



Republic of Zambia

**ZAMBIA
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2020**



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FOREWORD



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Zambia's first Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comes at an opportune time. This is a time when the national level review of development progress is being finalised and when the decade of action and delivery on SDGs serves as a springboard for renewed commitment and impetus for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a nation, Zambia is appreciative of the opportunity to share, with the rest of the world, on where we are and the good practices that we can enhance as well as the challenges we continue to face. It is also an opportune time to reiterate the commitment of the Zambian Government to this very relevant global development agenda.

Zambia considers the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a national agenda, given that the development challenges that we seek to address resonate with the goals agreed in this global Agenda. Sustainable Development is a constitutional issue that has been enshrined among the national values and principles in the 2016 Amended Constitution aimed at guiding decision-making on the development process for Zambia. Further, the SDGs have been mainstreamed into Zambia's current development plan, the 7th National Development Plan to the extent of 75 percent of the SDGs of applicable targets being fully aligned to the national plan and 11 percent being partially aligned. Sustainable Development also takes centre stage in the development of policies and strategies across all economic and social policies that the country has developed since the adoption of the SDGs. All of this is a demonstration of Zambia's resolve, from the highest level, to embrace and pursue this transformative global development Agenda.

To facilitate realisation of the gains made since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the country has continued to allocate human, financial, and institutional resources. Substantial public investment has gone into the social sectors to address extreme poverty and vulnerability as well as promote human capital development. To facilitate productive capacity development, the country has maintained momentum on its infrastructure development programmes across both economic and social sectors. Strides have been made in the area of governance, particularly in public financial management and institutional reform. As a result, the country has seen improvements in the human development indicators, among others. While the results of these and other interventions are yet to fully materialise, Zambia's commitment remains relentless.

Implementation of interventions towards the 2030 Agenda has not been in an environment without challenges. The country has yet to further enhance its climate resilience and adaptive capacity so as not to remain vulnerable to its effects as has been the case over the last five years. Zambia needs to enhance revenue mobilisation capacity in an environment of increasing debt obligations. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to diverting of resources from other programmes to safeguard the health of the citizens. These are among many challenges along the way. However, Zambia does not intend to lose momentum in the decade of action.

To further accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Zambia intends to further strengthen the existing coordination frameworks, enhance efficiency, improve targeting, and allocate resources to deliver better results. This is on the premise of the lessons learnt with the implementation of the 7th National Development Plan. Zambia will continue to rely on the partnership, support, and cooperation of all partners at national and international level in the realisation of this Agenda in the face of the challenges and limitations that the country faces.

I trust that this report will help all partners get informed on developments and development issues in Zambia and assure all of the country's unwavering commitment to this relevant development Agenda.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
LIST OF TABLES	V
LIST OF FIGURES	VII
LIST OF BOXES	VIII
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	IX
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	XI
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT.....	1
1.3 COUNTRY PROFILE AND CONTEXT	2
1.3.1 <i>Location and Demographic Profile</i>	2
1.3.2 <i>Economic Development Context</i>	2
1.3.3 <i>National Development Planning Context</i>	3
2 METHODOLOGY	1
2.1 PREPARATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW	1
2.2 LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND	1
2.3 COVERAGE OF SDGs AND TARGETS	1
2.4 DATA COLLECTION.....	2
2.5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	2
3 POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	1
3.1 NATIONAL OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs.....	1
3.2 MAINSTREAMING OF SDGs IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS	2
3.2.1 <i>Planning and Budgeting Reforms</i>	2
3.2.2 <i>Rapid Integrated Assessment</i>	3
3.3 NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA	4
3.3.1 <i>National Statistical Framework</i>	4
3.4 INTEGRATION OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS	6
3.4.1 <i>Economic Dimension</i>	6
3.4.2 <i>Social Dimension</i>	7
3.4.3 <i>Environmental Dimension</i>	8
3.5 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS.....	9
4 ASSESSING SDG PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW OF KEY OVERARCHING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	12
4.1 ASSESSING SDG PERFORMANCE	12
4.2 THE TRIPLE THREAT TO SDGs: COVID-19, LOW GROWTH AND DEBT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE	16
5 PROGRESS ON GOALS AND TARGETS	19
5.1 OVERVIEW OF SDG 1 AND SDG 2	19
5.1.1 <i>Poverty headcount by province</i>	19
5.1.2 <i>Household level deprivation per indicator</i>	20
5.1.3 <i>Social Cash Transfer</i>	22
5.1.4 <i>Farmer Input Support Programme</i>	24
5.1.5 <i>Food Security Pack</i>	24
5.1.6 <i>Public Welfare Assistance Programme</i>	25
5.1.7 <i>Persons with disabilities</i>	25
5.2 OVERVIEW OF SDG 3.....	27
5.3 OVERVIEW OF SDG 4.....	33

5.3.1	<i>Enrolment and completion rates</i>	34
5.3.2	<i>Drop Out Rate</i>	35
5.3.3	<i>Teacher-Pupil Ratio</i>	36
5.3.4	<i>Proportion of schools with access to electricity</i>	36
5.3.5	<i>Proportion of schools with access to computers</i>	36
5.3.6	<i>Proportion of schools with access to water and sanitation facilities</i>	36
5.4	OVERVIEW OF SDG 5	38
5.4.1	<i>Teenage Pregnancies</i>	39
5.5	OVERVIEW OF SDG 6	43
5.5.1	<i>Rural water supply and sanitation</i>	44
5.5.2	<i>Urban water supply and sanitation</i>	44
5.5.3	<i>Peri-urban area water supply and sanitation</i>	45
5.6	OVERVIEW OF SDG 7	47
5.6.1	<i>Electricity generation by source</i>	47
5.7	OVERVIEW OF SDG 8	51
5.8	OVERVIEW OF SDG 9	55
5.8.1	<i>Road Sub-Sector</i>	55
5.8.2	<i>Aviation Sub-Sector</i>	56
5.8.3	<i>Trade</i>	56
5.8.4	<i>Multi-Facility Economic Zones and Industrial Parks</i>	57
5.9	OVERVIEW OF SDG 11	59
5.10	OVERVIEW OF SDG 13	62
5.10.1	<i>Capacity Building for Policy and Planning</i>	64
5.10.2	<i>Early Warning Systems</i>	64
5.10.3	<i>Weather Index Insurance</i>	64
5.10.4	<i>Promoting Alternative Sources of Livelihood</i>	65
5.10.5	<i>Climate-Smart Agriculture</i>	65
5.10.6	<i>Water Harvesting</i>	65
5.10.7	<i>Climate Proofing of Infrastructure</i>	65
5.10.8	<i>Sustainable Forest Management</i>	65
5.10.9	<i>Renewable Energy</i>	65
5.11	OVERVIEW OF SDG 15	67
5.12	OVERVIEW OF SDG 16	72
5.13	OVERVIEW OF SDG 17	75
5.14	OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE	76
6	CONCLUSION	81
6.1	CONCLUSION	81
6.2	NEXT STEPS	81
7	REFERENCES	83

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1-1: 7NDP STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PILLARS	5
TABLE 2-1: SDG INDICATORS COVERED IN NVR	1
TABLE 3-1: SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF SDGs	8
TABLE 4-1: SDG 1 – NO POVERTY: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE, SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.....	12
TABLE 4-2: SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES.....	13
TABLE 4-3: SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS	13
TABLE 4-4:	14
TABLE 4-5: SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL	14
TABLE 4-6: SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL	15
TABLE 4-7: SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL	15
TABLE 4-8: SDG 9 – INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION	16
TABLE 4-9: SDG 13 – CLIMATE CHANGE: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS.....	16
TABLE 4-11: THE STATUS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF COVID-19.....	17
TABLE 4-12: THE STATUS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NATIONAL DEBT.....	18
TABLE 4-13: THE STATUS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.....	18
TABLE 5-1: 2019 SCT BENEFICIARY CASELOAD DISAGGREGATED BY SEX AND DISABILITY.....	23
TABLE 5-2: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	25
TABLE 5-3: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	31
TABLE 5-5: PARTICIPATION RATES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	33
TABLE 5-6: DROPOUT RATE BY SEX, 2013 TO 2017	35
TABLE 5-7: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	37
TABLE 5-8: PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS	41
TABLE 5-9: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	41
TABLE 5-10: PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION	43
TABLE 5-11: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	45
TABLE 5-12: ELECTRICITY GENERATION (MWh), 2015-2019	48
TABLE 5-13: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	50
TABLE 5-14: GDP CONTRIBUTION BY SECTOR, 2015-2019.....	51
TABLE 5-15: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY RURAL/URBAN AND SEX, ZAMBIA, 2018	53
TABLE 5-16: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	54
TABLE 5-17: PASSENGER (NUMBER) AND FREIGHT VOLUMES BY MODE OF TRANSPORT	55
TABLE 5-18: INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE STATUS OF ROAD SUB-SECTOR.....	55
TABLE 5-19: MULTI-FACILITY ECONOMIC ZONES PROMOTING INDUSTRIALISATION	57
TABLE 5-20: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	58
TABLE 5-21: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	60
TABLE 5-22: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	66
TABLE 5-23: PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS ON CORRUPTION	73
TABLE 5-24: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	74
TABLE 5-25: INTERNET USAGE AND MOBILE BROADBAND PENETRATION, 2016-2018	79

TABLE 5-26: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS 79

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1-1: GDP AND DOMESTIC REVENUE/GDP, 2008-2018.....	3
FIGURE 1-2: POVERTY LEVELS AND GINI COEFFICIENT, 2010-2015	3
FIGURE 1-3: THE FOUR PLANS OF VISION 2030.....	4
FIGURE 3-1: ALIGNMENT OF SDGs TO 7NDP KEY RESULT AREAS	3
FIGURE 3-2: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR AGENDA 2030 AND SDGs	4
FIGURE 3-3: NATIONAL STATUS OF SDGs DATA AVAILABILITY	5
FIGURE 3-4: 7NDP COORDINATION STRUCTURES.....	10
FIGURE 4-1: STATUS OF SDG INDICATORS, 2019	12
FIGURE 5-1: POVERTY HEADCOUNT BY PROVINCE	20
FIGURE 5-2: DEPRIVATION BY HOUSEHOLD PER INDICATOR	21
FIGURE 5-3: DRIVERS OF POVERTY	21
FIGURE 5-4: PERCENTAGE OF MALNOURISHED UNDER-5 CHILDREN	22
FIGURE 5-5: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO, 1992-2018	28
FIGURE 5-6: NEONATAL, INFANT AND UNDER-5 CHILD MORTALITY RATES, 1992-2018.....	29
FIGURE 5-7: NET ENROLMENT RATE, 2014-2018	35
FIGURE 5-8: TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO BY PROVINCE, 2019	36
FIGURE 5-9: SUMMARY OF GBV CASES BY STATUS, 2012-2017	39
FIGURE 5-10: PROPORTION OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	41
FIGURE 5-11: SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY, 2015-2019.....	48
FIGURE 5-12: SECTORAL GROWTH, 2015-2018	51
FIGURE 5-13: EMPLOYMENT IN SELECTED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	52
FIGURE 5-14: AGE-SPECIFIC UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX, ZAMBIA, 2019	53
FIGURE 5-15: MANUFACTURING VALUE ADDED AS A PROPORTION TO GDP AND GROWTH RATE (2015-2019).....	56
FIGURE 5-16: MANUFACTURING VALUE ADDED AS A PROPORTION TO PER CAPITA (2015-2019).....	57
FIGURE 5-17: FOREST AREA AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL LAND AREA	68
FIGURE 5-18: 2010 LAND COVER MAP	68
FIGURE 5-19: PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT	70
FIGURE 5-20: CHALLENGES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS	71
FIGURE 5-21: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS.....	76
FIGURE 5-22: OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, 2008-2018	76
FIGURE 5-23: END YEAR EXTERNAL DEBT STOCK, US\$ BILLIONS, 2010-2019.....	77
FIGURE 5-24: END YEAR DOMESTIC DEBT STOCK, K'BILLION, 2011-2019	78
FIGURE 5-25: GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES, US\$ BILLIONS, 2011-2019.....	78

LIST OF BOXES

BOX 1: BENEFITS OF INTEGRATION.....	6
BOX 2: PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF ZAMBIA’S PREPAREDNESS TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGs	2
BOX 3: STATISTICAL REFORMS IN ZAMBIA	6
BOX 4: COORDINATION SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF NDP STRUCTURES	11
BOX 5: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ZAMBIA’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE CHALLENGES IN PERI-URBAN AREAS OF ZAMBIA	46
BOX 6: INCREASING NON-TAX REVENUES THROUGH E-GOVERNMENT PAYMENT SYSTEMS.....	80

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

7NDP	Seventh National Development Plan
7NDP IP	Seventh National Development Plan Implementation Plan
ABB	Activity Based Budgeting
BoZ	Bank of Zambia
CAG	Cluster Advisory Group
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CU	Commercial Utility
DDCC	District Development Coordinating Committee
DTF	Devolution Trust Fund
ECE	Early Childhood Education
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FISP	Farmer Input Support Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GHG	Green House Gas
HFHZ	Habitat for Humanity Zambia
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ISSAI	International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFEZ	Multi-Facility Economic Zone
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
MNDP	Ministry of National Development Planning
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoGE	Ministry of General Education
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MW	Megawatt
NDCC	National Development Coordinating Committee
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPF	National Performance Framework
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSS	National Statistical System
OAG	Office of the Auditor-General
OBB	Output-Based Budgeting
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OSBP	One Stop Border Post
PDCC	Provincial Development Coordinating Committee
PPCR	Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience
RGC	Rural Growth Centres
RIA	Rapid Integration Assessment
REA	Rural Electrification Authority
SAG	Sector Advisory Group
SCT	Social Cash Transfer
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SHI	Social Health Insurance Scheme
TEVET	Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training
UN	United Nations
US\$	United States Dollar
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WDC	Ward Development Committee
WHO	World Health Organisation
ZamStats	Zambia Statistics Agency
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communication Agency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

At the United Nations (UN) summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders committed themselves towards more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development. In fulfilling reporting requirements, Zambia will be presenting its inaugural Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the 2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2020.

The process of preparing this report was participatory and used the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP) coordinated the process and engaged with line ministries, cooperating partners, academia, the youth, the private sector, and civil society, including representatives of vulnerable groups, such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities. The report was validated by stakeholders through virtual conferencing. This platform allowed stakeholders to share information and data in real-time without being physically located together in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of institutionalisation, the SDGs have been mainstreamed in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). A major distinguishing feature of the 7NDP is the departure from a sector-based to an integrated (multi-sectoral) planning approach. The integrated approach emphasises: identification of global, regional and national strategic programmes, which all sectors can contribute to; multi-sectoral strategies responding to national development objectives; promotion of mutually supportive activities in different sectors with a common objective; and identification of national priority programmes, which could be implemented taking into account the country's resources. This approach has improved efficiency by strengthening synergies and partnerships among agencies, and collectively achieving more than the sum total of individual efforts.

Domestication of SDGs

Zambia has domesticated the SDGs through institutional, policy and legislative processes and planning and implementation processes. Key policy and legislative interventions to support implementation of the SDGs include the National Planning and Budgeting Bill, which is aimed at strengthening the link between the Budget and the Plan; Parliamentary oversight on loan contraction; the Access to information Bill for improving accountability; and the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy to improve programme efficiency and effectiveness.

The Zambian Parliament has been active in promoting discussion of the SDG agenda. This has been done through regular contacts between the MNDP and the office of the Clerk of the National Assembly. The Parliamentary Caucus Committee on the SDGs has been instrumental in fostering and sustaining SDG engagement. Through these contacts, the level of SDG knowledge among Parliamentarians has been raised, and in turn they have disseminated information to their constituencies.

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) has played a critical role in the monitoring and auditing of the SDG process. To this end, the OAG carried out an audit of Zambia's preparedness for the SDGs and recommended required actions. The audit indicated that Zambia had laid a sound foundation for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. Key lessons from the audit were:

1. Strengthening the national statistics system at both the national and sub-national levels;

2. Costing of SDG implementation, in order to inform resource mobilisation strategies;
3. Expediting implementation of Output Based Budgeting; and
4. Enhancing passing of the National Planning and Budgeting Bill.

Performance Assessment

Reducing Hunger and Poverty

The scourge of poverty and hunger has been a recurring development concern, and a central theme of national development plans. Recently computed statistics on headcount multi-dimensional poverty show a reduction from 50 percent in 2016 to 44 percent in 2020. In rural areas, multi-dimensional poverty declined from 69 percent in 2016 to 59 percent in 2020 while in urban areas, poverty declined from 25 percent to 18 percent respectively.

The reduction in poverty levels is mirrored by a decrease in stunting levels, which were estimated at 53 percent in 2001-2002 and 35 percent in 2018. The prevalence of stunting was higher among children in rural areas (36 percent) than among children in urban areas (32 percent). Similarly, the level of underweight declined from 23 percent in 2001-2002 to 12 percent in 2018. The prevalence of underweight was higher among children in rural areas (12.4 percent) than among children in urban areas (10.8 percent).

These improvements are reflective of the country's interventions in nutrition/health and social protection. The interventions include programmes such as Scaling up Nutrition, 1,000 most critical days of life, the Social Cash Transfer (SCT), and the Food Security Pack. For instance, the Social Cash Transfer programme was expanded from the original 38 districts in 2014 to all the 116 districts in 2019. Households not covered under the SCT programme, were supported through other social protection programmes, which include support to vulnerable farmers, women, girls and school children.

Although declining, rural poverty has remained high. The sustainability of social protection programmes is threatened under the current fiscal conditions and the slow pace of beneficiary graduation.

Good Health and Well-Being for All

Maternal mortality has continued to decline from 591 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 398 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013/2014 and 278 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018. Infant mortality had also declined from 45 deaths per 1,000 livebirths in 2013/2014 to 42 deaths per 1,000 live births to in 2018. Infant mortality is slightly higher in urban areas (44 deaths per 1,000 live births) than in rural areas (41 deaths per 1,000 live births). However, neonatal mortality increased slightly from 24 to 27 per 1,000 live births between 2013-2014 and 2018.

Other than neonatal mortality which showed a slight increase, the positive trend in maternal and child mortality are reflective of successful collaboration between the Government and cooperating partners to foster positive change. Interventions that have registered the observed improvement include expedited development of human resources for health, and such other high impact interventions as Safe Motherhood Action Groups, community-based distributors, procurement of emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and in-service training of skilled workers.

In terms of disease burden, malaria continues being the major cause of morbidity and mortality. The latest statistics estimate the incidence of malaria at 319/100,000 in 2018, a reduction from 346/100,000 recorded in 2015. The malaria programme has posted success for intervention

indicators through the use of long-lasting insecticide treated nets; intermittent presumptive treatment; in-door residual spray; diagnostic testing by blood slide or rapid test in children; and use of Artemisinin-based combination for treatment of malaria.

The high level of cooperating partner funding (annual average of 42 percent of the total health expenditure) raises sustainability issues. Continuing the positive trajectory will be contingent on maintaining the momentum of programmes. In addition, reviewing resource allocation and utilisation decisions could achieve desired efficiencies.

Quality Education for All

A striking achievement of the education and skills sector is the attainment of gender parity in enrolment at primary school level. In 2016, 89 percent of eligible girls and 90 percent of eligible boys were enrolled in primary school. In 2019, enrolment declined slightly, but there were more girls (89 percent) enrolled than boys (85 percent).

After primary school, the transition rate at secondary school level declines. The transition rate from Grade 8 to Grade 9 for females declined from 91.8 percent in 2016 to 70.6 percent in 2019, while that of males declined from 88.4 percent in 2016 to 68.2 percent in 2019. There was a higher percentage (57 percent) of males transitioning from Grade 9 to Grade 10 than females (49 percent).

In 2018, the national average dropout rate from Grade 1 to 7 was 1.7 percent, compared to 1.2 percent from Grade 8 to 12. At primary school level, there were more girls (1.9 percent) dropping out of school compared to boys (1.4 percent). Similarly, more girls (1.7 percent) than boys (0.7 percent) dropped out at secondary school level.

The overall national teacher-pupil ratio was estimated at 45:1, while for primary schools it was estimated at 35:1. These ratios were higher than the recommended standards; this reflects gains from the continuous recruitment of teachers that is carried out every year. There is need to sustain this positive scenario by protecting funding for continued teacher recruitment, in the light of threats to social spending that may arise from the current fiscal constraints.

The reasons accounting for the low transition rate at post-primary school level should be addressed; these include constrained physical and financial access, and negative traditional practices, such as early marriages for girls and preference for male attendance at school.

Gender Equality and Empowerment

Zambia has an adequate legal framework that guarantees equality between men and women. Equality is recognised as a national principle under Article 8 of the Republican Constitution. Further, Sections 20, 21 and 22 of the Gender Equity and Equality Act provide for the Right to Nationality, Sexual Reproductive Rights, Marriage and Family Life.

The number of women reported to have experienced physical violence has declined from 43.3 percent in 2014 to 36 per cent in 2018. Through collaboration between the Government and cooperating partners, capacities have been built for the Police Service to be able to identify, probe, codify and isolate gender-based (GBV) cases as opposed to treating all GBV cases as general assault. As a result, cases were being referred accordingly, enabling survivors to receive appropriate and sometimes specialised services.

The proportion of seats held by women has remained low at 19 percent since 2016. On a positive note, the proportion of local government seats held by women rose from 10 percent in 2016 to 38 percent in 2019.

Challenges include lack of gender-disaggregated data for planning, monitoring and evaluation; difficulties of enforcing statutory law in a traditional setting; and persistent low representation of women in leadership.

Clean Water and Sanitation

In Zambia, 72 percent of households have access to an improved water source, although access is more predominant in urban (92 percent) than rural (58 percent) households. One third of the population has access to basic sanitation services, 41 percent in urban areas and 28 percent in rural areas. Fifty-four percent of households have access to an improved sanitation facility, with the most commonly used facility being a pit latrine with a slab (37 percent).

In order to address problems related to urban water supply, commercial utilities (UCs) for water supply were formed, which facilitated a rise in the proportion of households accessing water from 47 percent in 2001/02 to 89 percent in 2013/14 and 92 percent as at 2018. However, despite this achievement, CU operations were constrained by the persistent problem of unaccounted for water.

Peri-urban areas faced some of the worst water supply and sanitation services. To address these challenges, the Government established the Devolution Trust Fund (DTF) to improve service provision in peri-urban areas. Since its establishment, the DTF has contributed significantly to increasing access to water supply services to the urban poor through water kiosks. Furthermore, water supply under the DTF is mostly through kiosks as opposed to the desired individual standpipes.

Rural-urban inequities in access have remained. Other challenges include the adverse impact of climate change on water and sanitation, a relatively underdeveloped sanitation sub-sector and operational difficulties of urban and peri-urban supply programmes/reforms.

Affordable and Clean Energy

The mining sector continued to be the major consumer of electricity generated (50 percent), with domestic use accounting for 30 percent, with all other categories using 20 percent. By 2018, one-third (32.8 percent) of the country had access to electricity (from 27.9 in 2013). Access to electricity for both rural and urban areas has increased, with 2018 connectivity for urban areas being estimated at 70.6 (from 61.5 in 2013), and the corresponding connectivity for rural areas being estimated at 8.1 in 2018 (from 4.9 in 2013).

The national electricity installed generation capacity increased from 1,767 Megawatts (MW) in 2011 to 2,974.7MW in 2018 representing a growth of 68 percent. Zambia is promoting sustainable initiatives, such as renewable energy which has seen the country diversify its energy mix from 99 percent reliance on hydro power production in 2011 to 80.6 percent in 2019. The contributions of other sources of energy are: solar energy, 90MW (3 percent); thermal (coal powered), 300MW (10.1 percent); heavy fuel oil, 105 MW (3.6 percent); and standby gas and diesel turbines, gas, 80MW, diesel, 2.6MW (2.8 percent).

A need for further diversification of energy sources is evident, and the impact of climate change poses challenges for the sector. Scaling up interventions to further improve the energy mix is needed.

Decent Work and Economic Growth

The country experienced an annual average economic growth rate of 6.9 percent between 2005 and 2014. However, growth has slowed and was 2.9 percent in 2015 and 4 percent in 2018. The slackening economy has been caused by low demand for commodities on the global market, high oil prices and the adverse impact of climate change.

According to the 2018 Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate was reported at 10.5 percent for males and 12.9 percent for females. Job creation is at the core of the 7NDP and the Government has been implementing strategies for job creation, with a focus on the youth.

