficiency, foster harmonization, and deliver cost savings and avoidance** across common service lines.

Progress was achieved in **shared services administration, sustainable premises management, and ICT infrastructure upgrades**, with strengthened common procurement and premises practices.

However, implementation advanced unevenly across service lines due to **funding fluctuations, exchange rate impacts, and challenges in service delivery and resource allocation.**

The total cost avoidance reached **USD 277,760, driven mainly by savings in internet connectivity and VSAT services (USD 122,252) and vehicle rentals (USD 57,736)**. Other contributions came from hygiene services (\$36,590), vendor assessments (USD 20,367), HACT audits (USD 17,934), cash transfers (USD 8,578), vehicle maintenance (USD 8,245), and solar products (USD 5,969).

From 2019 to 2025, overall cost avoidance amounted to \$938,871, with 2025 alone accounting for nearly 30% of the total savings.



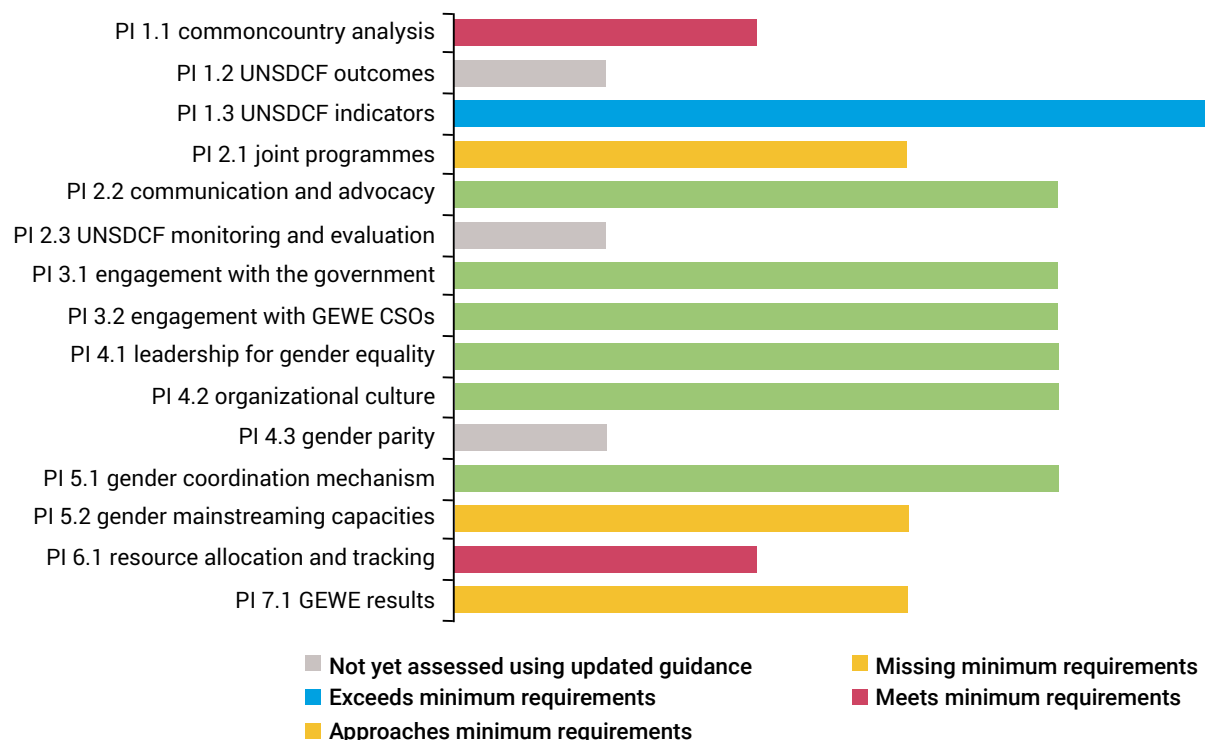
Gender

The UNCT positioned gender equality and women's empowerment as a central priority, fully aligned with the UNSDCF 2023–2027 pillars of Prosperity, People, Peace and Planet. Guided by the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, the UN system undertook a comprehensive assessment that strengthened leadership, organizational culture, partnerships, planning, and results. The 2025 Annual Progress Assessment Report confirms that gender considerations were systematically integrated across programmes and operations, improving institutional accountability, inclusiveness, and gender-responsive outcomes.