In order to promote decent work and effective implementation of labour laws and policies, the Government has continued to engage the Tripartite Consultative Labour Council. As a result, the country has seen an increase in employers' compliance in recognising employees' rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organisation standards.

Industry Innovation and Infrastructure

Zambia being a landlocked country, connectivity within and to its eight neighbouring countries is essential to facilitate trade and access to markets, promote tourism and improve service delivery. To this end, the Government has invested in infrastructure, including roads, airports, energy, facilities, thus creating a conducive environment for sustainable development.

Under the road sub-sector, the Government has been implementing a countrywide road rehabilitation and maintenance programme aimed at reducing road user costs and transit times as well as creation of economic growth poles and wealth in outlying areas. In addition, the Government has made considerable progress in the delivery of quality and international standard airport infrastructure.

Interventions have been implemented to improve border infrastructure and facilitate trade. Border posts have been upgraded using the concept of One Stop Border Post. These facilities combine two stops for national border control processing into one shared space, for both exit and entry.

After launching the Industrialisation Policy in 2018, Zambia has constructed multi-facility economic zones and industrial parks, which are aimed at attracting both local and foreign direct investment, achieve industrialisation and generate employment opportunities.

Challenges identified include the limited local capacity to design climate-smart infrastructure. It was noted that transport infrastructure is heavily biased to roads, with very little investment in rail transport.

Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Government is implementing the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015, which is aimed at guiding sustainable urban and rural planning and development, through a devolved, integrated and inclusive planning system. By 2019, Zambia had made progress in formalising informal settlements by issuing occupancy licences in urban and peri-urban areas.

In 2018, the Government formulated the National Urbanisation Policy. The Policy addresses four critical issues that relate to SDG 11: Proliferation of informal settlements; Low local economic development; Absence of supportive city form and functioning system of cities; and Weak institutional and regulatory framework for urban development.

Combating Climate Change

In line with the Paris Agreement, Zambia has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 38,000 Gg CO₂ equivalent by 2030. So far, cumulative emissions have reduced by 39 percent (14,846.9 Gg CO₂ equivalent) between 2015 to 2019.

Zambia has implemented interventions to mitigate against the adverse effects of climate change. These include integration of climate change in the school curriculum; improvement of early warning Systems; provision of weather index insurance through the Farmer Input Support Programme; promotion of alternative sources of livelihoods; promotion of climate smart agricultural practices, such as minimum tillage and residue retention, agroforestry, diversification of crops and crop rotation; Climate proofing of infrastructure; and development of renewable energy.

The Government needs to strengthen links with the private sector and also raise community awareness on climate change matters. Collection of data on climate change impacts, and capacity in the analysis of the same should be prioritised.

Life On Land

Zambia faces a growing deforestation problem. It has been estimated that forests cover 66 per cent of the country's total land area. To tackle the challenge of deforestation and forest degradation, Zambia has developed a national strategy based on an integrated natural resources management perspective at landscape level.

Zambian forests can contribute more to gross domestic product (GDP) through sustainable forest management if the identified threats are slowed or reversed. Currently, forest-based industries account for at least 3.7 percent of the GDP, while charcoal production and fuelwood collection account for 2.2 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively. Commercial logging and non-timber forest products contribute about 0.3 percent and 0.1 percent to the GDP, respectively.

Developments in the agriculture, water and energy sectors are a source of significant potential threats to biodiversity. Investments in ecological systems require careful design as these can affect flow regimes and habitat availability.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The right to access information by the public is vital for ensuring that the population is well informed and gatekeepers are held to account. The Government passed the Access to Information Bill in March 2020. This is expected to enhance effective and timely communication of information.

Zambia has implemented interventions for fighting corruption, such as establishment of Integrity Committees, enhancing electronic services and One-stop service centres. The fight against corruption is urgent, especially in the light of the perceived rise in public perception on corruption, as reflected in the Zambia Bribe Payers Index.

There is a gap in updated data on governance. The often-cited risk of abuse of access to information can be addressed through self-regulation among media practitioners. The capacity of investigative agencies will be strengthened.

Partnerships for Implementation

The period 2015-2018 was marked by consistent downward trend in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), reversing a past trend of rising FDI prior to 2015. This reflects an unfavourable business environment, marked by subdued economic growth, which has been exacerbated by energy shortages. Similarly, the flow of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) into the country, though fluctuating, has been generally declining.

Public and publicly guaranteed debt has nearly quadrupled from 20.5 percent of the GDP in 2011 to 78.1 percent of the GDP in 2018, driven by accumulation of both external and domestic debt. The debt composition has also significantly shifted towards commercial and Non-Paris Club bilateral creditors, exacerbating the country's exposure to exchange rate and market risks.

There has been an increase in mobile cellular connectivity, which has been facilitated by the wide availability, ease of access to, and falling prices of cellular phones. In 2018, the mobile subscriber base grew by 15.1 percent to 15,470,270 from 13,438,539 subscriptions in 2017. The growth represents an improvement in penetration rate to 91.6 percent in 2018 from 81.9 percent in 2017 due to increased competition among the operators.

The narrow fiscal space, declining FDI and ODA pose challenges for service delivery. Public private partnerships could be key to resource mobilisation. The opportunities presented by information and communication technology need to be explored further. Shocks like COVID-19 present valuable lessons on how society can modify its operations and do more with what is available.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

At the United Nations (UN) summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, in 2015, world leaders of 193 Member States, including Zambia, committed themselves towards more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development. This was reflected in 17 Goals, 169 targets and corresponding indicators, which made up the framework for implementation and tracking of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A hallmark of the SDGs is that they are universal and that all nations should work systematically towards them, both domestically and internationally by 2030. The 2030 Agenda entails that: “Governments have the primary responsibility for implementation, follow-up and review, at national level, in relation to the progress being made in implementing the goals over the coming thirteen years” (UN, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, 2015).

At the national level, the Zambian Constitution of 1991 as amended by Act No. 2 of 2016 identifies sustainable development as one of the country’s national values and principles. This aspiration is in line with tenets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which focuses on enhanced transparency, accountability, and citizenry participation. Article 8 sub-section (f) of the Constitution provides for sustainable development. This provision in the Constitution has in turn become the framework upon which development efforts are galvanised towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in Zambia.

In line with the 2030 Agenda, which requires every country to prioritise and adapt the goals and targets in accordance with local challenges, capacities and resource availability, the implementation of SDGs in Zambia is anchored on the National Vision 2030, which aims to transform the country into a prosperous middle-income nation by 2030. The Vision 2030 is organised around four strategic objectives and nine long-term outcomes. The Vision is implemented through a series of five-year National Development Plans (NDPs), the current being the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) covering the period 2017-2021. In line with the SDGs, the 7NDP uses an integrated approach and is operationalised through five Strategic Development Areas or Pillars.

In order to track progress towards attainment of medium-term national development results and long-term national vision aspirations, the Government developed the Vision 2030 National Performance Framework (NPF). The NPF was designed to provide a framework for guiding the identification of priority development areas, planning, monitoring and evaluation over the 2016-2030 period. In addition, the 7NDP has an Implementation Plan with a results framework cascading from expected impacts, outcomes and outputs to be generated by the Plan.

At the international level, Zambia is expected to carry out periodic reviews of progress being made towards attainment of the SDGs. To this end, the country has formulated an SDG National Coordination Framework, compiled SDG baseline indicators and will be presenting its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the 2020 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. This VNR report illustrates the efforts that the country has made in domesticating the SDGs through integration into the national planning framework and the institutional arrangements established to coordinate, implement and monitor the SDGs. The review also highlights the successes, challenges and lessons learnt from SDGs implementation.

1.2 Structure of the Document

The report has six chapters. Chapter 2 presents the methodology used to prepare the VNR: preparation of a VNR concept note; establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee; data collection and analyses; stakeholder engagement; validation; and finalisation of the report. Chapter 3 describes the policy environment and institutional arrangements for implementation of the SDGs. The chapter shows how the SDGs and Agenda 2030 have been incorporated in national frameworks. Analyses of progress

and status of SDGs implementation are presented in Chapter 4, which presents the successes, challenges, and recommended actions for enhancing progress on the SDGs. Chapter 5 details the means of implementation. Chapter 6 presents the conclusions and next steps.

1.3 Country Profile and Context

1.3.1 Location and Demographic Profile

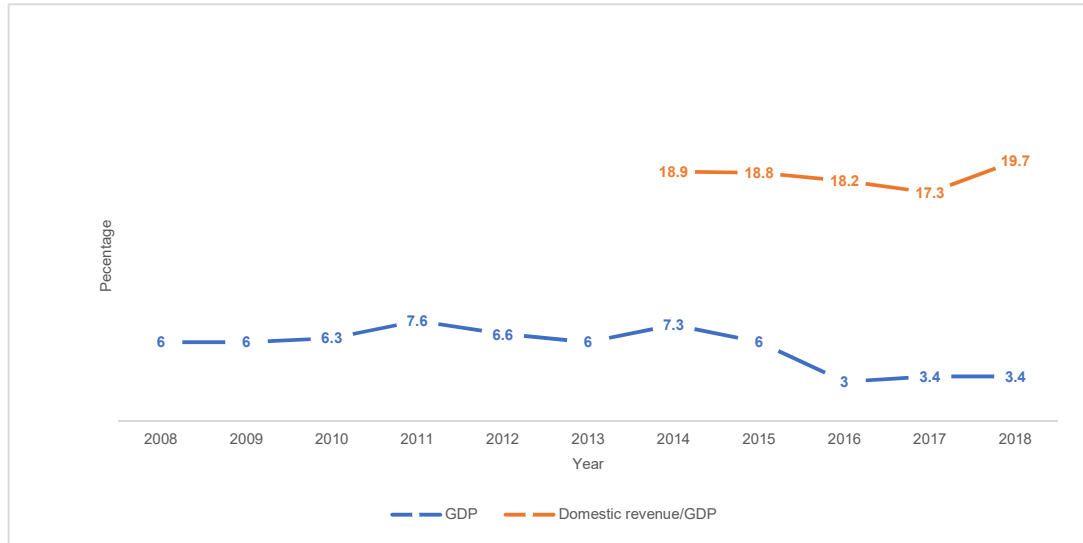
Zambia is a landlocked country with a surface area of 752,612 km². It is located in South-Central Africa and shares its borders with eight countries. These are the Democratic Republic of Congo to the north, Tanzania to the north-east, Malawi to the east, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to the south, and Angola to the west. Administratively, Zambia is divided into ten provinces, and a provincial minister administers each one. Each province is further subdivided into several districts, with the total number of districts currently standing at 116 (ZamStats, 2020).

The 2010 census estimated the national population at 13.1 million. The country has a young population, with persons aged 15 years and younger comprising 52.5 per cent of the total population. The sex distribution of the population is almost even, with women constituting 50.7 per cent of the total population. The average annual rate of population growth during the 2000-2010 intercensal period was 2.8 per cent, with the urban population growing at 4.2 per cent and the rural population growing at 2.1 per cent per annum (CSO, 2012). The 2019 projected national population was estimated at 17.4 million (CSO, 2019). Furthermore, the country is sparsely populated, with a population density of 17.6 persons per km². Although relatively more urbanised than most African countries, the majority (56.9 per cent) of the population reside in rural areas. However, the rate of urbanisation has continued increasing, with Lusaka Province leading in terms of absolute urban population growth (from 2.8 million in 2015 to 3.3 million in 2019). The urban areas in Zambia predominantly lie along the rail line that runs from Southern Province to Copperbelt Province in the north. Areas along the rail line are the focus of economic activity and development concentration in the country.

1.3.2 Economic Development Context

The country recorded significant socio-economic development during the last two decades prior to the 7NDP. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an annual average rate of 6.9 percent between 2005 and 2014 against the target of above 7 percent, while inflation dropped from 15.9 percent to 7.9 percent (Figure 1-1). However, just before and during the 7NDP period, economic growth slowed to 2.9 percent in 2015, 3.8 percent in 2016, 3.6 percent in 2017 and 4.0 percent in 2018 (CSO, 2019). The implementation of the 7NDP coincided with a period of worsening macroeconomic conditions characterised by high fiscal deficits, unstable exchange rate, declining commodity prices, and decreased production because of persistent droughts and power generation deficits. The fiscal deficit widened to 10.7 percent of GDP in 2018 up from 9.3 percent in 2019, reflecting increased debt service and capital expenditure overruns. Domestic revenue as a proportion of GDP has remained stagnated around 18 percent over the last five years, leaving the Government with no significant resource mobilisation space. Further, Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) has declined over the recent years (refer to SDG 17). These forces have generated negative pressures that have imposed limits on social expenditure, thereby threatening poverty reduction efforts.

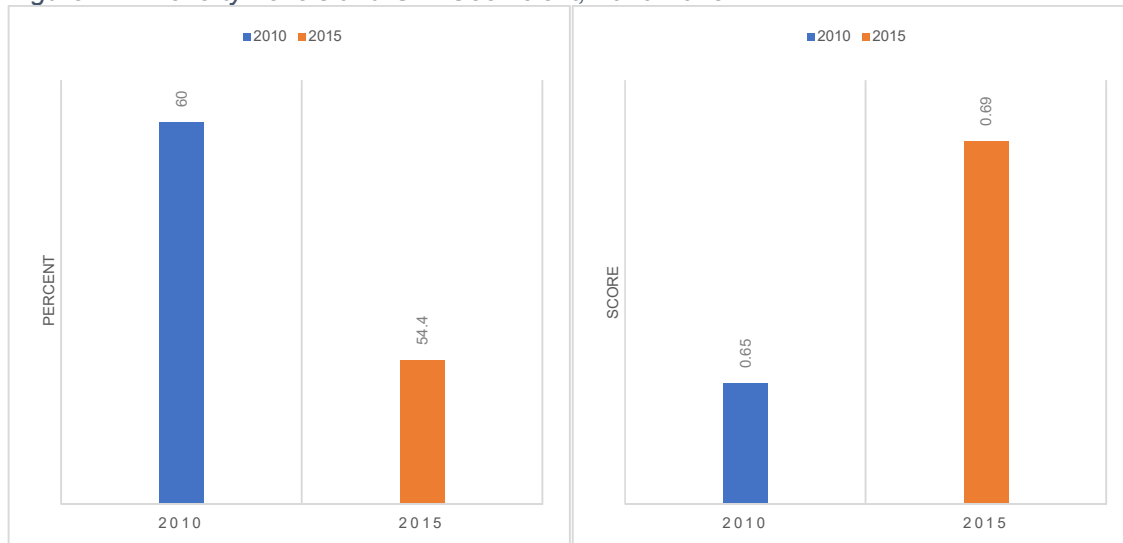
Figure 1-1: GDP and Domestic Revenue/GDP, 2008-2018



Source: Ministry of Finance (Annual Economic Report, 2019)

As indicated above, prior to the current economic downturn, the country enjoyed a relatively long period of sound economic performance which, however, was not mirrored by gains in poverty reduction. Poverty has remained pervasive and is more pronounced in rural areas. As at 2015, overall headcount poverty stood at 54.4 percent nationally, 76 percent in rural areas, and 23.4 percent in urban areas (CSO, 2015). Although urban poverty had marginally declined, rural poverty remained high. Further, development inequalities across regions persisted. The country continues to face income inequalities as evidenced by the increase in Gini coefficient from 0.65 in 2010 to 0.69 in 2015 (CSO, 2015).

Figure 1-2: Poverty Levels and Gini Coefficient, 2010-2015



Source: Central Statistical Office (Living Conditions Monitoring Survey Report, 2015)

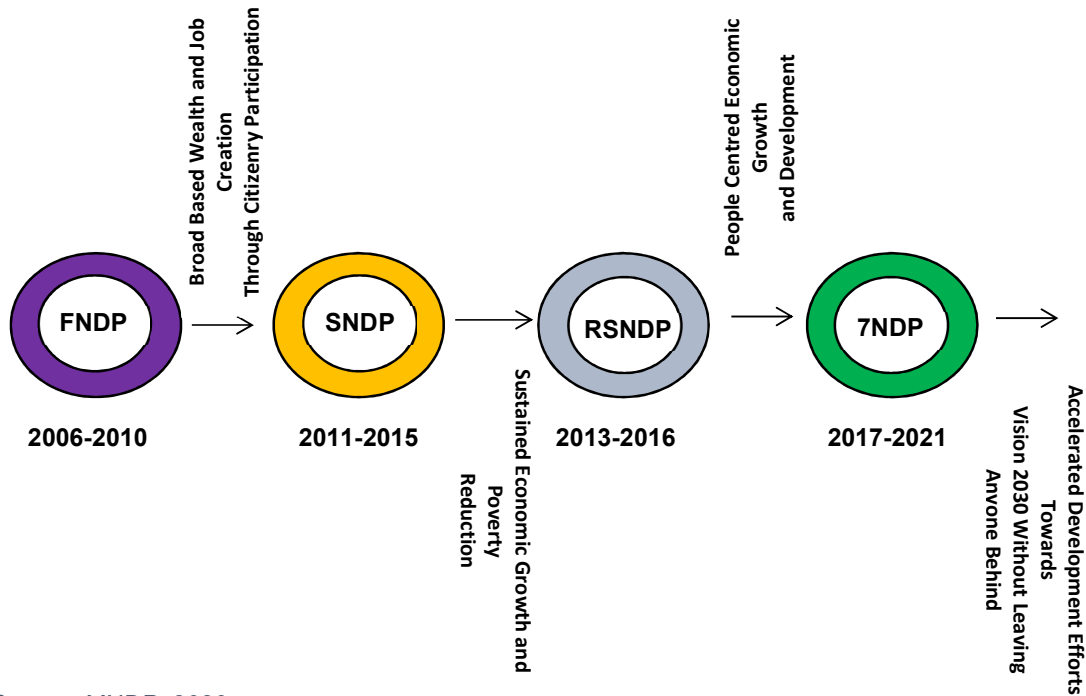
1.3.3 National Development Planning Context

Zambia has historically used national development planning for priority setting, resource allocation and development. From independence to date, the country has developed seven NDPs; four of these have been under the Vision 2030 (Figure 1-3). The practice of national development planning was suspended for nine years from 1993 to 2002, following the change of government from a socialist inclined to a free-market oriented regime. The absence of central planning led to a proliferation of sector-based plans,

and attendant coordination challenges. To address the challenges of sectoral-based planning, the Government reverted to national development planning by launching the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2002-2004, which was followed by the Fifth, Sixth and Revised-Sixth NDPs.

The 7NDP aims to contribute towards the attainment of national vision goals, as well as global and regional agendas. The 7NDP's major distinguishing characteristic is the departure from a sector-based to an integrated (multi-sectoral) planning approach. The sectoral approach was characterised by poor coordination in implementation, duplication in programming, lost opportunities in implementation synergies and linkages across ministries and implementing agencies, resulting in poor development results. The integrated approach to planning emphasises: identification of global, regional and national strategic programmes, which all sectors can contribute to; multi-sectoral strategies responding to national development objectives; promotion of mutually supportive activities in different sectors with a common objective; and identification of national priority programmes, which could be implemented taking into account the country's resources (Box 1). The integrated approach requires timely, strategic, targeted and simultaneous investments in various sectors of the economy through integrated efforts that translate policies into equitable, cost-effective interventions that leave no one behind.

Figure 1-3: The Four Plans of Vision 2030



Source: MNDP, 2020

The broad theme of the 7NDP is “accelerating development efforts towards Vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind” and has a primary goal of creating a diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and socio-economic transformation, driven by agriculture, mining and tourism. To deliver inclusive and equitable development, five strategic pillars have been identified to actualise this theme. The five pillars are: Economic Diversification and Job Creation; Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction; Reducing Developmental Inequalities; Enhancing Human Development; and Creating a Conducive Governance Environment for a Diversified and Inclusive Economy. Each of the pillars in turn is broken into Development Outcomes/Areas of Strategic Focus (Table 1-1).

Table 1-1: 7NDP Strategic Development Pillars

No	Pillar	Strategic Focus
1	Economic Diversification and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector ▪ A diversified and export-oriented mining sector ▪ A diversified tourism sector ▪ Improved energy production and distribution for sustainable development ▪ Improved access to domestic, regional and international markets ▪ Improved water resources development and management ▪ Enhanced information and communication technology ▪ Enhanced decent job opportunities in the economy ▪ Enhanced research and development
2	Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction	Enhanced welfare and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable
3	Reducing Developmental Inequalities	Reduced inequalities
4	Enhancing Human Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved health and health related services ▪ Improved education and skills development ▪ Improved access to water supply and sanitation
5	Creating a Conducive Governance Environment for a Diversified and Inclusive Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved policy environment ▪ Improved transparency and accountability ▪ An inclusive democratic system of governance ▪ Improved service delivery ▪ Improved rule of law, human rights and constitutionalism ▪ Enhanced national values, principles and ethics

Source: Ministry of National Development Planning (Seventh National Development Plan 2017-2021, 2017)

Box 1: Benefits of Integration

The integrated approach to implementing the 7NDP has encouraged teamwork among cluster stakeholders; this sentiment has been more widely expressed at the sub-national compared to the national level.

“Everyone has come on board to implement development as one united family. We have received support from NGOs and traditional leaders. For example, when the Ministry of Education was administering examinations, all the departments came on board, vehicles from the Council, the District Commissioner, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services assisted in the [administration] of examinations. We also have received support from [the private sector] in the district” (Lufwanyama District Consultative meeting participant).

“We come to report.... and plan together. For example, we have a programme under social welfare called Single Window [a kind of localised sector-wide approach, which pools local agencies] which brings together stakeholders working on social protection. The stakeholders plan, implement, and monitor together. Some of the key lessons learnt from collaborating is that we can save on resources and we have seen that even with few resources we can still do more.” (Kafue District Consultative meeting participant).

The inter-sectoral approach reduces the duplication of effort, allows for savings which can be channeled to other uses. A stakeholder at district level shared experience of a situation where both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water had planned to construct dams in the same area. The issue was raised during a District Development Coordinating Committee (DDCC) meeting and it was resolved that the Ministry of Water be allowed to construct the dam; resources were saved and used on other developmental projects.

Challenges of Integration:

1. Slow process of adoption of integrated approach especially at the national level;
2. Resistance to the change by some institutions;
3. Absence of a legal framework that would assure more successful integration; and
4. Differences in programming among sectors, which complicates harmonisation.

Source: 7NDP MTR (2020)

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Preparations for Voluntary National Review

In 2019, the Government of Zambia made a decision to prepare a Voluntary National Review (VNR) report, to be presented at the July 2020 UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development Goals. Following the approval by the UN Secretary-General for Zambia to present its inaugural VNR, the Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP), which is the national designated entity to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, developed a concept note for the VNR process. The concept note outlined the requisite activities and timelines for the preparation and presentation of the VNR, in line with the UN Secretary-General's Voluntary Guidelines. The MNDP appointed a VNR Secretariat, which was tasked with coordination, technical backstopping and quality assurance of the VNR process.

In line with the requirement for VNR preparation to use an elaborate Whole-Society-Approach, an Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group was constituted in August 2019, with representatives from all ministries, the private sector, civil society, academia and the UN. Focal Point Persons from these institutions were designated and tasked to provide the requisite information for the preparation of the VNR report.