Strengthened results-based planning enabled more effective tracking of gender equality, with over half of all outcome and output indicators now measuring progress on women's empowerment. This has led to more inclusive and measurable contributions to SDG 5 and national development priorities across the People and Prosperity pillars.

Partnerships with government, civil society, and development partners delivered tangible gains. Joint initiatives—including Spotlight Initiative 2.0 and the Ending Child Marriage Programme—enhanced protection systems, expanded advocacy, and safeguarded women's and girls' rights. These efforts advanced gender equality under the Peace and People pillars.

Overview of UNCT-SWAP Cumulative Results in 2025



Zambia's gender architecture was reinforced through the UN Gender Theme Group, which harmonized strategies, shared technical expertise, and embedded gender perspectives across policy and programmatic engagement. Capacity support to national partners strengthened gender-responsive planning and budgeting, resulting in more inclusive economic and social protection frameworks aligned with the Prosperity pillar.

UNCT leadership ensured gender equality remained a systemwide priority by embedding it into strategic dialogues, planning processes, and decision-making forums. Organizational culture was strengthened through gender-responsive workplace practices and staff capacity development, positioning the UN in Zambia as a credible and accountable leader in gender advancement.

The Spotlight Initiative demonstrated strong, collective progress toward eliminating violence against women and girls. In 2025, key milestones included revisions to the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Anti-GBV Act, and finalization of the National Action Plan under UNSCR 1325. The Initiative also mobilized 238 traditional and faith leaders to challenge harmful social norms.

It reached over 24,000 students and 1,600 adolescent girls, trained more than 100 frontline officials in survivor-centered care, and supported GBV survivors with economic reintegration. Ahead of the 2026 elections, civil society capacity was strengthened through support to 33 Women's Rights Organizations and preparation of female candidates for leadership roles.

Prioritizing rural women, adolescent girls, and those facing intersecting vulnerabilities, the Initiative ensured relevance and accountability through engagement with feminist organizations. Its success reflects strong partnerships across government, UN agencies (UNDP, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA), civil society, and donors such as the Embassy of Ireland, with a focus on empowering women's rights groups as drivers of lasting change.

Disability

- ▶ The UN strengthened disability inclusion by mapping the capacities of OPDs specializing in mental health advocacy and psychosocial disabilities, enhancing their role in education, skills training, and employment.
- ▶ Three knowledge products were developed, guidelines on alternative reporting and monitoring of the CRPD, an anti-stigma toolkit, and a disability rights advocacy strategy, providing practical tools for systemic change.
- ▶ A UN Club was launched at Lions Special School for learners with albinism, alongside the release of a situational analysis on their rights, advancing visibility and protection.
- ▶ Disability mainstreaming guidelines were developed with government, and over 120 OPDs in Mongu and Lusaka were trained to implement them effectively.

- ▶ Under UNJPSP-III, sector ministries received training to design and revise policies for disability inclusion, embedding disability considerations into national systems and frameworks.
- ▶ The UNCT strengthened its internal capacity on disability inclusion by training M&E teams across agencies on disability-inclusive monitoring and evaluation. This resulted in improved use of relevant data collection methods and indicators, ensuring disability inclusion is systematically measured and embedded within UN programmes and development initiatives.

Disability Scorecard

- ▶ The UNCT in Zambia has made **significant strides in disability inclusion** over the past five years. In 2020, only 43% of indicators met or exceeded minimum requirements, highlighting major gaps in mainstreaming disability across programming. By 2021, progress accelerated to 64%, and despite some fluctuations, the overall trajectory remained upward.
- ▶ By 2025, the scorecard reached its highest level yet, with 79% of indicators (11 out of 14) meeting or exceeding minimum requirements. This reflects a steady strengthening of institutional accountability and practical integration of disability inclusion into UNCT operations.