2.2 Leaving No One Behind

The VNR report incorporates the principle of leaving no one behind by addressing it under pertinent SDG sections of Chapter 5. Zambia has implemented various interventions for addressing the needs of the vulnerable, minority and neglected populations. These include policy and legislative interventions as the protection against discrimination on the basis of gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, and religion. There are dedicated programmes that address the needs of the vulnerable, such as the Social Cash Transfer for persons with severe disabilities; Public Welfare Assistance Scheme that targets orphans and vulnerable children, households affected by HIV and AIDS, older persons, persons living with disabilities, the chronically ill, and female-headed vulnerable households; Farmer Input Support Programme that provides agricultural inputs to viable small-scale farmers; and the Food Security Pack, which provides inputs for poor and vulnerable, but viable farmers

2.3 Coverage of SDGs and Targets

This VNR report covers 14 out of the 17 SDGs: SDG 10 was not reported on because it is reflected in other goals, such as SDG 1, SDG 8 and SDG 17; SDG 14 is not covered because it is not applicable to Zambia and SDG 12 has been left out because of data limitations. The number of indicators reported under each SDG covered in the report is indicated in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: SDG indicators covered in NVR

Goals	Indicators	Indicators covered in NVR		Coverage
		N	Code	
1 and 2	12 and 14	3 indicators & 4 programmes		3/26
3	26	10 indicators	3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.8.1	10/26
4	11	3 and 6 programmes	4.1.1, 4.3.1, 4.5.1,	3/11
5	14	4 and 1 programme	5.1.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1, 5.5.1,	4/14
6	11	2 and 3 programmes	6.1.1, 6.2.1,	2/11
7	6	4	7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.b.1,	4/6
8	17	5	8.1.1, 8.3.1, 8.5.2, 8.7.1, 8.8.2,	5/17

9	12	3	9.1.2, 9.2.1, 9.2.2,	3/12
11	15	2	11.1.1, 11.6.1,	2/15
13	7	4	13.2.1, 13.3.1, 13.3.2, 13.b.1,	4/7
15	14	4	15.1.1, 15.1.2, 15.2.1, 15.6.1,	4/14
16	23	7	16.1.3, 16.2.1, 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.5.1, 16.9.1, 16.10.2,	7/23
17	25	7	17.3.1, 17.4.1, 17.8.1,	3/25

2.4 Data Collection

The preparation of the VNR was a collaborative effort with all relevant sectors, represented by line ministries, which provided input through written submissions on the status of SDG implementation. Secondary sources, mainly reports published by various institutions as well as international sources, were also referenced.

This was followed by an assessment of the data requirements. This enabled an initial cross-sectoral examination of available data, which would facilitate determination of the state of SDG implementation. The key deliverable from this exercise was the identification of the required and available data, which enabled a determination of where effort was needed to complete data compilation. Based on submissions from the sectors, consultations and reference to secondary data sources, writing sessions for the VNR commenced. These activities culminated in a draft report, for validation purposes. The final stage was presentation of the report to a stakeholder validation virtual conferencing for approval.

2.5 Stakeholder Engagement

In addition to the concept note, the MNDP developed a stakeholder engagement plan which was aimed at enhancing communication and collaboration among various stakeholder representatives engaged in sustainable development activities at all levels. The roadmap and timelines for the VNR process were broadly disseminated to Government ministries, cooperating partners, academia, the youth, the private sector, and civil society organisations (CSOs), including representatives of vulnerable groups such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Engagement from the identified stakeholders included solicitation of material, financial and technical contributions towards the VNR process. Among the areas for which such contributions were needed included stakeholder consultations and meetings, provision of technical expertise in the production of knowledge products for presentation at the HLPF (VNR report editing, publishing, translation, and audio-visual materials, including videos and brochures).

Stakeholder engagement was aligned to existing institutional structures and processes in order to achieve country ownership as well as avoid duplication of efforts. All the 10 provinces in the country were sensitised about the SDGs and the VNR process. These awareness campaigns focused on strengthening capacities at the sub-national levels to implement, monitor and report performance of the 7NDP as well as the SDGs, climate change and the African Union Agenda 2063. An SDGs guide was prepared in English and translated into the seven main local languages namely, Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, Lunda, Kaonde, and Luvale.

CSOs, including the youth, were actively involved in the SDG awareness campaigns. In this respect, CSOs identified SDG targets that related to their mandate and contributed in raising awareness for specific SDGs. For instance, the Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia, in partnership with UN agencies in Zambia particularly United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Fund for Population Activities and United Nations Development Programme organised a National Youth Conference under the theme "Engaging the Youth in Monitoring and Accountability of the Sustainable Development

Goals-SDGs for a Sustainable Zambia”. The conference attracted over 200 youth from all the 10 provinces.

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and in line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines to prevent and control the spread of the virus, a number of direct engagements with stakeholders were scaled down. Some planned physical meetings were replaced by electronic means of engagement and communication. The draft VNR report was also made available on the Government web portal (www.szi.gov.zm) to encourage public debate and solicit views.

3 POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 National Ownership of the SDGs

Building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Zambia has shown commitment to the SDGs by endorsing the 2030 Agenda and mainstreaming the SDGs into its national development frameworks. The Government has also enhanced SDG awareness campaigns through expanding fora for information dissemination to include key constituents such as Parliamentarians, communities and civil society.

The Zambian Parliament has been active in promoting SDG discussions at the national level. The office of the Clerk of the National Assembly has played a key role in enhancing coordination between Parliament and the Government (represented by the MNDP). The Parliamentary Caucus Committee has been instrumental in fostering and sustaining SDG engagement, thus Parliament continues being critical for the planning, budgeting and monitoring of the SDGs.

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) has also played a critical role in the implementation of the SDGs by monitoring and auditing the SDGs process, from preparation to implementation, including evaluating the achievements of SDG-relevant programmes at both the national and sub-national levels. The involvement of the OAG has been beneficial as it has enabled the identification of areas requiring attention and follow-up by the Government in SDG implementation (Box 2).

Data is important to ensure that the accountability function is fulfilled. To this end, the country has undertaken measures to raise the statistical capacity of the Central Statistical Office (CSO), which is now a semi-autonomous body following the enactment of the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018. The CSO, now called Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) has embarked on strengthening the statistical capacities of Planning Units through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics II (NSDS, 2019 -2024).

National ownership of the SDGs has further been enhanced by the adoption of the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy of 2019, which will contribute towards improving the accountability function. The policy seeks to support, among others, capacity enhancement for collection, management and dissemination of information on development indicators that are used for tracking progress towards medium and long-term development outcomes, including the SDGs. Efforts are also underway to enact the Planning and Budgeting Bill, whose objective is to raise programmes' effectiveness by strengthening the link between the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and National Development Plans.

Box 2: Performance Audit of Zambia's Preparedness to Implement the SDGs

At the request of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions, the OAG conducted an independent performance audit on Zambia's preparedness to implement the SDGs. The audit was undertaken between September 2015 and August 2018. The audit focused on assessing the level of the Government's capacity to domesticate the SDGs as well as subsequent follow-up activities of monitoring and reporting.

According to the audit results, Zambia has laid a sound foundation for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. The Government was, in principle, agreeable with the contents of the performance audit. Key lessons were noted from the performance audit, which are useful for coordination and implementation of the SDGs in Zambia.

1. The Audit Report encouraged the Government to strengthen the National Statistical System so that there are improvements in the implementation of surveys and generation of sufficiently disaggregated data at both national and sub-national levels.
2. The Report recommended estimating the cost for implementing the SDGs, which information would be used for resource mobilisation. The Report also proposed expediting implementation of Output Based Budgeting (OBB).
3. In addition to calls for rolling out the OBB, the performance audit raised concern on the non-alignment of national development programmes to the national budget and urged reforms to address the issue.
4. Delay in the enactment of the National Planning and Budgeting Bill was cited as an impediment to the realisation of vertical and horizontal policy coherence. Expediting enactment of the relevant Act was advisable.

Source: OAG (2020)11

3.2 Mainstreaming of SDGs in National Development Frameworks

3.2.1 Planning and Budgeting Reforms

The Government identified weaknesses in the planning and budgeting processes, which were likely to impede the success of NDPs. These included weak linkages between budgeting and development planning procedures, and ambiguous and variable processes used for preparing Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs), budgets and NDPs. The lack of a legal framework linking budgeting and planning compounded the problem.

To address this challenge, the country is in the process of enacting legislation on Planning and Budgeting. The National Planning and Budgeting Bill of 2019, once enacted, will strengthen accountability, oversight and participation mechanisms in the national planning and budgeting process. In addition, the legislation will strengthen the coordination of NDPs and SDGs within the national planning framework as well as promote participatory and decentralised national planning and budgeting processes involving state and non-state actors.

3.2.2 Rapid Integrated Assessment

In 2017, Zambia undertook a mapping exercise to align the 7NDP Key Development Result Areas in the 7NDP to the SDG goals (Figure 3-1). The Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) exercise showed that the 7NDP had domesticated the SDGs, the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Rio+ and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among others (Figure 3-2). The mapping assessed the Plan’s level of alignment with the 2030 Agenda by examining the links between the SDG and 7NDP goals and targets. It also identified linkages across goals, whereby achievement of targets for a specific goal simultaneously impacted other goals.

The RIA assessment showed that 86 percent of the SDG targets were aligned to the 7NDP, with 75 percent of the SDG targets being fully aligned while 11 percent were only partially aligned. This means that 14 percent of the SDG targets were not aligned to the 7NDP. This is explained by the non-inclusion of SDG 14 on oceans and seas and SDG 17 on means of implementation in the assessment. The high-level of alignment between the SDG and 7NDP targets means that as the country implements the 7NDP, progress is simultaneously being made towards attainment of the SDGs.

Figure 3-1: Alignment of SDGs to 7NDP Key Result Areas



Source: Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) Report (2018)

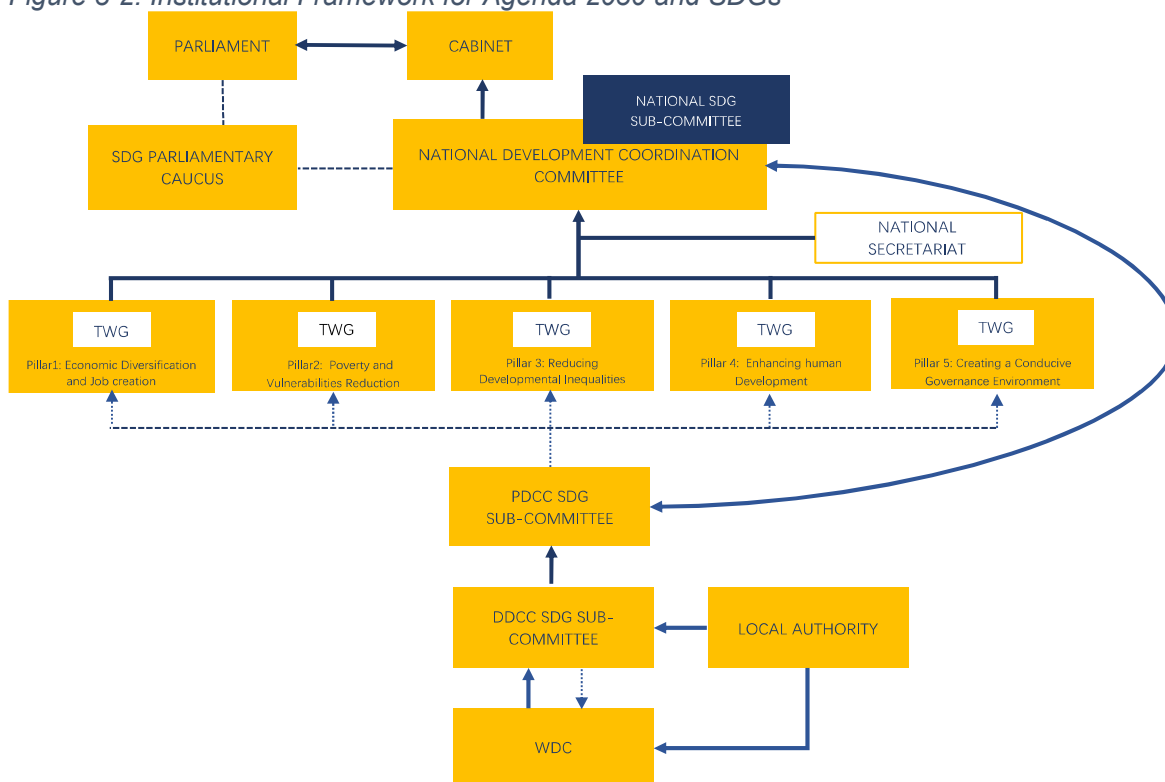
3.3 National Strategy for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

In order to accelerate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the 2030 Agenda, Zambia adopted the existing NDP structure. The framework benefitted from wide consultations at national and sub-national levels. The NDP institutional structures for implementation, monitoring and reporting were adopted for the SDGs. This was deemed to be an effective and efficient approach, as it would save on costs and avoid duplication.

Having decided on the institutional framework, and using results from the RIA exercise, the process of formulating the roadmap started in 2017. Lessons learnt from implementation of the MDGs were taken into account, key among these was the need for strengthening institutional arrangements. The need for reliable and readily available data was noted and strategies devised for improving capacities. The transition from sector-based planning to integrated planning necessitated capacity building among all participating institutions and this was undertaken in collaboration with the UN. Further, in order to fulfil the goal of leaving no one behind, the implementation process entails the identification and involvement of all key actors, including grassroots communities, civil society, local authorities, cooperating partners and government units at various levels.

The NDP Framework is also meant to build awareness, promote ownership, and indicate a way forward for the implementation phase. The Framework further unveiled pathways for mobilisation of both technical and financial resources for effective implementation of the SDGs.

Figure 3-2: Institutional Framework for Agenda 2030 and SDGs



Source: MNDP (2019)

3.3.1 National Statistical Framework

Data inadequacies have hampered the country’s ability to effectively monitor and evaluate development programmes. To this end, the Government, through the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) undertook an exercise to determine and identify the availability and reliability of data for SDG indicators, review

the data needs, methodology and consistency of indicators, including administrative data provided by line ministries and other agencies. The scope of the assessment included mapping of institutions responsible for providing data for the indicator framework. The exercise found that only a third (34 percent) of the indicators had the required data, 51 percent of the indicators had no data, and 15 percent of the indicators had no metadata (Figure 3-3).

The following are among the challenges identified in the assessment with regard to the statistical capacity of the country:

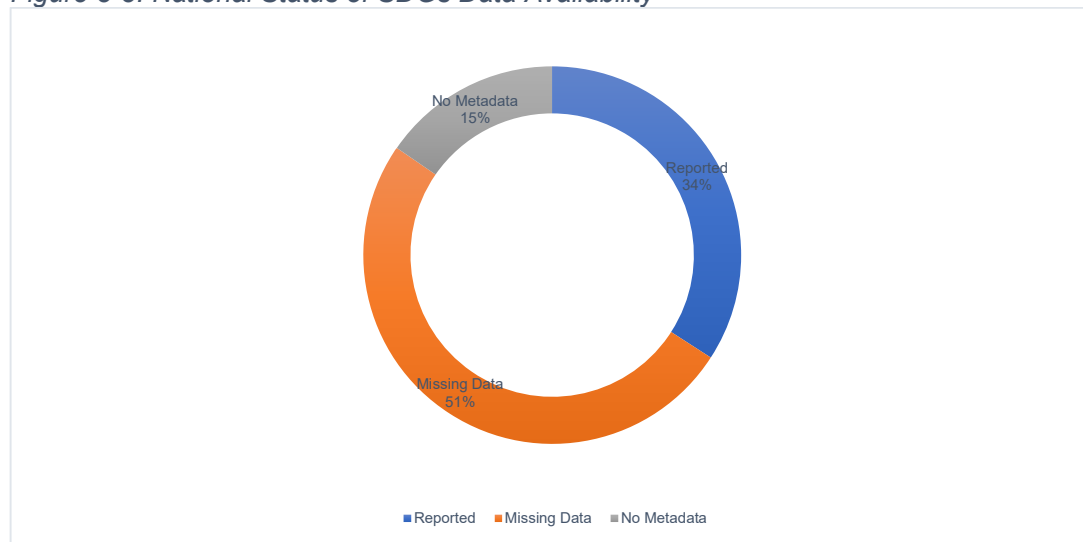
1. Lack of data management mechanisms/systems;
2. Lack of SDGs data sharing mechanisms;
3. Lack of coordination/collaboration within and between institutions;
4. Weaknesses in the sector information management systems; and
5. Limited disaggregation of data.

In addition to the above challenges, it has also been noted that there is a Lack of alignment of M&E needs to the availability of data.

The recommendations urged improvements in statistical capacities by targeting both producers and users of data, as follows:

- a) Enhanced use of the baseline to advocate for improved data availability and quality;
- b) Data producers/institutions with low availability of data were tasked improve coverage; and
- c) ZamStats was to provide technical backstopping for quality data production; and cooperating partners were to provide technical and financial support to ZamStats.

Figure 3-3: National Status of SDGs Data Availability



Source: (ZamStats, 2020)

Box 3: Statistical Reforms in Zambia

The World Bank in its routine statistical capacity assessment exercise, which is a measure of how the national statistical system (NSS) is responsive to national data demands, scored Zambia at 52 percent in 2017. The assessment further revealed that only 7 percent of the indicators with available data are using administrative data sources, as opposed to about 90 percent demanded by the 7NDP and the SDGs.

With the enactment of the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018, which repealed and replaced the Census and Statistics Act of 1964, Zambia has undertaken statistical reforms aimed at strengthening the entire NSS. The reforms have led to the transformation of the Central Statistical Office from merely a government department to a semi-autonomous body called the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats).

In this regard, the Act also outlines functions and roles of different players within the NSS and gives the ZamStats the role of coordinating the National Statistical System and powers to guide on statistical code of practice. In order to harmonise statistical processes, the Act further empowers the Agency to guide, among others: data collection processes of various surveys; composition of indicator metadata; standardisation of methodologies and tools; and designation of statistics as official statistics.

In a quest to improve availability of quality data and ensure integration of the NSS, the Government of Zambia, through the ZamStats, is in the process of developing the second National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS 2) to replace the old one which came to an end in 2018. The NSDS 2 will act as a data plan to respond to the data demands of the 7NDP and the SDGs.

3.4 Integration of the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions

In line with the Vision 2030, which has placed sustainable development at the core of the country's economic development agenda, the 7NDP has fully integrated the three dimensions of then SDGs (economic, social, and environmental). The three dimensions are prerequisites of sustainable development.

3.4.1 Economic Dimension

Since the early 1990s when Zambia reverted to a multi-party-political dispensation, the country has pursued market-based economic policies. At the time of domesticating the SDGs, the economy had been growing at an average of 5 percent over a ten-year period. However, the growth was uneven and concentrated in capital-intensive sectors. Growth in the agriculture sector, which has the most potential for poverty reduction, was less than satisfactory. One consequence of this is that growth in employment had been slow. The informal sector, which employed 85 percent of the labour force, accounted for only 34 percent of GDP, while the formal sector that accounted for 66 percent of GDP employed only 16.4 percent of the labour force.

Economic growth did not generate enough decent jobs in the formal sector and consequently, the national poverty levels remained significantly high. Rural poverty levels have remained persistently high, revealing that the economic transformation had left the rural populace behind. This is evident from the gini coefficient of 0.69 (2015), which necessitated concerted efforts through policy and programme changes that foster inclusive growth and income distribution. To this end, the country has adopted interventions for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, among these are the following:

1. Broad-based and inclusive growth strategies that enhance linkages between multinational corporations and small- and medium-scale businesses supporting rural based industries, as well as rolling out infrastructure developments (roads, telecommunications, irrigation systems etc.) to open up rural areas;
2. Addressing the structural factors that inhibit sustained growth of the agriculture sector, especially that of small-scale farmers who employ the majority of the rural population, such as input support, livestock and fisheries infrastructure development;
3. Introducing tested strategies for diversifying the economy, with concentrated efforts to develop the tourism sector, which has high potential for generating employment, especially for the youth; and
4. Implementing strategies to reduce inequalities between rural and urban areas, such as expanded social protection services.

In the last decade, Zambia has experienced shocks both internally and externally driven by natural and economic factors, such as climatic shocks and fluctuating commodity prices. Developing a diversified and resilient economy, able to absorb these shocks, is an imperative. Economic diversification relies on the strategic identification of competitive growth sectors which are not dependent on single and finite resources, such as copper. As opposed to resource extraction which is becoming increasingly mechanised, sectors, such as agriculture and tourism have much potential.

A key reason for the observed fluctuations in economic performance, marked by recent low economic growth after almost a decade of positive real growth, worsening fiscal and debt position and low foreign direct investments (FDIs) is the limited diversification of the Zambian economy. Disruptions in the dominant mining sector tends to send ripple effects to the whole economy. In order to minimise these impacts, the Government has implemented an economic diversification programme that seeks to raise the role of agriculture and tourism. To achieve this objective, the 7NDP has prioritised the implementation of various strategies (Table 1).

To achieve the objective of economic diversification, reforms which promote institutional realignment and a performance management culture that leads to development accountability are being developed and implemented. In this regard in 2017, Zambia launched the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme dubbed “Zambia Plus”, a medium-term home-grown programme which was aimed at restoring fiscal fitness and overall macroeconomic stability for sustained inclusive growth and development. The Zambia Plus outlined a range of policy and structural reforms, which the Government would pursue towards fiscal fitness and broad macroeconomic stabilisation. The programme had the following components:

1. Strengthening tax policy and administration to improve revenue inflows and to shift public expenditure back to affordable levels;
2. Increasing budgetary allocation to social protection including addressing the plight of pensioners;
3. Improving economic and fiscal governance through strengthening of regulations and laws to ensure transparency of spending decisions;
4. Improving budget credibility through better planning, adherence to expenditure plans and improvement of the quality of the Government’s spending; and
5. Improving the country’s economic stability through easing access to credit, lowering lending rates and reducing inflation.

3.4.2 Social Dimension

Sustained and equitable economic growth in the long run positively impacts on living conditions. However, not all population groups benefit from economic growth if the benefits of growth are not equitably distributed. There are groups that tend not to benefit as much from growth and for whom mitigation measures are important. To this end, the country has adopted social development interventions that are targeted at ensuring that no one is left behind. This is expected to enhance

productive capacities by reducing social exclusion particularly in areas of education, health and water supply and sanitation. In view of the foregoing, some of the relevant policy interventions as articulated in the 7NDP include the following, reflected in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Social Dimensions of SDGs

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance access to quality, equitable and inclusive education; ▪ Enhance access to skills training; ▪ Enhance private sector participation; ▪ Continuous review of curriculum; and ▪ Enhance role of science, technology and innovation.
Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen public health programmes; ▪ Expand capacity to increase access to quality health care; ▪ Enhance food security and nutrition; ▪ Promote private sector participation in health care delivery; and ▪ Accelerate human resource outputs, recruitment and retention.
Social Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen coordination of social protection systems; ▪ Improve coverage and targeting of social protection programmes; and ▪ Implement pension reforms.
Water and Sanitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance provision of adequate safe water and sanitation; ▪ Improve availability of water and sanitation infrastructure; ▪ Enhance research in water supply and sanitation services; ▪ Promote alternative financing for water and sanitation; and ▪ Enhance provision of adequate solid waste management services.

Source: Ministry of National Development Planning (Seventh National Development Plan 2017-2021, 2017), 7NDP

3.4.3 Environmental Dimension

The country faces immense environmental challenges, particularly as a result of climate change impacts. The increased demand for land for agriculture and human settlement has also led to systematic degradation of the environment as demonstrated by the pollution of water resources and widespread deforestation. The deforestation problem arises mainly from agricultural activities and the use of wood fuel as the main source of energy for the majority of the population. This has been compounded by the crippling reduction of hydropower supply, resulting in massive electricity load-shedding. The country's capacity and ability to adapt to effects of climate change remain low. The country has been making efforts to mobilise resources and build capacities for climate mitigation and adaptation in order to strengthen its response to climate related impacts management as well as building community resilience.

The country has integrated environmental issues across the five pillars of the 7NDP which include measures to adapt, reduce and mitigate climate change variabilities. Specifically, the Plan focuses on the following:

1. Improved surveillance systems for climate-related risks;
2. Improved utilisation of climate data and information;
3. Strengthened sustainable forest management;
4. Improved solid and liquid waste treatment, disposal and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction;
5. Introduction of low carbon, efficient mass transit systems for public transportation in Lusaka and Copperbelt Provinces;
6. Replacement of fossil fuel-based power generation with renewable energy sources;
7. Increased coverage of early warning centres; and
8. Establishment of Emergency Operation Centres.

3.5 Institutional Mechanisms

In 2014, the Zambian Cabinet approved the National Planning and Budgeting Policy. The Policy provides for the integration of NDPs, the MTEF and the National Budget in such a way that the processes improve responsiveness, transparency, accountability, and results-orientation. It also provides for a more inclusive planning and budgeting system which increases the participation of all stakeholders at all levels, from the district, provincial, sectoral to the national levels. In achieving these expectations and in line with the integrated multi-sectoral approach, the Cabinet through the National Planning and Budgeting Policy established consultative and advisory structures. At the national level, there are the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC) and Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs). The Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs), District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) and the Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are operational at the local levels (Figure 3-4).

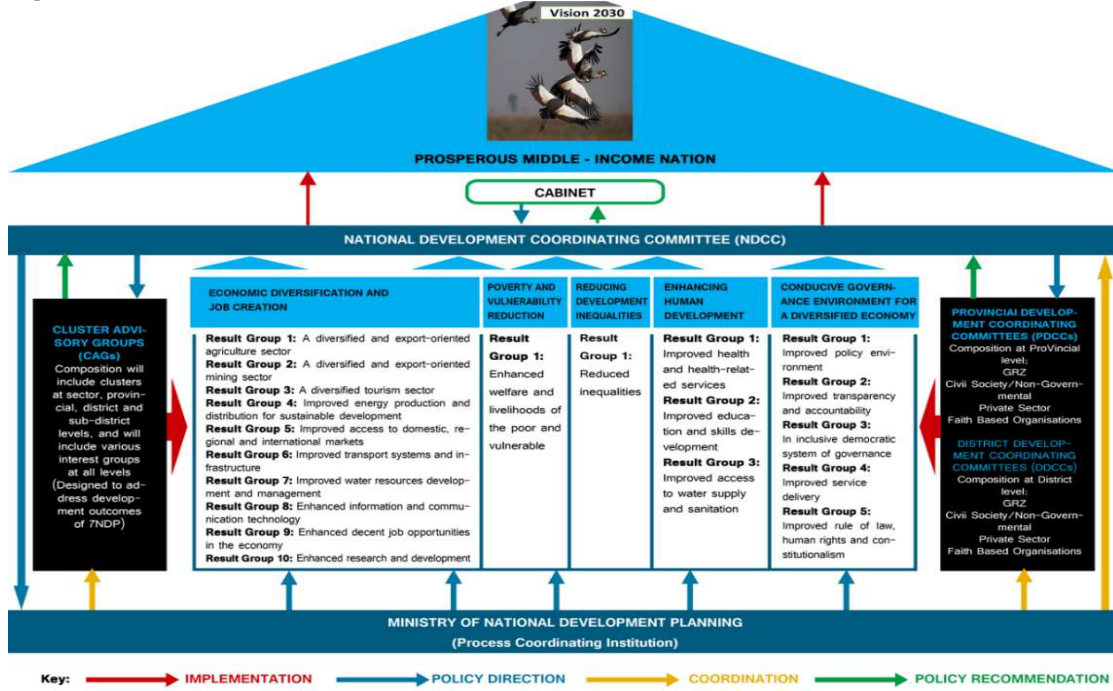
Under this arrangement, the NDCC is an apex advisory body responsible for: (a) advising the Cabinet on coordination of national development; and (b) formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans. The NDCC is chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet and has a wide membership comprising senior government officials from line ministries and departments. It also has representation from cooperating partners, the private sector and trade unions as well as representatives from CSOs, faith-based organisations, academia and the youth. The Ministry of National Development Plan is the Secretariat of the NDCC.

The Policy outcomes of NDCC feed into Presidential Quarterly Reviews which are chaired by the Republican President. The NDCC report also feeds into the MTEF and National Budget which help foster credibility of planning and budgeting processes. The institutional arrangement has facilitated the transmission of information from local communities to high-level policy levels, including the Presidency.

On the side-lines of the NDCC, a National SDGs Sub-Committee was constituted with the responsibility of ensuring inclusive partnership and capacity building; availability of data and strategic information; and conducting of periodic monitoring. The Sub-Committee also provides guidance to the CAGs and policy direction for consistent and coherent implementation.

These consultative and advisory structures are being operationalised by the 7NDP, which recognises the interconnectedness of the pillars and the SDGs as well as the need for all stakeholders to play their roles if the development priorities set are to be realised.

Figure 3-4: 7NDP Coordination Structures



Source: (Seventh National Development Plan 2017-2021, 2017)

Box 4: Coordination Successes and Challenges of NDP Structures

Successes

1. Relative to previous NDPs, the functionality of the 7NDP national and sub-national coordination structures has improved; more meetings are held, and the introduction of CAG Co-Chairs has positively impacted operations. However, the integrated multi-faceted approach was stronger at sub-national levels (i.e. at PDCC and DDCC levels) compared to national levels (i.e. NDCC and CAGS);
2. The participation of non-state actors such as the private sector, CSOs, and cooperating partners is more visible. They identify with 7NDP processes and are knowledgeable of the programmes and their performance;
3. The national and sub-national structures are aligned; the five pillars of the 7NDP are represented at both the national and sub-national levels.

Challenges

1. The lack of orientation, limited training, and knowledge of the 7NDP among WDC members has adversely affected coordination of activities at the local level. Slow implementation of the Decentralisation Policy has hindered effective operationalisation of coordination structures at the sub-district levels;
2. The performance of DDCCs and PDCCs is hampered by irregularity of meetings, resource limitations and competing demands for members' time;
3. The slow transition from the current ABB budgeting process to OBB process has not been supportive of the cluster approach and has hampered the effective operationalisation of the multi-sectoral approach of programme implementation. Therefore, coordination within and among the CAGs at national level would be enhanced by the complete migration to OBB augmented by fiscal decentralisation, which is supportive to cluster budgeting and multi-sectoral implementation of programmes as opposed to the ABB approach which is a sectoral approach;
4. Whereas reports by DDCCs and PDCCs are very detailed, their utilisation at the national level is limited. This is attributed to low compliance with standardised reporting format.
5. The disconnect between the current sector-based budgeting process and the Cluster approach has negatively impacted the implementation of Cluster-identified projects.
6. Despite the appointment of CAG leaders, there is no clear Cluster-based accountability framework. This has resulted in the perpetuation of sector-biases in programme implementation.

4 ASSESSING SDG PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW OF KEY OVERARCHING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Assessing SDG Performance

As indicated in the Introduction, Zambia domesticated the SDGs through the NDP framework; the RIA assessment found that 86 percent of SDG targets were aligned to the 7NDP. Therefore, assessment of the either SDG or NDP targets is simultaneously an assessment of the other. At the time of preparing this VNR report, a mid-term evaluation of the 7NDP had just been completed. This report uses results of the MTR to examine the performance SDG indicators; in some instances, the MTR results have been supplemented by other sector-based results. The performance of the 7NDP indicators was based on progress made towards the 7NDP targets. Progress was rated to be: (i) On Track (green circle), if by 2019, the indicator value showed that 50 percent of the target had been met; (ii) Partially on Track (amber square), if by 2019, the indicator value showed that less than 50 percent of the target had been met; and Off-track (red triangle), if by 2019, the indicator value showed that less than 30 of the target had been met.

The summary results of the performance assessment are reflected in Figure 4-1. The overall assessment showed that slightly less than half (44 percent) of the indicators were off-track, 14 percent were partially on track and 38 percent met the 7NDP target for 2021. The performance of all indicators under each SDGs are provided in Table 4-1 to Table 4-9. Detailed discussion of each indicator is provided in Chapter 5.

Figure 4-1: Status of SDG Indicators, 2019

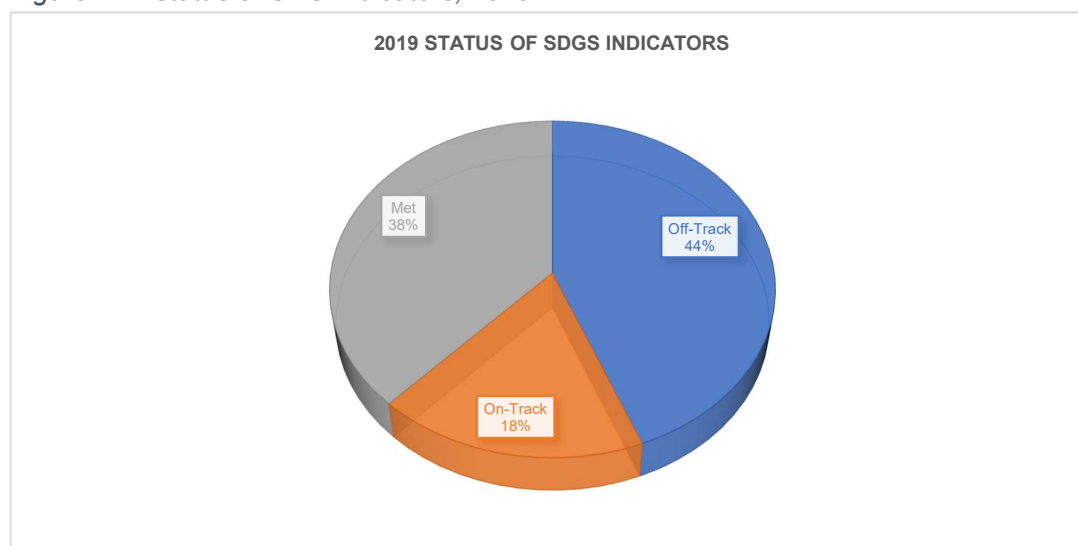


Table 4-1: SDG 1 – No poverty: end poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG 2 – Zero hunger: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Indicator	Baseline	Year of baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
GDP growth rate	3.8	2016	5	2.0	▲
Multi-dimensional poverty headcount	50	2016	20% during 7NDP period	44 (2020)	▲
Rural	69	2016	59	59 (2020)	■
Urban	25	2016	18	18 (2020)	●
Stunting of children below 5 years	40.1	2014	14	53	▲

Indicator	Baseline	Year of baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Underweight of children below 5 years	14.8	2014	12	9	■
Wasting in children below 5 years	6	2014	4	4	●

Table 4-2: SDG 3 – Good health and well-being: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Indicator	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Participation rates in early childhood education (percent)	24.0	2016	50.0	29.4	■
a) Male	31.0	2016	50.0	48.9	●
b) Female	29.8	2016	50.0	51.1	●
Pupil: Teacher Ratio					
Grades 1-7	43.3:1	2016	40:1	61.9:1	▲
Grades 5-7	48.9:1	2016	40:1	62.6:1	▲
Grades 8-9	23.9:1	2016	40:1	24.4:1	▲
Grades 10-12	34.9:1	2016	35:1	36.9:1	■
Percent of children in achieving a minimum proficiency in:					
a) Reading	47.8	2016	60	12.5	▲
b) Mathematics	36.7	2016	60	13	▲
a) Total	90	2016	100	83.6	▲
b) Female	89	2016	100	85.8	▲
c) Male	90	2016	100	81.4	▲
Secondary school net enrolment rates:					
a) Total	40	2016	60	20.2	▲
b) Female	25.7	2016	60	19.0	▲
c) Male	30.5	2016	60	21.4	▲
Percent school transition rates:					
a) Primary (7 to 8)	90.1	2016	100.0	69.1	▲
Male	88.4	2016	100.0	68.2	▲
Female	91.8	2016	100.0	70.6	▲
b) Secondary (9 to 10)	46.2	2016	75.0	50	■
Male	47.4	2016	75.0	57	▲
Female	44.8	2016	75.0	49.2	▲
Completion Rate – Grade 12:	36.0	2016	85.0	36.0	▲
a) Male	39.7	2016	85.0	40.4	▲
b) Female	32.2	2016	85.0	31.6	▲
Overall Rating for Primary & Secondary					▲

Table 4-3: SDG 5 – Gender equality: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Indicator	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Proportion of learners in TVET institutions graduating in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	20	2016	35	19	▲
Proportion of learners in universities graduating in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	23	2016	40	30	■

Proportion of schools implementing comprehensive sexuality education (percent)	15.0	2015	100.0	100	●
Literacy rate (15 years and older):	67.5	2014	75	80	●
a) Male	83	2014	86	81	■
b) Female	68	2014	75	79	●
Enrolment by sex:					
a) TEVET (annual enrolment)	20,367	2016	52,000	54,894	●
b) Male	11,551	2016	28,000	29,717	●
c) Female	8,816	2016	24,000	25,177	●
d) University	75,520	2016	120,000	99,222	■
Number of innovation products developed	4	2016	12	4	▲
Percentage of schools with access to:					
a) Electricity	28	2016	35	100	●
b) Internet	6.3	2016	15	85.3	●
c) Basic hand washing facilities (as per the water, sanitation and hygiene indicator definitions)	20	2016	40	83.3	●

Table 4-4: Proportion of Women in Influential Positions

Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Proportion of seats held by women in cabinet	34.4	2016	50	34.4	▲
Proportion of seats held by women in parliament	18.7	2016	50	19	▲
Proportion of local government seats held by women	10	2016	50	37.95	●
Proportion of seats held by youths in parliament	2.4	2016	10	2.4	▲

Table 4-5: SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Percent of households with access to improved drinking water					
Total	64.5	2013-14	85.0	72	●
Rural	46.6	2013-14	67.0	58	▲
Urban	89.5	2016	98.0	93	●
Percent of households with access to improved sanitation					
Total	25.4	2013-14	50.8	54.4	●
Urban	18.5	2013-14	35	45	●
Rural	35.0	2013-14	35	45.4	●
Percent of water sample for a representative sample of water points that meets Zambia Bureau of Standards /WHO standards	64	2017	100	100	●
Percent of households whose garbage is disposed of through improved methods	6.3	2015	20	N/A	N/A

Table 4-6: SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Indicators	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target 2021	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Proportion of renewable energy in total energy mix (%) below	1.2	2016	5	4.5	●
System Losses %					
a) Transmission losses	6.23	2016	5	5.25	●
b) Distribution losses	10	2016	12	12	●
Proportion of electricity production by source (%)					
a) Hydro	84.5	2016	86	80.6	▲
b) Solar	0.06	2016	2	0.83	●
c) Coal	10.6	2016	8	13.33	▲
d) Heavy fuel oil	1.8	2016	1.3	4.94	▲
e) Diesel	3.1	2016	2.1	0.04	●
Percentage distribution of households by electricity connection:	31.4	2015	44	32.8	■
a) Rural	4.4	2015	8	8.1	●
b) Urban	67.34	2015	80	70.6	●
Percentage of final energy consumption (cooking) by source					
a) Electricity	16	2015	25	9.0	▲
b) Coal	0	2015	0.01	0.0	▲
c) Gas	0.1	2015	10	0.2	▲
d) Firewood	50.7	2015	40	48.1	■
e) Charcoal	32.9	2015	25	42.4	▲
Number of days for businesses to get connected to power grid	117	2017	30	90	■

Table 4-7: SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Percent of employed persons aged 15 years or older in selected key economic activities					
a) Agriculture, forestry and fishing	58.7	2015	43.8	28.2	●
b) Mining and quarry	1.7	2015	3.2	2.9	●
c) Manufacturing	4.2	2015	12.4	8.2	●
d) Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.4	2015	1.2	0.5	■
e) Construction	3.7	2015	5.6	0.3	▲
f) Information and communication	0.4	2015	1.2	0.6	■
g) Financial and insurance services	0.8	2015	2.1	0.9	■
h) Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.1	2015	0.5	0.2	●
Percent share of employed persons in formal sector employment					
a) Total	19.7	2015	39.4	31.6	●
b) Female	12.1	2015	24.2	23.8	●
c) Male	25.8	2015	51.6	36.4	■
d) Rural	7.9	2015	15.8	18.5	●
e) Urban	39.4	2015	78.8	39.7	▲
f) Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.4	2015	10.8	11.5	●
g) Mining and quarry	85.8	2015	90.0	80.3	▲
h) Manufacturing	36.9	2015	73.8	33.2	▲
i) Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	90.0	2015	92.0	87.5	▲
j) Construction	28.5	2015	57.0	23.0	▲
k) Information and communication	73.0	2015	85.0	76.2	■
l) Financial and insurance services	92.2	2015	95.0	53.7	▲

m) Arts, entertainment and recreation	55.2	2015	75.0	46.8	▲
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Table 4-8: SDG 9 – Industry innovation and infrastructure: build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Outcome	Baseline % / No.	Baseline year	Target 2021	Status (2019)	Outcome Performance
Passenger (Number) and Freight Volumes (Tones) by Mode of Transport					
Air - Passenger	1,600,000	2016	2,608,758	1,808,247	●
Air – Cargo	60,000	2016	87,846	22,046.4	▲
Road – Passenger	90,476,640	2017	111,380,878	81,864,720	▲
Road – Cargo	24,206,223	2017	44,515,399	42,577,910.3	●
Rail – Passenger	657,746	2016	1,150,402	1,205,303	●
Rail – Cargo	762,410	2016	2,177,519	1,315,140	■

Table 4-9: SDG 13 – Climate change: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Indicators	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Target	Indicator Status (2019)	Indicator Rating
Level of resilience to climate change impact attained for both human and biophysical systems	Low	2016	High	Medium	●
Percentage of households with early warning information	20	2015	80	83	●
Proportion of risks addressed based on national information system	60	2015	80	82	●

4.2 The triple threat to SDGs: COVID-19, low growth and debt, and climate change

The success of any national plan is contingent on the prevailing and projected socio-economic circumstances. Expected plan outcomes arise from the fulfilment of set conditions that the economy will grow at some predetermined rate and enable the implementation of projects, which together contribute toward attainment of set national goals. Unexpected circumstances, or exogenous factors sometimes impact plans and change the implementation path and the attendant results. The implementation of the 7NDP has been impacted by three major shocks: Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19); low economic performance and rising national debt; and climate change.

The first half of this year has been disrupted by emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which has affected the whole world. The pandemic was confirmed to have spread to Africa in February 2020. As of early June 2020, 7,092,919 cases had been recorded, with 406,207 deaths world-wide (Table 4-10). In the same period, Zambia recorded 1,089 cases, seven COVID-19-related deaths and 912 recoveries. The pandemic has impacted almost all aspects of life; it has been estimated that the pandemic will lead to a slowdown in the economy, cause a reduction of revenues to the treasury and pose serious budget execution challenges. The fiscal space for implementation of the 7NDP has been drastically reduced; both the public and private sector have been disrupted and resources reallocated from planned activities to COVID-19 related contingencies. With limited alternative sources, 7NDP programme implementation will be negatively affected.

From an average growth rate of 6.9 percent between 2005 and 2014, the GDP growth rate slowed to an average of 3.7 percent during the 2015-2018 period (Table 4-11). The implementation of the 7NDP coincided with these worsening macroeconomic conditions, which were exacerbated by unstable exchange rate, declining commodity prices, declines in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and

Foreign Direct Investments. The low level of economic growth and attendant low revenue generation, in the midst of declining ODA and FDI will hamper the effective implementation of 7NDP programmes.

The impacts of economic decline and rising national debt have been compounded by persistent effects of climate change (Table 4-12). The frequency and intensity of climate events is expected to rise in future, with negative socio-economic impacts. It is estimated that, without action climate change will cost the country approximately 0.4 percent of annual economic growth. The key sectors that will be most affected include agriculture, manufacturing, mining, energy, and services. Climate change impacts affect the extent to which plans could be successful and call for adoption of adaptation mechanisms that lessen the adverse impacts.

Table 4-10: The status, challenges and opportunities of COVID-19

Status	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted almost all aspects of the nation; it has been estimated that the pandemic will lead to a slowdown in the economy, with 2020 GDP growth having been revised downwards to -2.6 percent. The pandemic will cause a 19.7 reduction of the projected revenue for 2020, which poses serious budget execution challenges. 2. The pandemic comes at a time of weakened economic performance and high national debt, which have been exacerbated by the crippling effects of climate change. The combined effects of these factors will dampen Zambia's prospects of attaining the 7NDP targets and ultimately the SDGs. In order to forestall the fallout from the pandemic, the Government has implemented the following mitigating measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establishment of the COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan, Emergency Appeal, and National Guidelines. b) Implementation of a multi-sectoral contingency response and preparedness plan, which is anchored on four pillars: coordination, planning and monitoring; halting, treating and preventing COVID-19; continuation of the provision of essential goods and services; and preservation of socio-economic stability. 	
Challenges	Opportunities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediate extra pressures on the health system: surveillance, diagnostics, personal protective equipment, awareness campaigns, containment and treatment. 2. Suspension of conventional methods of conducting social and business functions; these have generated backlogs. 3. Increased mobilisation of resources to deploy security for enforcing containment measures. 4. With closure and/suspension of businesses and attendant loss of employment opportunities, there are livelihood risks and increased food insecurity, as well as more demand for social protection. 5. Road traffic has reduced significantly, air flights too have reduced and tourist inflow has virtually ceased. The impact has been severe on import-dependent businesses. 6. There has been worsening of the fiscal position, since resources have had to be mobilised and in some cases reallocations made, depriving other areas of need. 7. There are challenges of regional collaboration in dealing with the pandemic; some countries closed borders, while others kept them open and complicated pandemic control methods. 8. There is increased vulnerability of workers, especially those in informal employment, which exposed the limitations of current legal and regulatory systems for safeguarding workers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving efficiencies in conducting business, both in the public and private sectors by substituting physical with virtual meetings. b) Extending the implementation of e-governance; this will improve efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector. c) Providing incentives for upgrading ICT support infrastructure to enable expansion of the platform for transactions. d) Entrenching a culture of electronic delivery of services (e-learning, e-health care, e-governance, e-commerce, and e-banking). e) Using the experience of COVID-19 to implement strategies that generate youth-centered employment opportunities in ICT. f) Using the COVID-19 experience to improve the country's preparedness for disease outbreaks through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) diseases surveillance system ii) testing and other diagnostics iii) community awareness iv) personal protective equipment v) case management and treatment. g) Implementing parallel service delivery models, limited use of conventional physical-contact based systems and virtual platforms; this will expand coverage, while at the same time containing the associated costs.

Table 4-11: The status, challenges and opportunities of low economic growth and national debt

Status
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From an average growth rate of 6.9 percent between 2005 and 2014, the GDP growth rate slowed to 2.9 percent in 2015, 3.8 percent in 2016, 3.6 percent in 2017 and 4.0 percent in 2018; the fiscal deficit increased; and domestic revenues as a proportion of GDP has remained stagnant, at 18 percent of GDP. 2. The downward trend in economic performance has coincided with declines in ODA and FDI. 3. There has been persistent low employment levels, which is partly attributed to a concentration of growth in capital-intensive sectors. 4. In 2017, Zambia launched the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme dubbed “<i>Zambia Plus</i>”, a medium-term home-grown programme, aimed at restoring fiscal fitness and overall macroeconomic stability.
Challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Drastically reduced fiscal space, which compromises service delivery b) Simultaneous reductions in FDI and ODA c) Increasing burden of non-concessional national debt, which has stringent repayment terms d) Low compliance to legal and regulatory provisions pertaining to employment e) Adverse effects of climate change on productivity (leading to loss of jobs).

For more details, refer to Chapters 3 and 5.

Table 4-12: The status, challenges and opportunities of climate change

Status
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zambia emitted 120 million metric tons of greenhouse gases in 2011. The land-use change and forestry sector contributed 61 percent to overall emissions, followed by the energy sector (19 percent), agriculture sector (17 percent), waste sector (2 percent) and industrial processes sector (1 percent). Greenhouse gas emissions increased 3 percent from 1990-2011. 2. Zambia has been experiencing the effects of climate change, which has resulted in extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, rising temperatures, and unpredictable rainfall patterns. The frequency and intensity of climate events is expected to rise in future, with negative socio-economic impacts. 3. The key sectors that will be most affected include agriculture, manufacturing, mining, energy, and services. 4. Adverse effects have led to increased costs of treating climate-related diseases such as malaria and the loss of natural environments, damage to infrastructure and disruption of biodiversity.
Challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Inadequate capacities for conducting climate risk analyses, vulnerability assessments, and identifying and appraising adaptation options b) Weak partnerships between the Government and the private sector in climate change programmes/projects c) Inadequate data on climate change impacts e.g. on biodiversity, ecological systems, greenhouse gas emissions etc.

For more details, refer to Chapter 5.

5 PROGRESS ON GOALS AND TARGETS



SDG 1 – No Poverty:
End poverty in all its forms
everywhere



SDG 2 – Zero Hunger:
End hunger, achieve food security
and improved nutrition and
promote sustainable agriculture

5.1 Overview of SDG 1 and SDG 2

The reduction of poverty and hunger are at the core of Zambia’s national development agenda. The 7NDP has re-affirmed this commitment to reducing poverty, hunger and vulnerability by adopting an integrated multi-sectoral approach under Key Development Result Area 2: Reduced poverty and vulnerability. The country is implementing social protection programmes aimed at achieving substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable; with a special focus on reducing poverty, hunger and vulnerability among women, the youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The key interventions being implemented to end poverty and hunger are Social Cash Transfer, Public Welfare Assistance Scheme, Farmer Input Support Programme and Food Security Pack.