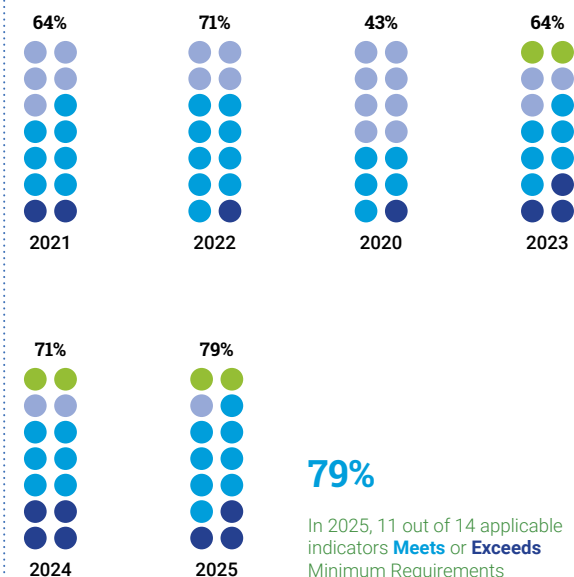
- ▶ The Disability Scorecard demonstrates Zambia's UN Country Team is moving from incremental progress toward systemic change, embedding disability inclusion across planning, implementation, and monitoring. The challenge ahead is to close the remaining gaps and sustain momentum toward full compliance.

Disability Score Results

UNCT Zambia: Progress on Disability Inclusion Scorecard % of indicators by status

Exceeds Meets Approaches Missing N/A

Not applicable ratings have been excluded



Communications and Advocacy

In 2025, UN Zambia, through the UN Communications Group (UNCG), strengthened its leadership in strategic communications and advocacy by implementing inclusive, community-driven initiatives that advanced the SDGs and amplified diverse voices nationwide. Through strategic partnerships, creative outreach, and targeted engagement, the UN enhanced public understanding of its work and reinforced national momentum toward the 2030 Agenda.

A major innovation was the launch of the SDG Supporters Initiative, which engaged 24 influential Zambians—artists, athletes, journalists, youth leaders, digital creators, and persons with disabilities—to champion individual SDGs. By narrating the Global Goals in relatable, real-life terms, these influencers broadened SDG visibility among young people and grassroots audiences, spotlighting community solutions and inspiring action.

To deepen community impact, the UN expanded SDG awareness campaigns across local communities and educational institutions. Working with government, civil society, and youth networks, the UN delivered interactive sessions, exhibitions, and dialogues that simplified the SDGs and linked them to daily life—from health and education to jobs and the environment. Schools and universities across all 10 provinces integrated SDG activities into student clubs and civic programmes, fostering a new generation of SDG-literate learners.

Recognizing the rise of harmful online narratives, the UN delivered targeted media trainings to journalists, community radio hosts, digital practitioners, and journalism students. These sessions strengthened ethical reporting, fact-checking, and conflict-sensitive communication, contributing to a safer and more cohesive information environment.

Human rights and disability inclusion remained central to UN communications. Rights-based storytelling and partnerships elevated narratives of dignity and equality, while the production of

accessible SDG materials—including audio formats and sign-language content—ensured inclusive participation.

Public engagement was further amplified through large-scale events such as the SDGs Run/Walk, which brought together over 3,000 participants, including youth and Persons with Disabilities. Additionally, intensified communications around the UN's 80th anniversary highlighted the Organization's relevance to promoting peace, development, and human rights in Zambia, reinforcing public trust and connection to the UN's mission.



Partnerships and Financing for SDGs

Partnership Engagement at High Level

The UN in Zambia met with President Hakainde Hichilema to strengthen high-level partnerships for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Discussions covered planning and coordination, skills development and job creation, constitutional reform, peace architecture, economic growth, and Zambia's international representation. The UN also presented the UN80 initiative, emphasizing efforts to enhance strategic consolidation, cost-effectiveness, and impact while upholding UN principles and mandates.