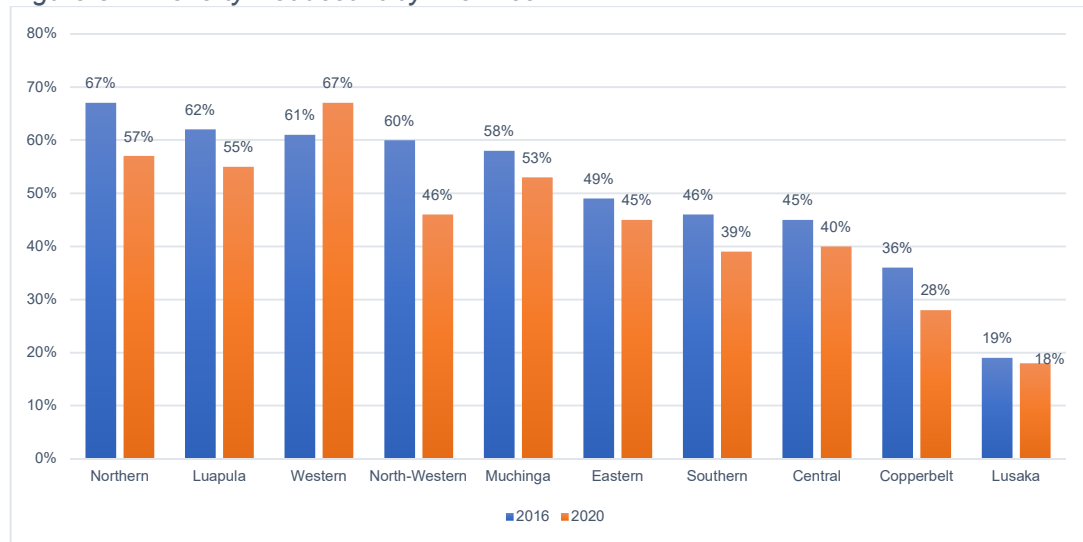
Indicator 1.1.1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)

To determine the prevalence of poverty, the review used Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) data to derive multi-dimensional poverty indicators. Similar to the money metric poverty headcount, the multi-dimensional poverty index shows the proportion of households that are below a set threshold in terms of access to a defined set of services. At the national level, the multi-dimensional poverty headcount declined from 50 percent in 2016 to 44 percent in 2020. The multi-dimensional poverty headcount was higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. Poverty headcount for rural areas declined from 69 percent in 2016 to 59 percent in 2020 while urban poverty declined from 25 percent to 18 percent, respectively.

5.1.1 Poverty headcount by province

Figure 5-1 shows poverty headcount by province between 2016 and 2020 based on the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index. Poverty headcount declined for all provinces except Western Province. In Western Province, poverty headcount rose from 61 percent of the population in 2016 to 67 percent in 2020. North Western Province had the largest decline in poverty headcount, from 60 percent in 2016 to 46 percent in 2020, representing a reduction of 24 percentage points. This means that access to education, living conditions and health services have risen in this province while living conditions have also improved.

Figure 5-1: Poverty Headcount by Province



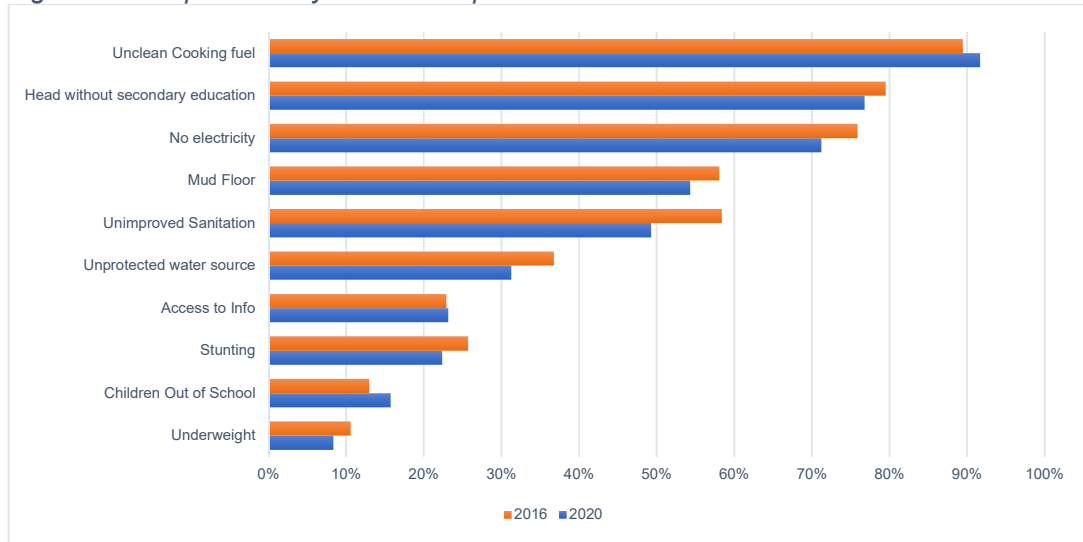
Source: ZIPAR (Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index Report, 2020)

Poverty headcount for Northern Province declined from 67 percent in 2016 to 57 percent in 2020. In Luapula Province, poverty headcount reduced from 62 percent in 2016 to 55 percent in 2020. Similarly, in Muchinga Province, poverty headcount dropped from 58 percent in 2016 to 53 percent in 2020. Poverty headcount for Eastern Province also declined - from 49 percent in 2016 to 45 percent in 2020. In Central Province poverty declined from 45 percent to 40 percent and from 46 percent to 39 percent in Southern Province. In the Copperbelt Province poverty headcount declined from 36 percent in 2016 to 28 percent in 2020. Similarly, in Lusaka Province, poverty declined from 19 percent in 2016 to 18 percent in 2020, making Lusaka the province with the least decline in headcount poverty.

5.1.2 Household level deprivation per indicator

Figure 5-2 shows the levels of deprivation for each indicator. In terms of access to electricity, 76 percent of households were deprived in 2016 compared to 71 percent in 2020. However, in terms of access to education, levels of deprivation worsened between 2016 and 2020. As shown in Figure 5-2, the proportion of households with children in the secondary school age bracket who were not in school increased from 13 percent in 2016 to 16 percent in 2020. This resulted in a worsening of the poverty indicator from 2016 to 2018.

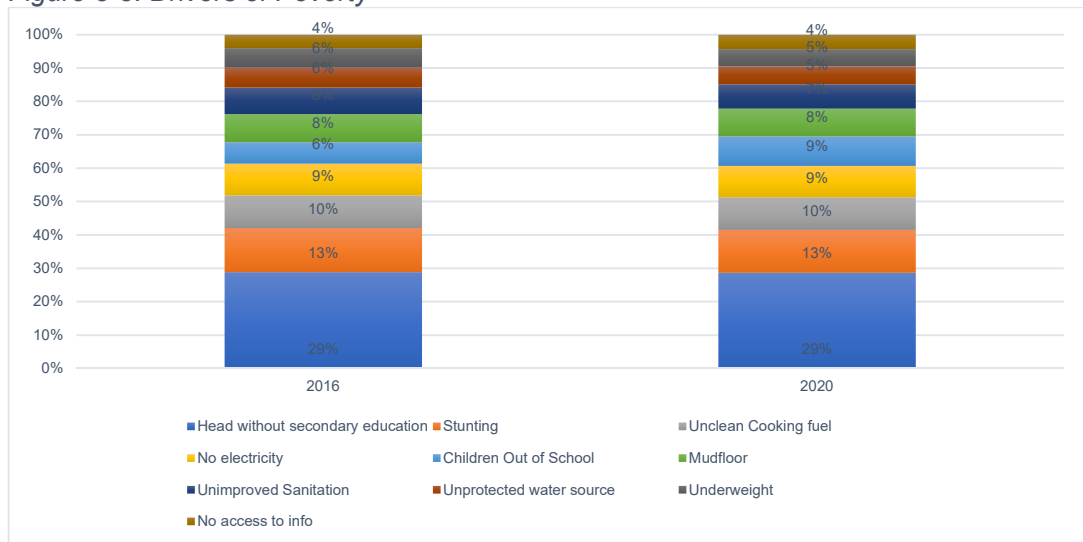
Figure 5-2: Deprivation by Household per Indicator



Source: ZIPAR (Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index Report, 2020)

Figure 5-3 presents the relative contribution of each indicator to deprivation in each year. The major driver of deprivation at the household level is the lack of secondary education by the household head which accounts for 29 percent of the deprivations in both years. This is followed by stunting which accounted for 13 percent in both years. The other drivers of poverty were unclean cooking fuel which stood at 10 percent, followed by lack of access to electricity which stood at 9 percent. Unimproved sanitation accounted for 11 percent of deprivations in 2016 and 10 percent in 2018. Stunting accounted for 11 percent deprivations in 2016 compared to 10 percent in 2018. Unprotected water source accounted for 8 percent of deprivations in 2016 compared to 7 percent in 2018. Underweight accounted for 5 percent of deprivations compared to 4 percent in 2018.

Figure 5-3: Drivers of Poverty



Source: ZIPAR (Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index Report, 2020)

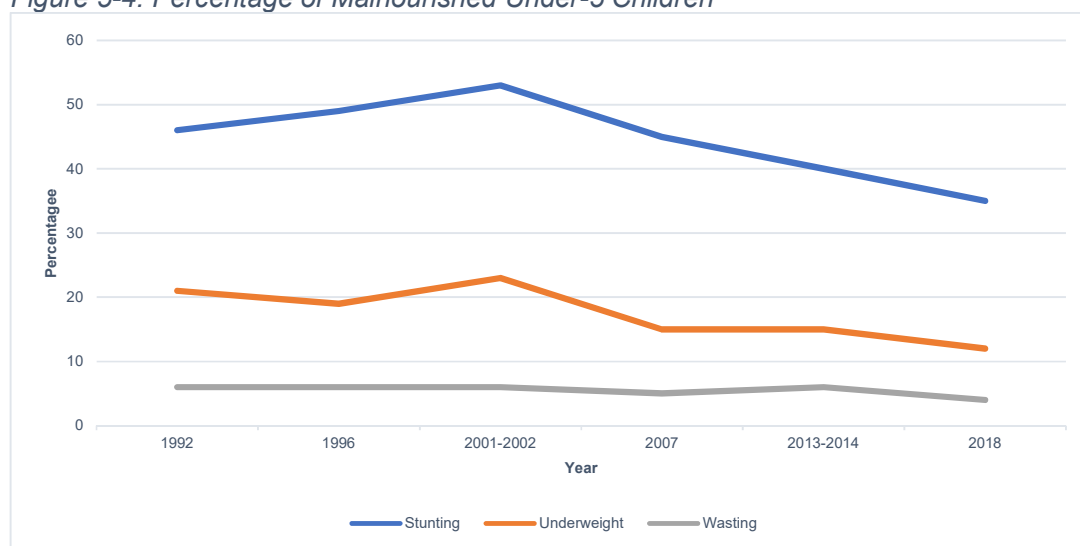
Indicator 2.2.1: Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

The level of stunting among children aged less than 5 years generally improved over time. Slightly over half (53 percent) of the children aged less than 5 years were estimated to be stunted in 2001-2002. The level of stunting steadily decreased and was estimated to be 45 percent in 2007, 40 percent in 2013-2014 and 35 percent in 2018. The prevalence of stunting was higher among children in rural areas (36 percent) than among children in urban areas (32 percent). A regional comparison showed that in 2018, stunting levels were highest in Northern (46 percent) and Luapula (45 percent) and lowest in Western and Southern (29 percent each) Provinces. The prevalence of stunting increases from 19 percent among children age 0-6 months to a peak of 46 percent among children age 18-23 months. This highlights the importance of optimal nutrition in the first 1,000 days of life.

Indicator 2.2.2: Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

The level of underweight also showed a steady decline over the 2001 and 2018 period. In 2001, almost a quarter (23 percent) of the children less 5 years were underweight (Figure 5-4). The proportion declined to 15 percent in 2007 and 2013-2014, and 12 percent in 2018. The prevalence of underweight was higher among children in rural areas (12.4 percent) than among children in urban areas (10.8 percent). A regional comparison showed that in 2018, stunting levels were highest in Northern (15.3 percent) and Luapula (15.2 percent) and lowest in Southern (9.7 percent) and Eastern (9.2 percent) Provinces.

Figure 5-4: Percentage of Malnourished Under-5 Children



Source: CSO (Zambia Demographic and Health Survey Report, 2018)

5.1.3 Social Cash Transfer

The Social Cash Transfer (SCT) Programme is intended to contribute towards reducing extreme poverty and hunger by providing non-conditional transfers to extremely poor households. The programme targets households with persons with severe disabilities; the elderly, aged at least 65; child-headed households (0-18 years and not married); chronically ill persons who are on palliative care; and female-headed households with 3 or more children.

It has been estimated that at the end of the year 2019, the total number of beneficiary households was 632,327. This translated into 3,255,500 poor and vulnerable individuals, which is about 19.5 percent of the national population based on the 2019 CSO population projection of 16.9 million. The programme covered 47.7 percent of the 40.8 percent extremely poor in the country. Out of the total caseload of 632,327, two thirds (74 percent) were females, with males constituting 26 percent. Allocations to persons with disabilities accounted for 11 percent.

Table 5-1: 2019 SCT Beneficiary Caseload Disaggregated by Sex and Disability

Province	Total	Male	Female	Disabled	Non-disabled
Central	41,846	13,435	28,411	5,226	36,620
Copperbelt	56,095	18,754	37,341	9,376	46,719
Eastern	88,516	20,593	67,923	7,081	81,435
Luapula	104,932	22,304	82,628	9,590	95,342
Lusaka	31,768	8,507	23,261	6,606	25,162
Muchinga	39,789	12,398	27,391	3,517	36,272
Northern	68,974	20,987	47,987	4,662	64,312
North Western	53,634	13,216	40,418	4,843	48,791
Southern	63,972	15,591	48,381	8,095	55,877
Western	82,801	20,738	62,063	11,034	71,767
Total	632,327	166,523	465,804	70,030	562,297

Source: Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (2019)

Assessments of the Social Cash Transfer have shown that programme objectives are being met although faced with some operational challenges. The major constraint facing the programmes is sustainability given the fiscal challenges that the country is going through. This is illustrated by the fact that households have payment arrears in some cases exceeding 24 months. An evaluation undertaken in 2016 showed that the Social Cash Transfer Programme:

1. Increases food security; the number of households eating more than one meal per day increased by 19 percentage points and that of households not severely food insecure increased by 18 percentage points;
2. Reduces poverty; the poverty gap among SCT recipient households reduced by 10 percentage points, while the extreme poverty rate reduced by 5.4 percentage points;
3. Improves living conditions; there was a 15 percentage points increase in the number of SCT recipient households owning a latrine. There was also an increase of 9 percentage points in the number of recipient households owning mosquito nets, a 26 percentage points increase in the number of households with purchased lighting and 3 percentage points increase in the number of households with cement floors;
4. Increases productivity and asset ownership; SCT beneficiaries were able to cultivate more land than their non-SCT counterparts. There was an 18 percent increase in the size of land cultivated among SCT beneficiaries as they were able to hire labour; and
5. Improves child wellbeing; SCTs reduced the prevalence of diarrhoea in the recipient households by 5 percentage points. The number of children who had all three material needs met (shoes, clothing, and a blanket) increased by 33 percentage points and children attending primary school also increased by 10 percentage points.

The results outlined above show that the SCT programme is making a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable members of society. The challenge, though, is how the programme can be sustained in the light of narrowing domestic fiscal space, reduced support from cooperating partners, adverse weather conditions and problems of effective targeting.

5.1.4 Farmer Input Support Programme

The Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP¹) is a Government agricultural subsidy that provides agricultural inputs to viable small-scale farmers. The programme also aims at improving household income and food security and facilitating private sector participation. The FISP model started during the 2002/2003 agricultural season following a severe drought. It was meant to be a safety net to mitigate against crop losses suffered by farmers and also to ensure food security. From its inception, the programme has undergone operational changes:

1. Farming inputs-based direct support for farmers (2002/2003): 10kg maize seed, 50kg urea and 50kg compound D fertilizers were directly given to an initial group of 120,000 small-scale farmers. By 2018, the number of beneficiaries had risen to 1 million.;
2. Introduction of diversified agriculture support (2014/2015 season): in line with government policy of crop diversification, additional crops were included in the FISP basket - sorghum, soya beans, groundnuts, sugar beans, sunflower, and cotton;
3. Improving efficiencies in distribution of inputs by adoption of an automated E-voucher system for accessing inputs (2016/2017); increasing the participation of the private sector such as banks, and micro and small scale agro-dealers. Farmers could redeem agricultural inputs for crop, livestock, and fisheries products. The E-voucher system did not run as expected; some areas hardly had any agro dealers and others did not have reliable internet connectivity; and
4. Given the problems with the E-voucher system the FISP modified in the 2018/2019 season, allowing the system to cater for 60 percent and Direct Input Supply for 40 percent. Further, to mitigate the effects of climate change among small scale farmers, the FISP incorporated a weather insurance package.

Evaluation of the FISP points to its importance as a tool for achieving household and national food security. The predominance of small-scale farmers in the production of the nation's staple, maize, further renders credence to this reality. The programme has contributed to the Government policy of agricultural diversification, improved farmers' resilience to climate change through the insurance component and contributed private sector growth. However, the expected creation of a revolving fund from the initial set of farmers and their limited graduation from the programme have been problematic and have imposed a constraint on the national treasury; this has also limited resources to other programmes, such as research and development, and extension services. Further, there are concerns about agro-input markets being restricted to selected dealers, thus weakening the objective of private sector growth.

5.1.5 Food Security Pack

The Food Security Pack is aimed at promoting food security by supporting livelihoods of poor and vulnerable, but viable farmers. During the 2018/2019 farming season, the programme supported a total of 54,663 poor and vulnerable, but viable farmers. The support comprised nutrition-sensitive messages and inputs including 10kg maize seed, 2.5kg of legumes, 50kg of compound D and 50kg of urea fertilizers. The programme targeted 62 percent females and 38 percent males. Of the total number targeted, 84 percent were households keeping orphans, child-headed and terminally ill-headed households. The coverage of households headed by persons living with disabilities was very low (7 percent) and so were those headed by unemployed youth (9 percent).

¹ FISP started in the 2002/2003 agricultural season following the severe drought that hit the country during the 2001/2002 agricultural season. The Programme which started as the Fertilizer Support Programme supported 120,000 small-scale farmers with maize seed, urea and compound D fertilizers. Since its inception, FISP has undergone a number of reforms resulting into increased types of inputs, number of beneficiaries and beneficiary targeting. Currently, the Programme provides seed for the production of rice, sorghum, soya beans, groundnuts, common beans, sunflower, cotton, and maize (both orange and white).

5.1.6 Public Welfare Assistance Programme

The Public Welfare Assistance Scheme targets orphans and vulnerable children; households affected by HIV and AIDS; older persons; persons living with disabilities; the chronically ill; and female-headed vulnerable households that are in need of assistance. The programme assists the most vulnerable by helping them meet their basic human needs - health, education, food, and shelter. With support from cooperating partners, the Government supported 14,395 (7,533 males and 6,758 females) vulnerable children with secondary education bursaries between 2017-2019.

The programme also provides both community and institution-based care for vulnerable older persons aged 60 years and above. The practice of institution-based care is, however, not widespread, with only 67 older persons being in institutions at the end of 2019. There is a wide preference for community-based care for the elderly, a practice, which is reinforced by the traditional practice of family-based care for the elderly.

5.1.7 Persons with disabilities

The country is signatory to conventions for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Zambia domesticated the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012, through the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012, and the 2016 National Policy on Disability. Among the strategies of the National Disability Policy is the Social Cash Transfer, which benefits persons with disabilities, who are not involved in meaningful income generating activities. Further, the Ministry of General Education has introduced a quota system, whereby 10 percent of teacher recruitment is reserved for Persons with Disabilities.

From 2017 to date, the Government in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation has been developing a Disability Management Information System which is currently operational in all the ten provinces; the system will facilitate improved planning and monitoring of services for persons with disabilities. To lessen challenges facing persons with disabilities, the Government has provided tax exemptions on equipment/aids such as white canes, braille materials, hearing aids and imported vehicles.

Table 5-2: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Availability and limitations of data planning, monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the collection of data, including administrative and population-based surveys b) Forge partnerships with stakeholders, such as local authority structures, including traditional leaders so ensure that both interval and routine administrative data are collected c) Build capacities for effective utilisation of data at sector, provincial and local authority levels d) Improve the granularity of data by sex, disability, region, age, to as low an administrative level as possible
2. Difficulties in coordinating the planning and implementation of programmes among the Government, CSOs and cooperating partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strengthen joint planning and review processes through routine and structured joint annual meetings, such as the CAG b) Improve the uptake of M&E results into policy and programming
3. Inadequacies of budgetary allocation and utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Given the current fiscal constraints, ring-fence social service budgets b) Improve efficiencies in the allocation and utilisation of available resources
4. Low levels of graduation among beneficiary communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhance mechanisms for ensuring that farmers graduate from dependence on FISP, enable the revolving fund to expand and allow for extension to other needy farmers b) Promote the graduation of poor and vulnerable farmers to become independent and viable farmers

Challenges	Required Actions
5. Difficulties of effective targeting in an environment of almost universal deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve targeting so that the limited social protection resources go to those who need it most and desired outcomes are attained b) Observe strict adherence to set criteria for beneficiary communities, to improve the viability of the programme
6. Difficulties of managing FISP using a dual disbursement system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Address the difficulties experienced in implementing the E-voucher, such as low agro dealer densities and unreliable technology background in some areas b) Having the two systems running side by side for too long may introduce extra challenges; the trial period should be shortened to the extent possible
7. Pervasive rural poverty and high intensity of poverty among the vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure continuous appraisal of rural development strategies, for relevance and appropriateness b) Institute appropriate coping mechanisms for rural communities impacted by climate change



**SDG 3 – Good health and well-being:
Ensure healthy lives and promote
well-being for all at all ages**

5.2 Overview of SDG 3

Zambia recognises that good health is an important determinant of socio-economic development, being a key contributor to human development, as reflected in the 2017-2021 Zambia National Health Strategic Plan and the 7NDP. The interventions undertaken in the health sector are expected to contribute towards economic growth. Some of the interventions contributing towards SDG 3 are: Strengthening public health programmes; Expanding capacity to increase access to quality health care; Enhancing food security and nutrition; Promoting private sector participation in health care delivery; and Accelerating human resource outputs, recruitment and retention.

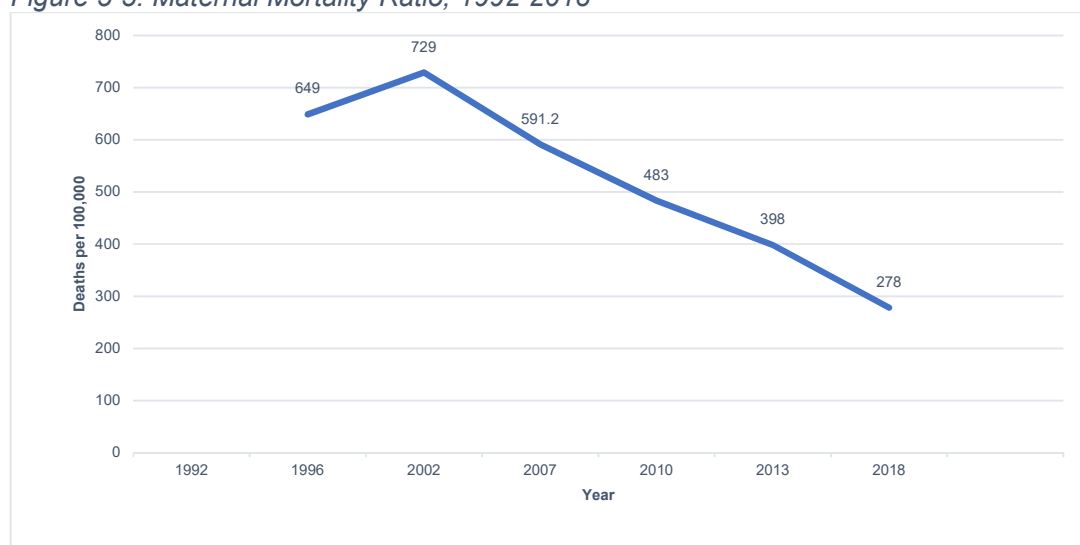
Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio

Since 2007, maternal mortality has continued to decline from 591 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 398 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013/2014 and 278 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018. According to the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), there has been an increase in the proportion of women whose delivery was attended to by a skilled worker from 64 percent in 2015 to 80 percent in 2018. In addition, 83 percent of deliveries were in a health facility in 2018 compared to 67 percent in 2015.

The uptake of antenatal services also saw a surge, with the majority of women (97 percent) aged 15-49 who had a live birth in the 5 years preceding the survey receiving antenatal care from a skilled provider during their most recent birth. Sixty-four percent had at least four antenatal care visits. In terms of post-natal services, 70 percent of mothers and 72 percent of new-borns had a post-natal check during the first two days after delivery.

The Zambian Government in collaboration with cooperating partners has been implementing high impact interventions to improve maternal and child health. Some of the interventions include Safe Motherhood Action Groups, community-based health, procurement of Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care equipment, training and mentorship of health workers, maternal health reviews for action, access to safe blood transfusion, training and placement of skilled health workers in health facilities.

Figure 5-5: Maternal Mortality Ratio, 1992-2018



Source: CSO (Zambia Demographic and Health Survey Report, 2018)

Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

As indicated above and in support of the general downward trend in mortality is the observed increase in the percentage of births attended by skilled providers. In 2013-2014, slightly over two-thirds of births were attended to by skilled providers; this increased to 80.4 percent in 2018. By province, the percentage of births delivered by a skilled provider ranged from 70 percent in Northern to 91 percent for the Copperbelt and Lusaka Provinces. The provinces with the lowest proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel were Northern Province (70 percent), Western Province (71.1 percent) and Central Province (71.3 percent).

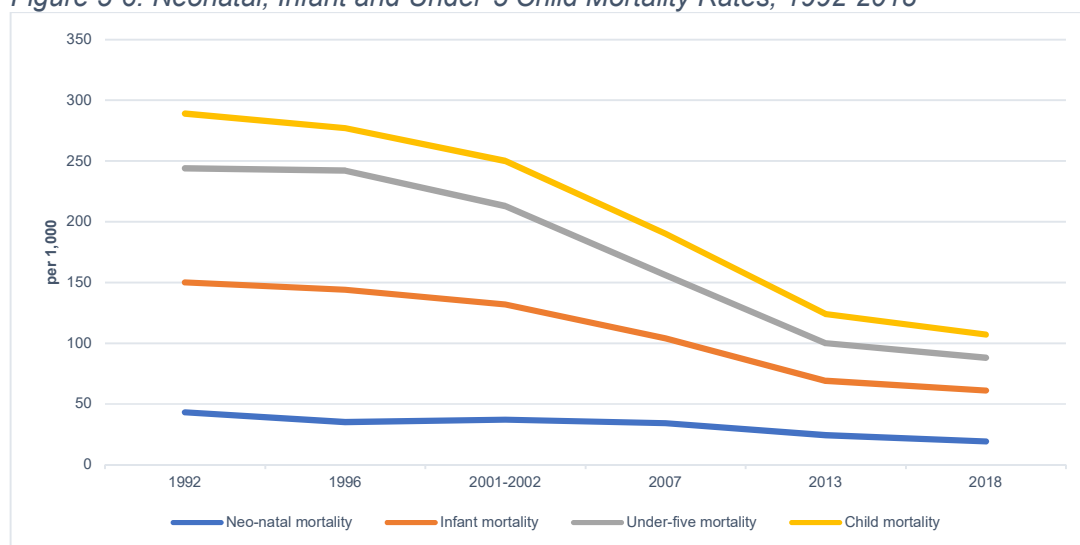
Indicator 3.2.1: Under-five mortality rate

Overall, child health outcomes have improved over time. The 2018 ZDHS results show that the under-5 mortality rate declined from 75 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013-2014, to 61 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. Urban areas had a lower rate (64 deaths per 1,000 live births), compared to rural areas (58 deaths per 1,000 live births). By province, under-5 mortality is highest in Luapula Province (110 deaths per 1,000 live births) and lowest in North Western Province (26 deaths per 1,000 live births).

Indicator 3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate

Unlike child and maternal mortality, which declined between 2013/14 ZDHS and the 2018 ZDHS, neonatal mortality increased from 24 deaths to 27 deaths per 1,000 live births. Neonatal deaths were 44 percent of all under-five deaths in the 2018 ZDHS, up from 32 percent in the 2013/2014 ZDHS. According to the 2018 Health Information Management System data, the main causes of neonatal deaths are birth asphyxia (43%), prematurity (29%), and neonatal sepsis (11%). Factors contributing to these causes can be traced along the reproductive health spectrum: prior to and during pregnancy (teenage pregnancy, maternal health, antenatal services, nutritional status); during delivery (quality of care, provider skills, referral systems); and after delivery (postnatal care for mother and baby, nutritional status).

Figure 5-6: Neonatal, Infant and Under-5 Child Mortality Rates, 1992-2018



Source: CSO (Zambia Demographic and Health Survey Report, 2018)

Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

According to the Zambia Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (2016) Zambia had an estimated HIV prevalence of 12.3 percent among adults (15–49 years) and 1.3 percent among children (0–14 years). The prevalence was higher in the urban areas at 18.2 percent compared with rural areas at 9.1 percent (ZDHS, 2013/14). HIV incidence was estimated at 0.7 percent among adults. HIV prevalence was lowest among those aged 15-19 and peaked among those aged 40-44 for both males and females. Adolescents comprised 23 percent of the total Zambian population, with 4.8 percent of females and 4.1 percent of males living with HIV. Based on recent estimates and projections from Spectrum (2015), Zambia had 1.2 million people living with HIV in 2015, and this number is expected to increase to 1.3 million people in 2020.

According to the Spectrum projections, the estimated number of children living with HIV dropped from 92,000 in 2000 to 89,000 in 2015. New HIV infections among children dropped from 23,000 in 2000 to 8,900 in 2015. The estimated number of children living with HIV and receiving antiretroviral therapy increased by 59 percent from 5,400 in 2005 to 51,903 at the end of 2015. The estimated number of deaths among children attributed to AIDS dropped from 12,000 in 2000 to 4,300.

There has been a long-term trend towards reduction in HIV and AIDS mortality (37 percent since 2010). However, HIV incidence still remains significantly high, with approximately 47,000 new infections every year and 1.2 million people living with HIV in 2016. At ages 15-59 years, HIV incidence was 0.67 percent, with much higher rates among women than men (1.02 percent and 0.32 percent, respectively). Under the age of 25 years, females had ten times (1.07) more new infections than their male counterparts (0.08 percent).

Indicator 3.3.2: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

The Government has continued to scale up interventions aimed at reducing the number of deaths associated with TB. As a result, the TB treatment success rate (new and relapse) increased from 88 percent in 2017 to 90 percent in 2018, while the TB incidence rate reduced from 391/100,000 population in 2016 to 346/100,000 population in 2018. The interventions implemented have included expanding TB diagnostic capacity, conducting intensified TB case finding campaigns, scaling up TB preventive therapy, enhanced infection prevention and control, maintaining a steady supply chain for TB

commodities, rolling out diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant TB and engaging all care providers through public and private partnerships. Further, the recruitment of Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB nurses in ensuring adherence to TB treatment has enhanced the interventions.

Indicator 3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

The incidence of malaria declined between the periods 2016 to 2018 from 336 per 1,000 in 2016 to 312 per 1,000 population in 2018. The declining incidence rate can be explained by scaled up interventions such as indoor residual spraying, use of long-lasting insecticide treated nets and intermittent presumptive treatment. Indicators on malaria reflect the impact of these interventions: the percentage of households that were sprayed with indoor residual spraying increased from 28 percent in 2013-2014 to 35 percent in 2018. Ownership of insecticide treated nets increased from 68 percent in 2013-2014 to 78 percent in 2018. According to the 2018 ZDHS, there was a higher (61 percent) level of insecticide treated nets ownership in rural areas compared to urban areas (59 percent).

With regard to the diagnosis and treatment of malaria, testing capacities increased through the availability of testing kits and reagents to support confirmation of malaria. In addition, the availability of antimalarial drugs such as Artemisin-based combination therapy and Sulphadoxine Pyrethamine was sustained. Furthermore, the recruitment and placement of Malaria Elimination Officers in high malaria incidence districts supported the interventions.

Indicator 3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

Knowledge of contraception is nearly universal in Zambia. Accordingly, use of modern methods of family planning by married women increased from 15 percent in 1992 to 49 percent in 2018, whereas among sexually active unmarried women, it is 43.9 percent; the corresponding percentage among married women is 49.6 percent. Regional inequities in contraceptive use have persisted. A regional comparison of contraceptive use unveiled a persistent rural-urban inequity, with women in rural areas reporting a lower contraceptive prevalence rate than those in urban settings.

The percentages of women with unmet need for family planning was highest in Western (27 percent) and Luapula (26 percent) and lowest in Muchinga (15 percent) Provinces. Unmet need for family planning among married women decreases with increasing education, from 24 percent among those with no education to 15 percent among those with a higher education. Similarly, unmet need decreases with increasing household wealth, from 23 percent among women in the lowest wealth quintile to 17 percent among those in the highest wealth quintile. Demand satisfied by modern methods is lowest in Western (52 percent) and Northern (58 percent) and highest in Lusaka (75 percent) and Central (73 percent) Provinces.

Indicator 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

Adolescents account for over a quarter of the total population and have unique health concerns. They are susceptible to both non-communicable and communicable diseases and health risks such as sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, early and unprotected sex, gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse, accidents and mental illness. Several interventions have been implemented to protect adolescents and improve their health status. Among the major areas of concentration are efforts to reduce early marriages and teenage pregnancy. During the 2013/2014 and 2018 period, the country registered a decline in adolescent birth rate from 141 to 135 per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15-19. Further, teenage childbearing declined from 34 percent in 1992 to 29 percent in 2018.

The HIV prevalence rate among adolescents aged between 15-19 years did not change much; it was estimated at 4.4 percent in 2014 and 3.8 percent in 2018. The adolescence prevalence rate remained

twice (2.6 percent) as high among girls as among boys (1.2 percent). The Government through the Ministry of Health is committed to ensuring that adolescents have access to health information and youth-friendly services. To this end, the Government is implementing the Adolescent Health Strategy.

Indicator 3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)

During the 2013-2016 period, an annual average of 42 percent (US\$30 per capita) of the total health expenditure was from donors, with the Government accounting for 41 percent (US\$28 per capita). The dominance of donor funding raises sustainability questions. Government health expenditure as a percentage of total Government expenditure is yet to reach the WHO recommended threshold of 15 percent. It was estimated at 8.3 percent in 2016, 9 percent in 2017 and 10 percent in 2018. Household expenditure was estimated at 30, 26, and 24 percent for 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively.

In the light of the sustainability issues as a result of dwindling cooperating partners' support to the sector and high level of household expenditure, the Government introduced the Social Health Insurance Scheme (SHI) in 2019, which pools risks and ensures access to health care for the population. Having just been introduced, the SHI currently has a coverage of only 4 percent of the population. The extent to which this will be successful, is dependent on the contributory capacities and operational efficiencies of the delegated managing agency.

Table 5-3: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required actions
1. High rate of death among mothers delivering from health facilities	a) Address the quality of care for deliveries in health facilities b) Improve the capacities of health workers at lower level health facilities to provide the required care for delivery
2. Inadequate adolescent health services	a) Improve platforms for the delivery of adolescent health services, for instance by enhanced use of electronic platforms, which are popular with the youth b) Capacity building of teachers to effectively deal with adolescent health matters c) Enhance both in-school and out-of-school youth focused sexual education, with adequate referral services
3. Inadequate allocation and utilisation inefficiencies of public expenditure on health	a) Expand the coverage of the SHI in order to ensure its sustainability b) Improve allocation and utilisation efficiencies in order to do more with the limited resources in the public health sector
4. Disparities between access and quality health services	a) Improve access to health facilities with enhanced quality of services, medical supplies, health staff, disseminating and training in standard protocols b) Improve the ratio of skilled providers per 1,000 of population c) Improve the requisite infrastructure - equipment, transport, communication facilities, commodities and supply chain management d) Enhance local capacities for informed decision-making
5. Low levels of civil registration and inadequate vital statistics	a) Improve allocation of resources for expediting implementation of civil registration and vital statistics b) Improve coordination challenges between the participating institutions, the MoH and the Ministry of Home Affairs c) Explore the possibility of using community workers in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS); this could be done by improving the incentives structures
6. Increased burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	a) Improve diagnostics capacity for NCDs b) Raise awareness of NCDs among citizens

Challenges	Required actions
7. Persistent inequality in service delivery, especially for rural communities and disadvantaged groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Promote health-living habits for the citizens a) Improve infrastructure standards in the rural areas b) Enhance effectiveness of community health services c) Improve incentives for rural-based health providers



**SDG 4 – Quality education:
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality
education and promote lifelong
learning opportunities for all**

5.3 Overview of SDG 4

Education is important for raising human capital and overall national capacities. Zambia’s education system envisages inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. The country has made strides in the education sector, marked by the attainment of universal access to primary education and on-going strategies to achieve improved access and equity at higher levels of the education system. Some of the interventions for achieving quality education include: Enhancing access to quality, equitable and inclusive education; Enhancing access to skills training; Enhancing private sector participation; Continuous review of the curriculum; and Enhancing the role of science, technology and innovation.

Indicator 4.2.2: Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

Early childhood education (ECE) contributes to the improvement of children's learning achievement by focusing on cognitive, language, social and emotional development. In 2011, the Government enacted the Education Act No. 23, which formalised the introduction of ECE in the public sector. Prior to this, most ECE centres were owned/managed by the private sector, communities through local authorities, faith-based organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Starting with total enrolments of 60,720 in 2013, ECE increased to 222,065 in 2018. While the rising number of pupils admitted to ECE classes is commendable, there are learning environment challenges that have been recounted; in addition, there are very few training teachers and high classroom densities, which compromise the quality of learning.

Table 5-4: Participation Rates in Early Childhood Education

Indicator	Baseline	Year of Baseline	Indicator Status (2019)
Participation rates in early childhood education (percent)	24.0	2016	29.4
a) Male	31.0	2016	48.9
b) Female	29.8	2016	51.1

Indicator 4.3.1: Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

The Government has prioritised access to quality higher education for all through among others, continued infrastructure expansion for public universities and technical education, vocational and entrepreneurial training (TEVET) institutions. For example, three new universities are being constructed in the rural parts of the country, while some colleges have been upgraded into universities. Through these infrastructure expansions, the Government targets to create 9,600 and 7,000 bed spaces at university and TEVET level, respectfully. In addition, the Government has been increasing the skills of youths and adults through the provision of formal and informal training programmes. In addition, the

Government has been increasing the skills of youths and adults through the provision of formal and informal training programmes.

The Government has also introduced the two-tier system in six TEVET institutions where vocational skills are being imparted, such as Carpentry and Joinery; Metal Fabrication; Woodwork; Bricklaying and Plastering; Food Production; Design, Cutting and Tailoring; Computer Studies; Electrical; and General Agriculture, in addition to the regular academic courses.

Further, the Government has strengthened its bursary scheme to capture more rural students. Currently, sixty percent of the bursaries are now being awarded to students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, while 30 percent is targeted at rural areas. Thirty-percent are allocated to female students, 30 percent to the vulnerable and 10 percent shared amongst them all. At TEVET level a total of 5,200 students (male: 3,776 and female: 1,424) students were awarded bursaries in support of programmes in skills training in all the 26 TEVET institutions in 2019.

Further, the Government has allocated 17,260 (male: 10,569 and female: 6,691) higher education loans and scholarships to rural vulnerable students at local public universities while 1,198 students have been supported with scholarships to study abroad.

Indicator 4.5.1: Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

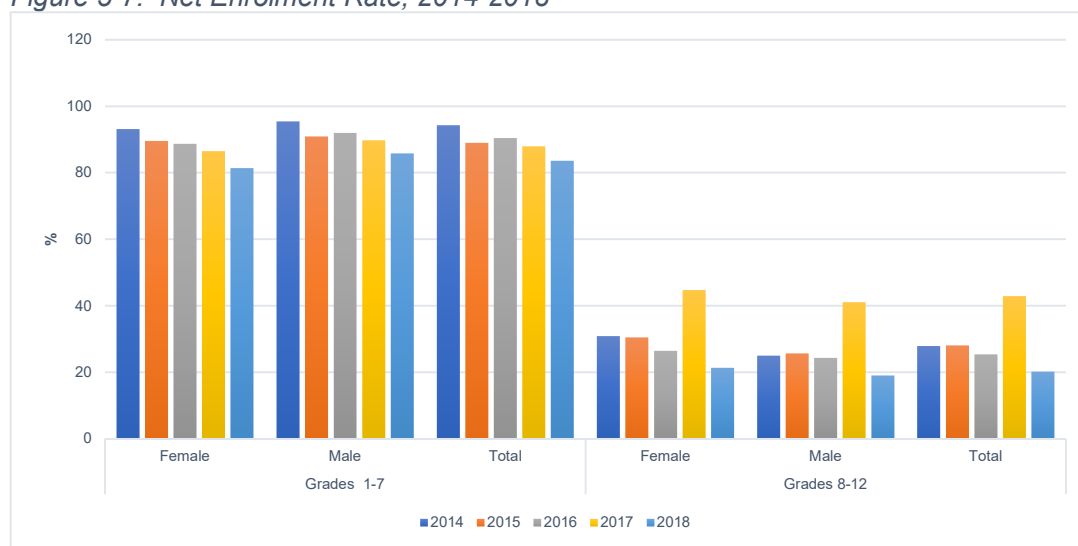
5.3.1 Enrolment and completion rates

In 2018, the gross enrolment rate was 102.4 percent in primary schools compared to 45.8 percent in secondary schools. In terms of net enrolment, 83.6 percent was recorded at primary level against 20.2 percent at secondary level. Some of the factors contributing to lower enrolment at secondary level were limited space, financial difficulties, and negative traditional practices, such as early marriages for girls and preference for male attendance at school.

The gross enrolment rate for primary school ranged from 74.1 percent in Lusaka Province to 131.1 percent in Central Province whereas the secondary gross enrolment rate ranged from 32.4 percent in Eastern Province to 81.1 percent in North-Western Province. Almost all (97.3 percent) pupils who entered primary school were able to complete. However, the completion rate steadily declines at higher education levels; 77 percent at Grade 9, and 36 percent at Grade 12. The low completion rate at Grade 9 contributes to unsatisfactory performance at Grade 12.

With respect to the Gender Parity Index, there is near parity at primary school where for every 100 boys enrolled, there are 99 girls while at secondary school level, the Gender Parity Index drops to 84 girls for every 100 boys. These disparities are replicated across the urban-rural regional divide.

Figure 5-7: Net Enrolment Rate, 2014-2018



Source: MoGE (Educational Statistical Bulletin (ESB), 2019)

5.3.2 Drop Out Rate

In 2018, the national average dropout rate from Grade 1 to 7 was 1.7 percent compared to 1.2 percent from Grade 8 to 12. At primary school level, there were more girls (1.9 percent) dropping out from school compared to boys (1.4 percent). Similarly, more girls (1.7 percent) than boys (0.7 percent) dropped out at secondary school level. The reasons accounting for the high dropout rate among girls include early marriages, preference for male children schooling over that of girls, financial difficulties, and long distance to school facilities (Table 5-5).

Table 5-5: Dropout Rate by Sex, 2013 to 2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grade 1-7					
Male	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Female	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%
Total	1.8%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Grade 8-12					
Male	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%
Female	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%
Total	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%

Source: MoGE (Ministry of General Education, 2017)

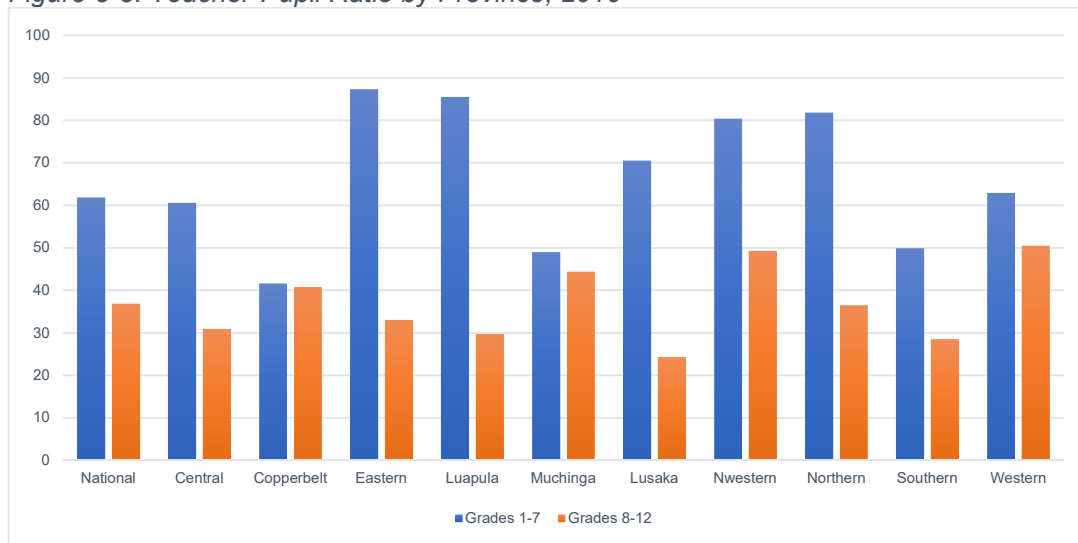
In order to reduce the dropout rate, the Government, working cooperating partners is implementing various interventions, such as the World Bank-sponsored Keeping Girls in School Project and the School Feeding Programme. The Keeping Girls in School Project pays for school fees for secondary school girls from Social Cash Transfer households.

At the end of 2019, the Keeping Girls in School Project was supporting over 16,500 girls out of the targeted 14,000 girls of which 3,800 girls successfully completed Grade 12. In recognition of the widespread poverty, where most households are not able to meet basic needs, a School Feeding Programme was introduced; pupils are provided with meals such as cereal, pulses (beans/cowpeas) and cooking oil. By the end of 2019, the programme was being executed in 39 districts, covering all 10 provinces and at least 1,100,000 learners were benefitting from early childhood to primary school levels.

5.3.3 Teacher-Pupil Ratio

In 2019, the overall national teacher-pupil ratio was estimated at 45:1, while for primary schools it was estimated at 35:1. These ratios were higher than the recommended standards; this reflects gains from the continuous recruitment of teachers that is carried out every year. There is need to sustain this positive scenario by protecting funding for continued teacher recruitment, in the light of threats to social spending that may arise from the current fiscal constraints. The provincial comparisons review that Copperbelt had the lowest ratio, followed by Muchinga and Southern provinces; Eastern and Luapula had the highest ratios at primary school level. For Secondary School level, Lusaka had the lowest ratio, while North-western and Western Provinces had the highest ratios.

Figure 5-8: Teacher-Pupil Ratio by Province, 2019



Source: MoGE (Educational Statistical Bulletin (ESB), 2019)

5.3.4 Proportion of schools with access to electricity

The number of schools that do not have electricity remains high; 4,854 and 191 are primary and secondary schools, respectively. To alleviate the challenge of electricity for schools, the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) has continued its programme, which benefits rural-based schools. In 2018, only 3,025 (from 2,921 in 2017) schools sourced power from the main grid while the proportion of those which sourced power from generators were 331 (a reduction from 372 in 2017), from solar 954 (slight reduction from 1,025 in 2017), from stand-alone hydro power 46 (slight reduction from 52 in 2017). A total of 5,045 schools had no electricity at all (slight reduction from 5,580 in 2017).

5.3.5 Proportion of schools with access to computers

Following the introduction in 2014 of information and communication technology (ICT) as a subject in all public schools, the number of public schools with computers for pedagogical purposes has increased. In 2019, 15,082 and 20,571 computers were allocated to secondary and primary schools, respectively. The distribution of computers by province shows the usual disparities with urban schools, such as those from Lusaka and Copperbelt Provinces having more computer facilities than the off-rail areas.

5.3.6 Proportion of schools with access to water and sanitation facilities

The Government has implemented measures for improving access to clean and safe water and sanitation in schools. In 2018, 5,000 schools accessed their water from boreholes, a rise from 4,609 in 2017. Similarly, the number of schools with piped water in 2017 was estimated at 1,461 schools compared to 1,510 schools in 2018. The data on types of sanitary facilities also shows that schools had a total of

129,055 sanitary facilities (ventilated improved pit latrines and flushing toilets), of which 51,425 were functional ventilated improved pit latrines, and 39,410 were functional flush toilets.