Partnership Engagement with GRZ

Enhanced alignment of national development planning with global priorities was achieved through UNCT collaboration with the Government of Zambia via two Joint Steering Committee meetings in 2025, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of Finance and National Planning. These meetings provided strategic oversight of the Cooperation Framework 2023–2027, advancing dialogue on humanitarian response, peacebuilding, and integration of global commitments, including the Pact for the Future, Financing for Development, the LLDC Doha Programme of Action, WSSD2 and into the 9NDP.

Partnership Engagements with CPG

The UN in Zambia reinforced its leadership role with the Cooperating Partners Group (CPG) by convening a funding compact dialogue with Ireland, addressing declining financing and advancing the UN80 initiative. This repositioning strengthened joint programming, improved efficiency, and enhanced impact, ensuring more integrated and sustainable development results.

Partnership Engagements with the Private Sector

The UN strengthened private sector collaboration through ZACCI, convening two high-level engagements where the UNCT met with CEOs to review partnerships and identify new opportunities. The RCO and the UN Global Compact (UNGC) Africa Hub promoted UNGC membership. These efforts led to a significant increase in the membership from 9 companies in 2024 to 21 in 2025, demonstrating stronger private sector commitment to advancing the SDGs.

Partnership Engagements with Key Stakeholders

The UN convened a multi-stakeholder meeting bringing together government, cooperating partners, financial institutions, civil society, academia, philanthropy, media, trade unions, and humanitarian actors. The meeting raised awareness of the UN80 initiative, clarifying that reform is a transformation to make the UN more agile, effective, and relevant, not a downsizing exercise. It reaffirmed the UN's commitment to peace, human rights, and development, strengthening stakeholder confidence in the UN's role amid global financial and geopolitical shifts.