To improve hygiene standards in public schools, hygiene lessons were introduced. Western Province had the highest proportion of schools where hygiene education was taught, followed by Luapula, Eastern and North-Western Provinces in that order. One outcome of hygiene lessons is the practice of handwashing, which was recorded to be most practiced by schools from the Copperbelt, Eastern and Western Provinces. These provinces were beneficiaries of interventions for improving sanitation conditions in schools, such as the campaign against open defecation. Further interventions have included the placement of waste disposal facilities in schools. The data shows that Copperbelt Province had the highest (81 percent) proportion of schools providing waste disposal facilities, followed by Muchinga Province (65.2 percent), with Northern Province having the lowest proportion (62.4 percent).

Table 5-6: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Difficulties of sustaining the school feeding programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Currently the school feeding programmes partly relies on imported inputs. It is important that where possible local substitutes are exploited. b) The current model of the programme raises sustainability questions; community-based interventions could improve the long-term prospects of the programme
2. Low efficiency of education service delivery	Improve allocation and utilisation of resources
3. Low progression of girls after primary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhance programmes which aim at promoting progression of girls in schools b) Enhance community sensitisation campaigns to educate the population of the rights of the girl child
4. Low quality of early childhood education	Enhance recruitment of teachers and provision of attendant infrastructure for early childhood education
5. Lack of infrastructure hampering the roll out of ICT in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhance the procurement of ICT equipment and improve the supportive infrastructure, especially for rural schools b) Promote continued engagement of the private sector to complement government efforts
6. Low retention of learners in schools, especially girls	The Government should effectively and efficiently implement all affirmative action programmes in support of female students in line with the principle of equity. This will also address the gender learner gap as reflected by the poor female net enrolments rates, especially at secondary level as presented by Zambia's demographic profile where there are more females than males in the country's school going population
7. Lack of gender parity in the education system	Increase investment in education and skills development to enable the country overcome the challenges of low progression rates to higher education levels, gender disparities in participation rates as well as variations in participation rates across the rural-urban dichotomy



**SDG 5 – Gender equality:
Achieve gender equality and empower
all women and girls**

5.4 Overview of SDG 5

Achieving gender equality remains a challenge in Zambia. The Gender Inequality Index value which reflects gender-based inequality in reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity was at 0.540, ranking the country 131 out of 162 countries in the 2018 index, thereby placing Zambia in the category of most gender unequal countries (UN Human Development Report, 2019). The Government has responded to this by ratifying international conventions on gender and implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes. Some of the interventions for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls include: Gender affirmative action; Gender mainstreaming; Gender empowerment; and Girl-child education promotion.

Indicator 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

Zambia has in place an adequate legal framework that guarantees equality between men and women. The legal framework acknowledges that every person in Zambia is entitled to all fundamental rights and freedoms as contained in Part III of the Republican Constitution. Equality is recognised as a National Principle under Article 8 of the Constitution. Further, Sections 20, 21 and 22 of the Gender Equity and Equality Act provide for right to nationality, sexual reproductive rights, marriage and family Life.

The Government in collaboration with CSOs and cooperating partners continues to implement strategies aimed at eradicating the various forms of violence, which include:

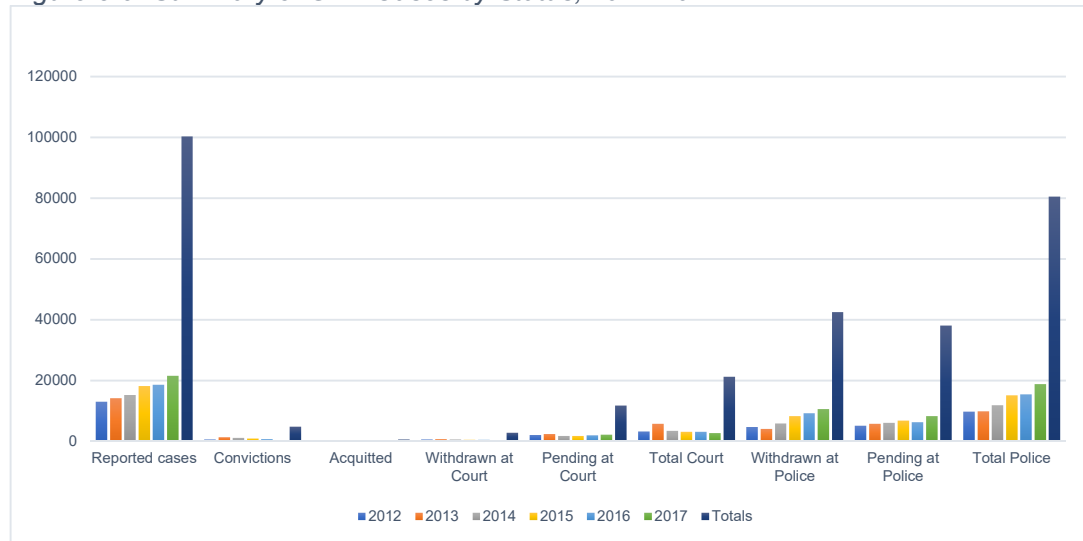
1. Intimate partner violence, domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape;
2. Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in the workplace;
3. Violence against women in politics; and
4. Child, early and forced marriages.

Indicator 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Gender-based violence (GBV) against women has been recognised by the Government as a violation of basic human rights, and it is a widespread human rights and development issue that transcends geography, class, culture, age, race and religion. Available data from the Zambia Police Service shows that there has been a gradual increase in the number of cases reported to the police from 12,924 in 2012 to 15,153 in 2014; 18,088 in 2015; 18,540 in 2016 and 21,504 in 2017. This represents an increase of 2,964 in reported cases between 2016 and 2017. Arising from capacity building initiatives undertaken, service providers were able to identify, probe, codify and isolate GBV cases as opposed to treating all GBV cases as general assault. As a result, cases were being referred accordingly, enabling survivors to receive appropriate and sometimes specialised services hence the increase in GBV reported cases. The police attribute this increase partly to the GBV awareness campaigns in the country. In addition,

improved services due to capacity development to service providers, the improved government’s coordinated approach and the heightened levels of anti-GBV sensitisation campaigns in communities regarding what GBV is and where they can report cases has contributed to the increased reported GBV cases.

Figure 5-9: Summary of GBV Cases by Status, 2012-2017



Source: Victim Support Unit, Zambia Police Service

Indicator 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Child marriages are recognised as a human rights violation under international law because it adversely affects the rights of girls and women, as explicitly enumerated under the universal declaration of human rights, the convention on the rights of a child, the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and other international instruments. Child marriages are more likely to increase poverty, domestic violence, lack of access to education, sexual abuse, and emotional and physical health challenges.

To address the issues of child marriages, the Government working with stakeholders, is implementing the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage. In this regard, early marriages for women and girls over the years declined, from 5.9 percent in 2014 to 5.2 percent in 2018 for marriages at 15 years and from 31.4 percent in 2014 to 29 percent in 2018 for marriages at 18 years. Additionally, the median age at first marriage declined from 18.4 years in 2014 to 19.1 years in 2018.

5.4.1 Teenage Pregnancies

Adolescent pregnancy undermines girls’ human rights and compromises their opportunity to fully realise their socio-economic development potential; thus, protecting girls from pregnancy is necessary to ensure that girls grow into healthy, skilled, productive, independent, and responsible adults. The teenage pregnancy rate, at 29 percent, has remained unchanged since 2014. The prevalence is much higher among girls in rural areas (37 percent) compared to their urban counterparts (19 percent) and also higher among girls in the lower wealth quintile. Twenty-nine percent of adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in Zambia have been pregnant or have had a live birth.

Despite the steady increase in contraceptive use over the last two decades, there is still high unmet need for family planning. The unmet need for family planning is highest among adolescents aged 15-19 years at 21.5 percent in 2018, a decrease from 25.1 percent in 2014.

Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

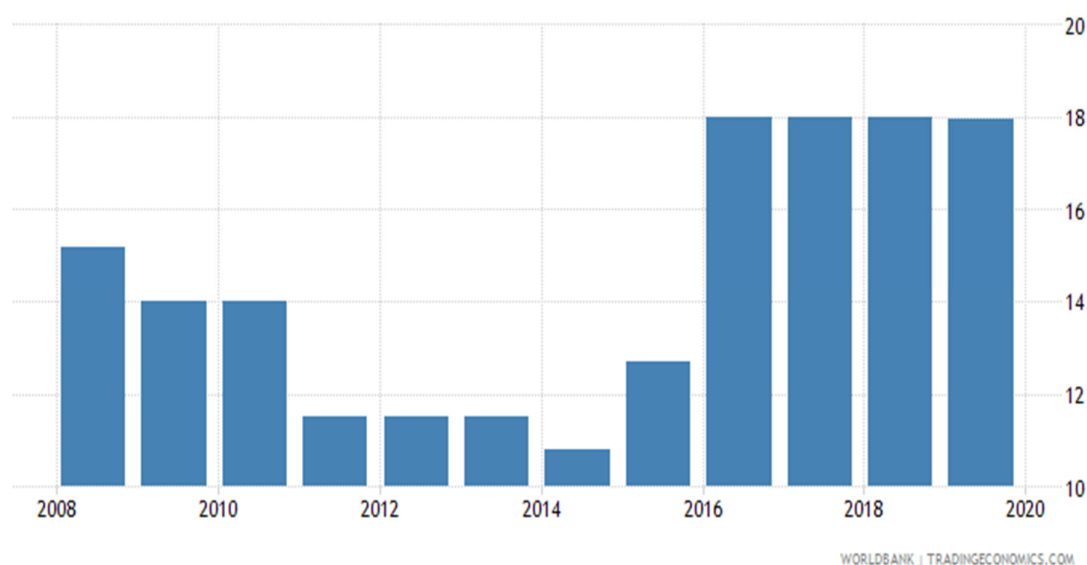
With regard to women participation, there are deliberate efforts to sensitise political parties to adopt female candidates for elective positions. Several trainings on the promotion of women in decision-making with parliamentarians and political party structures have been undertaken. In addition, non-state actors have been lobbying political parties to ensure equal representation of men and women in both political parties and elective public positions. These interventions also include capacity development of women and mentorship programmes for prospective women candidates for elective positions.

In 2016, the women's movement facilitated the establishment of the Male Members of Parliament Parliamentary Network on Gender Equality which has become an official body of Parliament. The Network has been ensuring that the male voice is enhanced in Parliament on issues of gender equity and equality.

The proportion of parliamentary seats held by women increased from 14 percent in 2011 to 18.9 percent in 2019. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of women that have taken up decision-making positions, including the Vice-President, the Chief Justice, heads of commissions and chief executive officers of parastatal companies. Further, there has been a significant increase in the number of females in key decision-making positions in the judiciary. The positions of Chief Justice, Director of Public Prosecutions and Residents of Courts are held by females. Additionally, 31 percent of Supreme Court Judges, 67 percent of Constitutional Court Judges, 50 percent of Courts of Appeal Judges, 57 percent of High Court Judges, 36 percent of Magistrates and 47 percent of Registrars are female.

The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (percent) in Zambia was reported at 17.96 percent in 2019, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognised sources.

Figure 5-10: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments



Source: World Bank/Tradingeconomics.com

Table 5-7: Proportion of Women in Decision-Making Positions

Indicator	Baseline (2017)	Target (2021)	Status at midterm
Cabinet Seats	34.4 (2016)	50	34.4
MPs	18.7 (2016)	50	19
Mayors and Chairpersons	-	8.7	8.6
Councillors	10.00 (2016)	10	37.9
Public sector participation by women (permanent secretaries, directors and heads of department)	-	50	26.2

Source: 7NDP MTR

Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament: The proportion of women parliamentarians increased from a baseline of 18.7 percent in 2016 to 19 percent in 2019. From the launch of 7NDP, the next election is expected in 2021 where a significant change could happen. The slight increase in the proportion of women parliamentarians was a result of by-elections.

Proportion of local government seats held by women: The proportion of female representation in local government rose from 10 percent in 2016 to 37.95 percent in 2019.

Public sector participation by women: Performance on participation of women in the public service as permanent secretaries, directors and heads of department was estimated at 26.2 percent in 2019. Female permanent secretaries constituted only 27.6 percent and only 30 percent of directors. There were 23.7 percent female ambassadors and high commissioners.

Table 5-8: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Low representation of women in political leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Advocate for affirmative action to encourage political parties to adopt female candidates b) Create a conducive political environment that minimises violence and encourages women's participation c) Enact a law to set quotas or targets for women's participation

Challenges	Required Actions
2. Difficulties of enforcing statutory law in a traditional setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement programmes for raising community awareness on the rights of women b) Implement comprehensive women empowerment programmes that enhance self-efficacy
3. Sustaining improvements in gender equality and making further advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Eliminate socio-cultural barriers that impede the progress of women's representation in key decision-making positions and the labour market b) Synchronise national gender policies and strategies with regional and international declarations c) Raise the capacity of public and private institutions to mainstream gender responsive initiatives at programme design stage and avoid relegating them to "after-thought" addendum items
4. Lack of gender-disaggregated data for planning, monitoring and evaluation	Enhance the collection of gender-disaggregated data and capacity building for analysis and integration into planning processes



**SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation:
Ensure availability and sustainable
management of water and sanitation
for all**

5.5 Overview of SDG 6

Access to basic social services, such as water and sanitation is important for the attainment of broad development goals. Safe water and sanitation facilities create an enabling environment for the attainment of goals such as improved child health, maternal health and education outcomes. Some of the interventions for realising clean water and sanitation include: Enhancing provision of adequate safe water and sanitation; Improving availability of water and sanitation infrastructure; Enhancing research in water supply and sanitation services; Promoting alternative financing for water and sanitation; and Enhancing provision of adequate solid waste management services.

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

In Zambia, 72 percent of households have access to an improved water source, although access is more predominant in urban (92 percent) than rural (58 percent) households. The most common sources of drinking water in urban households are piped water into their dwelling, yard, or plot (41 percent); water from a public tap or standpipe (16 percent); and piped water shared with a neighbour (15 percent). Rural households obtain their drinking water mainly from tube wells or boreholes (36 percent), followed by protected dug wells (14 percent). Slightly less than half (42 percent) of rural households obtain their drinking water from an unimproved water source, as compared with 8 percent of urban households.

Table 5-9: Proportion of Households with Access to Water and Sanitation

		2013-2014	2018
Urban	Improved sanitation facility	35.0%	77.7%
	Unimproved sanitation facility	27.0%	21.0%
	Improved water source	89.5%	91.8%
	Unimproved water source	8.5%	8.2%
Rural	Improved sanitation facility	18.5%	37.2%
	Unimproved sanitation facility	74.2%	46.4%
	Improved water source	46.6%	58.0%
	Unimproved water source	53.2%	42.0%
Total	Improved sanitation facility	25.4%	54.4%
	Unimproved sanitation facility	54.0%	35.6%
	Improved water source	64.5%	72.3%
	Unimproved water source	34.5%	27.2%

Source: ZDHS 2013-2014, 2018

*For definitions refer to ZDHS Report

Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

The 2018 ZDHS results showed that 33 percent of the population had basic sanitation service, 41 percent in urban areas and 28 percent in rural areas. Fifty-four percent of households had access to an improved sanitation facility, with the most commonly used facility being a pit latrine with a slab (37 percent). By province, the proportion of the population with improved sanitation facilities varies from a high of 80 percent in Lusaka Province to a low of 6 percent in Western Province. The proportion of the population engaging in open defecation is highest in Western (50 percent) and lowest in Copperbelt, Lusaka, and Northern Provinces (1 percent each).

Eighteen percent of the population in the lowest wealth quintile had basic sanitation service, as compared with 65 percent of the population in the highest wealth quintile. Data showed that urban households were more likely than rural households to have either improved or shared toilet facilities, while rural households were more likely to have unimproved facilities or no facilities. Overall, 16 percent of rural households had no toilet facility, as compared with 1 percent of urban households.

5.5.1 Rural water supply and sanitation

To address the challenges of water access in rural areas, the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Phase II was introduced and will be implemented from 2016 to 2030. The programme builds on the successes of the first phase of the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme introduced in 2005. This was followed by the signing of an agreement between the Government and cooperating partners for the implementation of Water Sector Programme Support. The programme consisted of a coherent set of investments and institutional and sector support activities for providing and sustaining water supply and sanitation services to the rural population. The programme resulted in an increase in the proportion of rural population having access to safe water from 41 percent in 2006, when the sinking of boreholes started, to 49 percent in 2010; by 2018, the proportion had increased further to 58 percent.

Other interventions in the rural areas included the Hygiene and Sanitation Scaling-up Programme in 67 rural districts across the 10 provinces with a record of 2.7 million new users of improved sanitation between 2012 and 2015. These interventions accounted for an additional 12 percent of the rural population with access to improved sanitation. However, considering the very low baseline value, the proportion of the rural population without access to proper sanitation remained high, underscoring the need for consistent support to the sub-sector.

5.5.2 Urban water supply and sanitation

The Water Supply and Sanitation Act of 1997 assigned responsibility for urban (including peri-urban) water supply and sanitation to the local authorities. The authorities were encouraged to merge and form “commercial utilities” (CUs) that better provide services to the urban and peri-urban areas, either directly or through agents. The commercialisation process was completed in 2009 with a total of 11 CUs being formed in the then nine provinces. The CUs are subject to licensing and regulation by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council. An assessment of the urban water supply shows that as a result of the water sector reforms, specifically the formation of CUs and the introduction of the National Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Phase I and II, there was an increase in the proportion of households accessing clean water from 47 percent in 2001/02 to 89 percent in 2013/14 and 92 percent in 2018.

However, despite this achievement, CU operations were constrained by the persistent problem of unaccounted for water. The unaccounted-for water represented about 50 percent of the water production for most of the CUs and was usually because of an inability to provide meters to consumers as well as distribution losses resulting from leaking pipes. By international practices, unaccounted-for water above 25 percent of production is unacceptable as it erodes the revenue base of the CUs.

The urban water sector was also faced with challenges of extending water supply to newly developed residential areas. Most urban areas opened new residential areas due to the increased demand for accommodation resulting from the population increase. Despite a clear institutional setup, there were inadequate consultations and coordination among the stakeholders, resulting in consumers not receiving satisfactory services. For instance, the delegation of authority to CUs for water supply and sanitation while local governments retained the allocation responsibilities resulted in the allocation of residential plots without prior provision of the necessary water supply and sanitation services. This contributed to the proliferation of private boreholes and poorly constructed septic tanks which in turn resulted in the contamination of underground water. One major intervention implemented to address these challenges was the Millennium Challenge Account project, under which the Lusaka urban district water and sanitation facilities were overhauled.

5.5.3 Peri-urban area water supply and sanitation

Peri-urban areas faced some of the worst water supply and sanitation services. To address these challenges, the Government established the Devolution Trust Fund (DTF) to improve service provision in peri-urban areas, as per Water Supply and Sanitation Act of 1997. Among the expected results from the DTF was the elimination of the unsustainable community-operated water systems which were responsible for servicing the peri-urban areas. Of the 45 percent of Zambians residing in urban areas, an estimated 60 percent lived in peri-urban areas and most of them under deplorable conditions (CSO, 1999). Most of the peri-urban areas were being serviced by community-managed water supply systems supported by NGOs and projects.

Since its establishment, the DTF has contributed significantly to increasing access to water supply services to the urban poor through the water kiosks. However, the programme cumulatively failed to meet its 2015 annual targets due to declining funding levels resulting in the revision of the 2015 target from 2,800,000 people to 1,400,000 people by 2015. Furthermore, water supply under DTF is mostly through kiosks as opposed to the desired individual standpipes.

Table 5-10: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. High cost of service provision	a) Implement active leakage control for reduction of real loses b) Enhance investment in research and development to reduce cost of imported water treatment chemicals and reagents
2. Inadequate finances to improve water and sanitation service provision	Implement the financing mechanism to support investment planning and public and private partnerships
3. Sustainability of water supply especially in rural and peri-urban areas	a) Undertake long-term investment planning to contribute to protection of water sources b) Enhance national capacity for environmental sustainability, to strengthen the coordination mechanisms for water resources development and management and the role of local authorities
4. Negative impact of climate change on water and sanitation	a) Improve sanitation standards in unplanned settlements in order to avert the risk of water-borne diseases b) Enhance the regulation of both surface and groundwater extraction, in order to preserve water bodies c) Enhance tree planting programmes in order to protect and restore water basins
5. Neglect of the sanitation sub-sector	Assess the effectiveness of private sector involvement in the sanitation sub-sector, vis-a-vis environmental concerns of waste disposal
6. Peri-urban water and sanitation services	Strengthen implementation of public private partnerships for water and sanitation facilities in peri-urban areas

Box 5: Habitat for Humanity Zambia's Contribution to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Challenges in Peri-Urban Areas of Zambia

Habitat for Humanity Zambia (HFHZ) has a vision where everyone has a decent place to live and to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. As a leading NGO in the provision of decent housing to the urban poor, HFHZ recognises that water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are a fundamental human right that provides an essential life support system, more especially for slum dweller communities.

HFHZ works in close partnership with municipalities and commercial utility companies to identify vulnerable communities that are in dire need of WASH facilities in an attempt to complement the Government's efforts in the realisation of national development plans as well as global protocols such as SDG 6. It is estimated that over 70 per cent of Zambia's urban population resides in slums, and as such, HFHZ's interventions are tailor-made to respond to this phenomenal challenge.

Reticulated water provision is a huge challenge in slum communities owing to their unplanned spatial configuration. In response, HFHZ has built upon the successes of the water kiosk concept and has partnered with CUs in Lusaka, Ndola and Kabwe to extend water provision to the neediest slum communities. To this end, 59 open and closed water kiosks have been delivered in the three districts benefiting approximately 47,604 slum dwellers.

In terms of sanitation, the HFHZ housing package under its green field projects as well as the in situ upgrading projects come with both a ventilated improved pit latrine and a separate bathroom, and to date, close to 4,000 units have been delivered thus improving the lives of over 25,000 community members and giving them a sense of dignity.



SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

5.6 Overview of SDG 7

Energy is an important catalyst for economic growth and impacts all sectors of the economy. The Government has embarked on policy reforms to improve the business environment for enhanced participation of the private sector in the energy sector. Some of the interventions for ensuring affordable and clean energy sources include: Enhancing generation, transmission and distribution of electricity; Enhancing strategic reserves and supply of petroleum products; Promoting renewable and alternative energy; and Improving electricity access to rural and peri-urban areas.

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity

The Zambian Government has implemented infrastructure projects for power generation, transmission and distribution. However, overall characteristics of use of electricity have not changed much. The mining sector continues to be the major consumer of electricity generated, taking slightly over half. Domestic use accounts for about 30 percent; all other categories use about 5 percent, including the manufacturing sector. Regional disparities regarding access to electricity have remained wide. By 2018, one-third (32.8 percent) of the country had access to electricity (from 27.9 in 2013). Access to electricity for both rural and urban areas has increased, with connectivity for urban areas being estimated at 70.6 (from 61.5 in 2013), and the corresponding connectivity for rural areas being estimated at 8.1 (from 4.9 in 2013).

While noting the rise in connection to electricity in the rural areas, the inequality is still high, especially in view of the fact that about 57 percent of the population resides in rural areas. The captured connections in rural areas reflect main grid or mini grids installed by the Rural Electrification Authority (REA). There are also other rural households, which are connected to solar systems.

One main reason for lack of progress for rural access is the connection fee, which is considered a financial barrier for poor households. Installed capacity at Rural Growth Centres (RGCs) through the work of REA would allow for many individual households to be connected, but very few have done so. REA has recently started to address this issue by installing connections for free through an intensification programme.