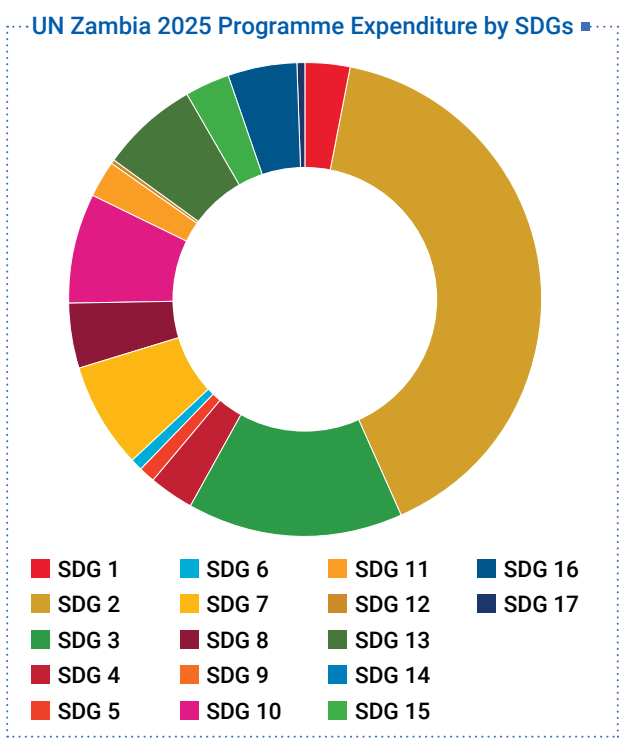
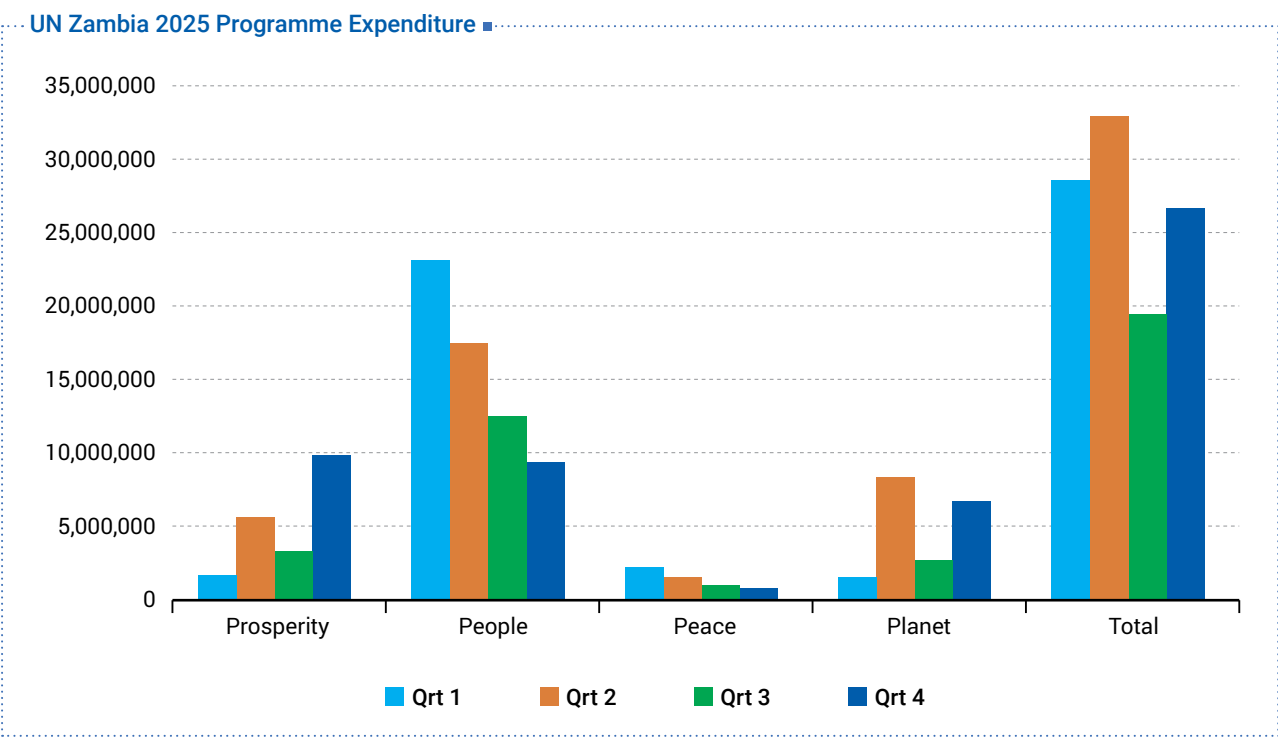
Partnership Engagements with Humanitarian Actors

Partnerships were strengthened with humanitarian actors to support early recovery interventions funded through CERF's Under-Funded Emergency grant. Regular Humanitarian Country Team meetings ensured effective coordination, combining the UN's global frameworks and resources with local actors' knowledge and agility. These partnerships delivered timely, context-specific assistance to vulnerable populations, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas, reinforcing resilience and recovery.

Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation

Programme Expenditure by Pillar

Pillar	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Total	Per (%)
Prosperity	1,663,953	5,591,756	3,277,889	9,832,752	20,366,350	19%
People	23,151,024	17,502,656	12,480,447	9,369,990	62,504,117	58%
Peace	2,220,943	1,511,466	1,007,190	778,370	5,517,969	5%
Planet	1,511,738	8,315,039	2,689,027	6,678,892	19,194,696	18%
Total	28,547,658	32,920,917	19,454,553	26,660,004	107,583,132	100%



Looking Forward-2026

With the Cooperation Framework (2023-2027) entering its final phase, 2026 will be a pivotal year focused on consolidating results and driving last-mile delivery, with particular emphasis on accelerating results in poverty reduction, health, education, and economic resilience, while addressing persistent inequalities and supporting efforts toward fiscal stability. This will be pursued through intensified coordination, targeted interventions, strengthened partnerships, and a sharper focus on translating commitments into measurable outcomes for those furthest behind.

The UN Country Team will also prioritise a comprehensive evaluation of the Framework to assess performance, capture lessons, and safeguard development gains, while initiating preparations for the development of the next Cooperation Framework.

Against a backdrop of declining and uncertain financing, the UN will intensify efforts to optimise efficiency and impact through joint programming and integrated approaches. In line with the UN80 vision, this will entail strengthening system coherence, aligning agency contributions around shared priorities, reducing fragmentation, and reinforcing a “Delivering as One” approach in response to evolving national and global dynamics. Building on lessons learned over the years, the UN country team will pursue innovative financing opportunities and strategic partnerships to sustain and scale results while adapting to tighter resource conditions.

In parallel, the UN will continue to strengthen national systems and institutions, enhance accountability, and support inclusive engagement with civil society to ensure that development efforts translate into sustainable and equitable outcomes for those furthest behind. At the same time, support will be directed toward more efficient, nationally led responses to recurrent shocks, including operationalising key recommendations from recent assessments, strengthening coordination, and linking immediate response efforts to longer-term resilience within a constrained resource environment.

The electoral context will be a defining feature of the operating environment. In the lead-up to the general elections scheduled for 13 August 2026, the UN will scale up coordinated support to promote a peaceful, inclusive, and credible process. Efforts will focus on strengthening institutional preparedness, enhancing conflict prevention and early warning capacities, supporting information integrity, and engaging both state and non-state actors. The UN will continue to leverage its neutral convening role to foster dialogue, build trust, and contribute to conditions conducive to stability and democratic resilience.



Abbreviation

8NDP	Eighth National Development Plan
ACENDC	Action for Climate Empowerment to Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions
AEFI	Adverse Events Following Immunization
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFP	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
ANC	Antenatal Care
API	Application Programming Interface
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASM	Artisanal and SmallScale Mining
BEV	Battery Electric Vehicle
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
B2B	Business to Business
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEEZ	Centre for Energy, Environment and Engineering – Zambia
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COR	Commissioner for Refugees
CPG	Cooperating Partners Group
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DBI	Development of Basic Infrastructure in Settlements
DECT	Drought Emergency Cash Transfer
DFPP	Disability Focal Point Person
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DMCF	Disaster Management Consultative Forum
DMMU	Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit
DNRPC	Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship

ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
ERTC	Electoral Reform Technical Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAST	Financial and Agricultural Support Trust
GBV	GenderBased Violence
GBVMIS	GenderBased Violence Management Information System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Equality Marker
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
IASC	InterAgency Standing Committee
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IKI	International Climate Initiative
iCCM	Integrated Community Case Management
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JET	Just Energy Transition
JP	Joint Programme
LARC	LongActing Reversible Contraception

LLDC	Landlocked Developing Countries	SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
LMIS	Labour Market Information System	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
MAIYCN	Maternal, Adolescent and Infant and Young Child Nutrition	SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
MIS	Management Information System	SWAP	SystemWide Action Plan
MPDSR	Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response	SWI	Single Window Initiative
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification	TEVET	Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise	TRANSFORM	Transforming Social Protection Systems
NAP	National Action Plan	UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
NASF	National AIDS Strategic Framework	UN	United Nations
NCD	NonCommunicable Disease	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
NGO	NonGovernmental Organization	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NHIMA	National Health Insurance Management Authority	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NMCP	National MultiHazard Contingency Plan	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NMIRF	National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and FollowUp	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
NDP	National Development Plan	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease	UNJPSP	United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
PHC	Primary Health Care	VAT	Value Added Tax
PrEP	PreExposure Prophylaxis	VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
PWD	Persons with Disabilities	VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
QoC	Quality of Care	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement	WASHFIT	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
RMNCAHN	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition	WFP	World Food Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community	WHO	World Health Organization
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition	ZMW	Zambian Kwacha
SCT	Social Cash Transfer	ZPS	Zambia Police Service
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	ZVAC	Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee
SDL	Skills Development Levy		



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