5.6.1 Electricity generation by source

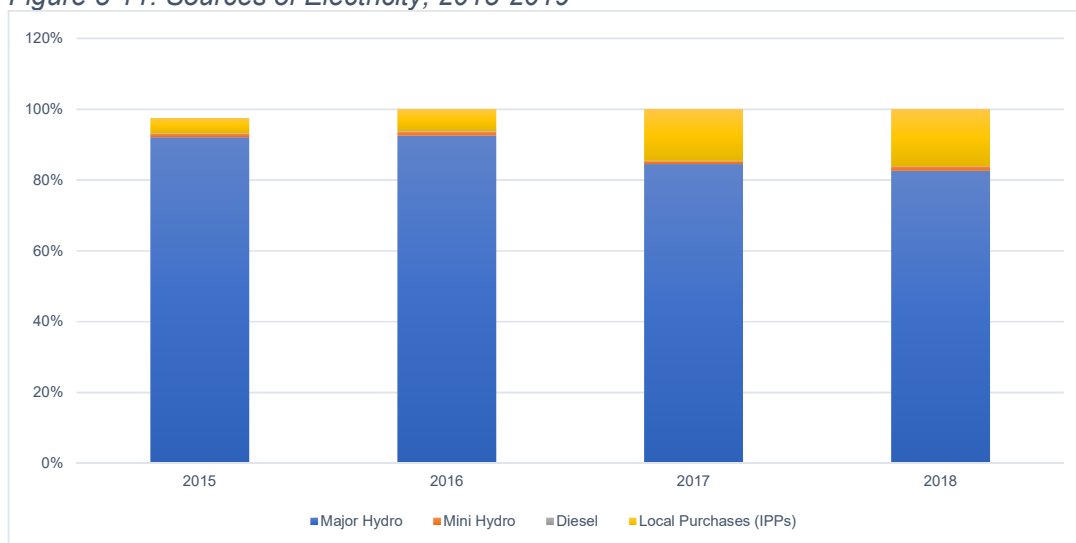
The national electricity installed generation capacity increased from 1,767 megawatts (MW) in 2011 to 2,974.7 MW in 2018 representing a growth of 68 percent in electricity generation capacity. The country progressed towards a diversified electricity generation mix in 2019 with hydro power representing 80.6 percent, thermal (coal powered) at 10.1 percent (300 MW), heavy fuel oil at 3.6 percent (105 MW), solar power at 3 percent (89.85 MW) and standby gas and diesel turbines at 2.8 percent (gas-80 MW, diesel-2.6 MW) (Table 5-12).

Table 5-11: Electricity Generation (MWh), 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Major Hydro	12,751,456	10,749,009	12,106,796	13,212,902	12,053,080
Mini Hydro	123,024	121,418	112,054	209,536	170,576
Diesel	23,603	19,885	8,989	4,536	5,558
Local Purchases	594,585	723,261	2,093,690	2,575,149	2,439,194
Total	13,842,426	11,613,573	14,321,528	16,002,123	14,785,553

Source: ZESCO, 2019

Figure 5-11: Sources of Electricity, 2015-2019



Source: MoE, 2018

The demand for electricity has been growing at an average of 4 percent per annum mainly due to increased economic activities, especially in the agriculture, manufacturing, and mining sectors. This has necessitated investments into electricity generation projects; 300 MW coal-powered plant in Maamba, Southern Province, 105 MW heavy fuel oil power plant in Ndola, Copperbelt Province, a hydropower plant in Itezhi Tezhi, Central Province, Ngonye, Bangweulu and Copperbelt Energy Corporation.

Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

The proportion of the population which uses clean fuels and technology as a primary source of energy for cooking is very low. In 2018, the proportion was estimated at 8 percent nationally; 18 percent in urban areas and 1.5 percent in rural areas respectively (2018 ZDHS). To address the challenge of access to electricity in rural areas, the REA has completed the implementation of ten carry-over projects in six provinces. These consisted of nine grid extension projects and one mini hydro power project, which are expected to increase the productive capacity of rural areas. The Authority had electrified 494 (84 percent of the target) RGCs by December 2019 out of the targeted 588 RGCs to be connected by 2021.

Indicator 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

With entrenched state participation in the energy sector, private sector activity has been low. In order to address this challenge, the Government introduced policy and regulatory measures, fuel subsidy removal and regulatory reforms. Partly in response to these changes, there is a noticeable rise in private sector activity. For instance, off-grid power plants amounting to a total of 88.336 MW were added to

the power pool. These were mostly operated by the private sector with a few by the public sector. Several other power projects are under construction and will come on stream between 2019 and 2022. This will further improve the country's electricity generation capacity. The diversification of the energy mix improves the country's resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, which in the recent past has generated excessive negative impacts.

Indicator 7. b. 1: Investments in energy efficiency as a proportion of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services

In 2017, Zambia commenced migration to cost-reflective electricity tariffs. The Energy Regulation Board, approved tariffs for domestic and industrial customers which have since been implemented in two phases, starting with 50 percent effective from May 2017 and 25 percent effective from September 2017. Removal of subsidies and making the tariffs cost reflective were meant to attract more private investors into the energy sector.

In 2018, the Government commenced implementation of the global energy transfer Feed-In-Tariff programme, aimed at overcoming investment barriers for private investors for small-scale renewable energy projects of up to 20MW. With the commencement of this programme, there has been development of a total of 200MW comprising 100MW solar and 100MW small hydropower plants.

Zambia's energy pool is still dominated by hydropower; this poses a challenge in the light of climate change impacts. For example, the climate change induced dry spells of the 2014/15 and 2017/18 rainy seasons resulted in low water levels in the main power generating dams and reduced the hydro-electricity generation capacity and supply levels. The power deficit in June 2015 stood at 560MW and by December of the same year, had increased to about 1,000MW. For the 2018/19 rainy season, the power deficit by the third quarter of 2019 stood at 700MW. These generated cumulative negative impacts on both formal and informal businesses.

In 2017, the Government adopted the Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff strategy, which is expected to accelerate private sector investments in small and medium-sized renewable energy projects. In response to the reforms for promoting investment in the sector, the following developments are noteworthy:

1. 1 MW mini-hydro power plant was commissioned in 2012 in Shiwang'andu, Chinsali District of Muchinga Province;
2. 60-kilowatt solar project was completed in 2013 in Mpanta, Samfya District of Luapula Province;
3. 1 MW solar plant was commissioned by the Copperbelt Energy Corporation in Riverside Kitwe District of the Copperbelt Province in 2018.;
4. 54 MW Bangweulu solar project commissioned in 2019 in Lusaka District of Lusaka Province; and
5. 35 MW Ngonye solar project completed in Lusaka District of Lusaka Province in 2019.

The Bangweulu and Ngonye Solar Power Plants in the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone are the first ever solar energy projects to feed into the national electricity grid. Further, the Government, with support from the World Bank, developed a National Renewable Energy Resource Map focusing on solar and wind. Data collection for both wind and solar was completed and the Resource (Solar and Wind) Atlas was successfully launched in June 2019. The Resource Atlas provides information about the solar and wind resources available in Zambia for power generation and is expected to attract investments in the renewable energy sub-sector.

Table 5-12: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Adverse effects of climate change (reduced rainfall and droughts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scale up renewable energy generation as it is key to closing the energy gap, especially for off-grid remote communities b) Scale up interventions to increase the share of renewable energy sources across the three end users of electricity, transport and heat
2. Limited sources of clean energy for cooking and heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scale up interventions to promote the adoption of clean energy sources at the household and community levels b) Enhance strategies for attracting the private sector to participate in the generation of clean energy c) Improve the operation of REA so that more rural households are enabled to access clean sources of energy
3. Low level of energy efficiency	Scale up interventions aimed at improving the use of energy, through efficient production technologies at industry level and efficient energy utilisation patterns at the household/community level
4. Limited sources of energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhance strategies to attract investments in renewable energy sources in order to improve the generation mix and cushion the economy against energy deficits b) Expedite conclusion of cost-reflective tariff study in order to guide policy



SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

5.7 Overview of SDG 8

Zambia is committed to promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. The 7NDP outlines the macroeconomic framework for achieving economic transformation for improved livelihoods and creation of decent, gainful and productive employment. The country aspires to achieve an average annual real GDP growth rate above 5 percent, create productive and gainful job opportunities and improve competitiveness. Some of the interventions and opportunities to accelerate progress under this Goal are: Promote industrialisation and job creation; Facilitate micro, small, and medium enterprise development; Promote cooperatives development; Increase employment opportunities in rural areas; Improve labour productivity; and Promote entrepreneurship skills training and development.

Indicator 8.1.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

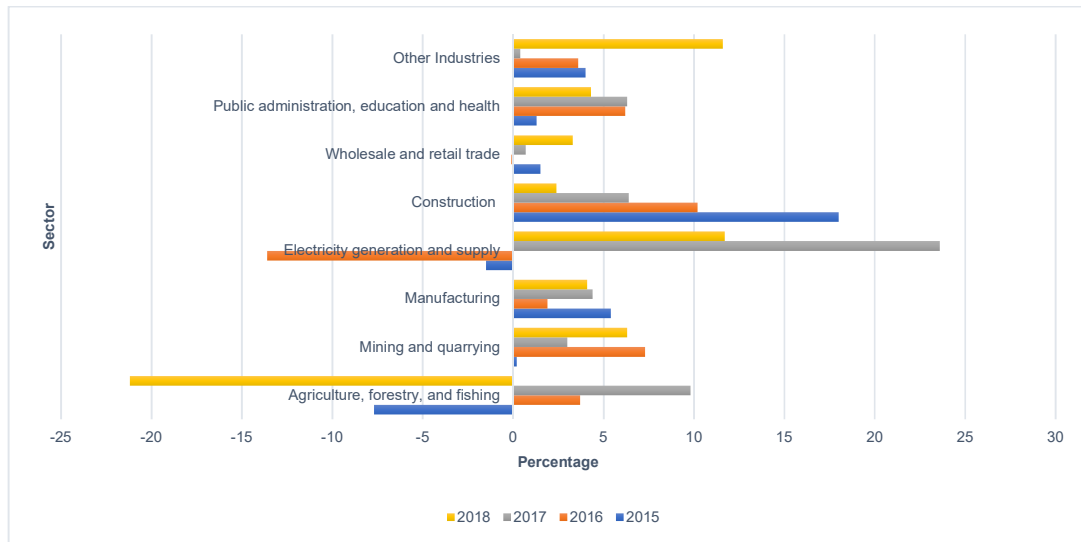
In the period 2015 to 2019, the economy grew at an average rate of 3.3 percent per annum which was less than the 7NDP economic growth target of above 5 percent. This was caused by an interplay of both domestic and external factors. Domestic factors which included devastating droughts, especially during the 2014/2015 and 2018/2019 seasons adversely affected economic activity. External factors such as high oil prices, slowing demand for commodities on the global market, with consequent reduction in exports, further exacerbated the situation.

Table 5-13: GDP Contribution by Sector, 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-Year Average
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	-7.7	3.7	9.8	-21.2	-7.3	-4.5
Mining and quarrying	0.2	7.3	3.0	6.3	-5.3	2.3
Manufacturing	5.4	1.9	4.4	4.1	1.9	3.5
Electricity generation and supply	-1.5	-13.6	23.6	11.7	-4.2	3.2
Construction	18.0	10.2	6.4	2.4	0.7	7.5
Wholesale and retail trade	1.5	-0.1	0.7	3.3	2.7	1.6
Public administration, education, and health	1.3	6.2	6.3	4.3	4.4	4.5
Other Industries	4.0	3.6	0.4	11.6	6.2	5.1
GDP growth	2.9	3.8	3.5	4.0	2.0	3.3

Source: MoF, 2019

Figure 5-12: Sectoral Growth, 2015-2018

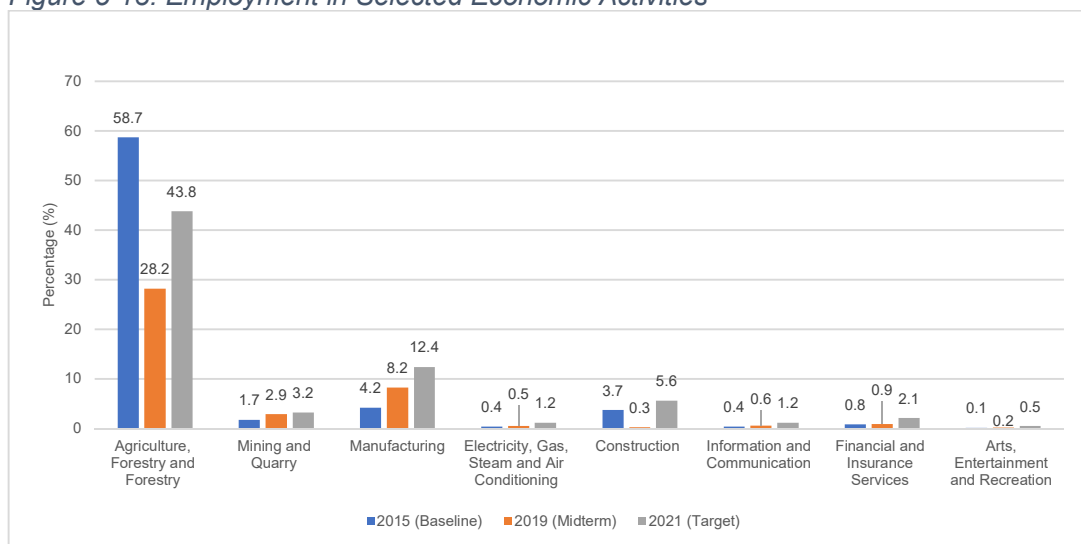


Source: MoF (ZamStats, 2018)

Indicator 8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

As a result of the slackened economic performance, the country has not been able to generate the expected number of jobs. According to the 2018 Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate was reported at 10.5 percent for males and 12.9 percent for females. Job creation is at the core of the 7NDP; the Government has continued with its proactive interventions. Emphasis is placed on enhancing productivity and skills development; value-addition and value-chain diversification development; integrated e-services and e-business promotion; coordinated innovation and research-ecosystem development; access to finance promotion; public sector capacity development; and regulatory reform and enhancement. For the youth, the Government continues to promote internship programmes for students, as a transitory mechanism into the working world.

Figure 5-13: Employment in Selected Economic Activities



Source: MNDP (2020), 7NDP MTR (2020)

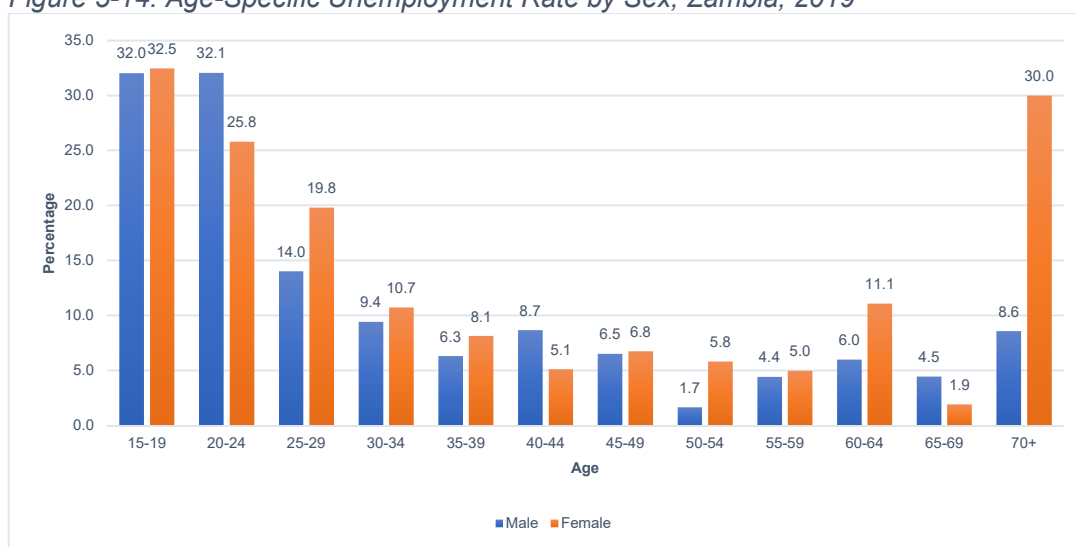
Table 5-14: Number and Percent Distribution of Unemployed Persons by Rural/Urban and Sex, Zambia, 2018

Percent share of employed persons in formal sector employment				
a) Total	19.7	2015	39.4	31.6
b) Female	12.1	2015	24.2	23.8
c) Male	25.8	2015	51.6	36.4
d) Rural	7.9	2015	15.8	18.5
e) Urban	39.4	2015	78.8	39.7
f) Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.4	2015	10.8	11.5
g) Mining and quarry	85.8	2015	90.0	80.3
h) Manufacturing	36.9	2015	73.8	33.2
i) Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	90.0	2015	92.0	87.5
j) Construction	28.5	2015	57.0	23.0
k) Information and communication	73.0	2015	85.0	76.2
l) Financial and insurance services	92.2	2015	95.0	53.7
m) Arts, entertainment and recreation	55.2	2015	75.0	46.8

Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

By sex, unemployment for males was estimated at 12.1 percent while that of females was estimated at 13.2 percent; unemployment was generally higher among males than females for all age groups except age groups 20-24, 40-44 and 65-69. Unemployment was highest among the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups, gradually fell for the subsequent age groups, before spiking from age group 60-64. For the population aged 70 and above, 1 out of every ten men were unemployed, and 3 out of every 10 women were unemployed.

Figure 5-14: Age-Specific Unemployment Rate by Sex, Zambia, 2019



Source: CSO (Labour Force Survey Report, 2018)

Indicator 8.7.1: Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

The continued economic decline coupled with social change have adversely affected the welfare of children. One manifestation of this is the observed increase in child labour. In order to curb the problem of child labour, the Government has criminalised the employment of young children and young persons through the Employment Code No. 3 of 2019. In 2019, the Government went further to establish a child

labour data centre, which is used to monitor incidences of child labour and accordingly alert relevant authorities for action.

Indicator 8.8.2: Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organisation (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

In order to promote decent work and effective implementation of labour laws and policies, the Government has continued to engage the Tripartite Consultative Labour Council. As a result, the country has seen an increase in employers' compliance of recognising employees' rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organisation standards; this is evidenced by the approval of 106 Collective Agreements; extension of the 21 Collective Agreement Extensions; and approval of 18 Recognition Agreements by 2018.

The decent work agenda is one of the key outcomes of the 7NDP. The Government developed the 2019-2022 Zambia Decent Work Country Programme, which expresses the Government's aspirations of ensuring that working conditions meet the required International Labour Organisation standards. The Zambia Decent Work Country Programme is expected to achieve the following three priorities:

1. Effective application of fundamental principles and rights at work to support equitable and inclusive economic growth;
2. Enhanced economic diversification to create more and better job opportunities for all, especially young people; and
3. Comprehensive and strengthened social protection systems.

The Government undertook a comprehensive review of labour laws to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights at work and promotion of employment. This culminated in the adoption of the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019. The Act provides safeguards against casualisation and erosion of decent working conditions. It has expressly provided for non-discrimination against employees on grounds of nationality, colour, religion, and sex, among others.

Further, the Government has implemented the minimum wage policy, which has the objective of safeguarding the interests of workers, especially those that are vulnerable and do not have unions. Through the issuance of Statutory Instruments, wages were revised for domestic, general and shop workers. The revised wages came into effect in September 2018.

Table 5-15: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Low compliance to legal and regulatory provisions	a) Increase capacity for ensuring enforcement of existing legal and regulatory provisions b) Strengthen penalties for non-adherence to laws and regulations on decent work
2. Persistence of casualisation	a) Enhance inspections to ensure compliance among employers b) Improve the overall economic environment to make it easier to enforce the minimum wage requirements, as this would open other economic opportunities
3. Adverse effects of climate change on productivity (leading to loss of jobs)	a) Promote public private partnerships b) Promote more foreign direct investments in alternative sources of renewable and affordable energy



SDG 9 – Industry innovation and infrastructure:
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

5.8 Overview of SDG 9

The state of a nation’s infrastructure has a direct bearing on its competitiveness and economic performance. Zambia has been characterised by inadequate levels and low-quality infrastructure development which result in low competitiveness; this has spurred the recently observed rise in infrastructure expansion and renovations. Interventions have targeted housing, energy, transport, ICT, and water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Some of the interventions for building infrastructure, promoting industrialisation and fostering innovation are: Improving trade facilitation; Securing access to export markets; Enhancing the competitiveness of Zambian products; Improving logistics management; Promoting international cooperation; Promoting economic diplomacy; Construction and rehabilitation of railways; Development of aviation infrastructure and operations; Construction and rehabilitation of road network; and Construction and rehabilitation of maritime and inland waterways.

Indicator 9.1.2: Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport a): Domestic and international passengers and freight volumes by air transport

The number of air passengers increased from 1,600,000 (2016 Baseline) to 1,808,247 in 2019. The volume of air cargo decreased from 60,000 metric tonnes in 2016 to 22,046.4 metric tonnes in 2019. The number of road passengers decreased from 90,476,640 in 2017 to 81,864,720 in 2019. The volume of road cargo decreased from 24,206,223 metric tonnes in 2017 to 18,018,737.2 metric tonnes in 2019. The number of rail passengers increased from 657,746 in 2016 to 1,205,303 in 2019. The volume of rail cargo increased from 762,410 metric tonnes in 2016 to 1,128,027 metric tonnes in 2019.

Table 5-16: Passenger (number) and Freight Volumes by Mode of Transport

Outcome	Baseline % / No.	Baseline year	Status (2019)
Air - Passenger	1,600,000	2016	1,808,247
Air – Cargo	60,000	2016	22,046.4
Road – Passenger	90,476,640	2017	81,864,720
Road – Cargo	24,206,223	2017	42,577,910.3
Rail – Passenger	657,746	2016	1,205,303
Rail – Cargo	762,410	2016	1,315,140

Source: MoTC, 2019

5.8.1 Road Sub-Sector

Under the road sub-sector, the Government has been implementing a countrywide road rehabilitation and maintenance programme aimed at reducing road user costs and transit times as well as creation of economic growth poles and wealth in outlying areas. In the period 2016 to 2019, a total of 20,888 kms of road were upgraded, rehabilitated, or maintained (Table 9.1). Unfortunately, the increasing fiscal constraints have negatively impacted on these interventions, leading to a slow-down of the pace of the implementation.

Table 5-17: Interventions to Improve Status of Road Sub-Sector

Type of Intervention	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016-2019
Road Upgrading	38.00	126.00	36.00	8.90	208.90
Road Rehabilitation	241.00	146.00	60.00	280.00	727.00
Maintenance	12,096.00	6,245.00	668.79	942.00	19,951.79
Total	12,375.00	6,517.00	764.79	1,230.90	20,887.69

Source: MoTC, 2019

5.8.2 Aviation Sub-Sector

The Government has made considerable progress in the delivery of quality and international standard airport infrastructure. These include the expansion and modernisation of existing international airports such as the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka which is 90 percent complete and the International Airport in Ndola which has reached 65 percent progress. These investments have largely been financed with bilateral support of the Chinese Government.

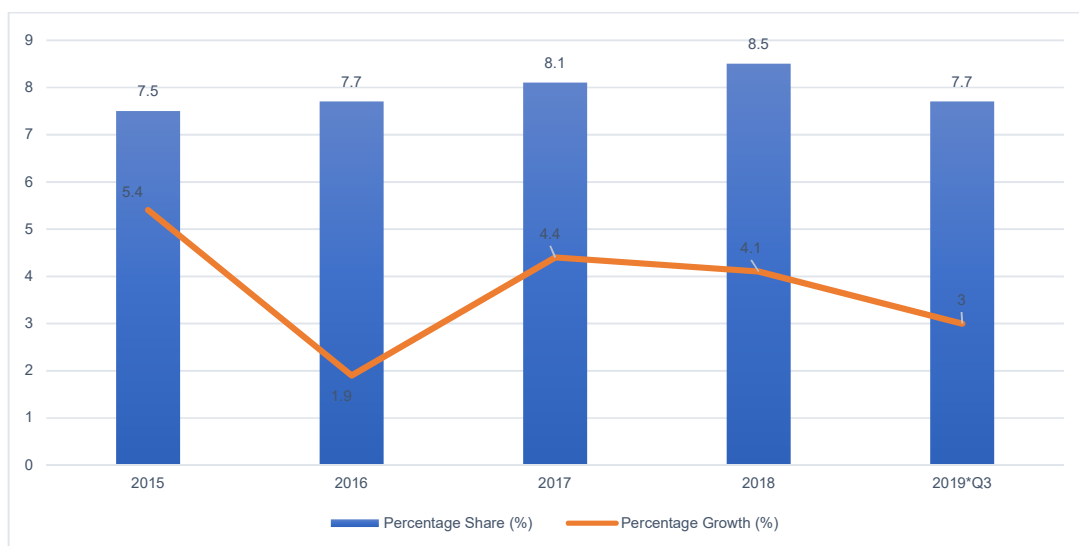
5.8.3 Trade

Interventions have been implemented to improve border infrastructure and facilitate trade. Border posts have been upgraded using the concept of One Stop Border Post (OSBP). These facilities combine two stops for national border control processing into one shared space, for both exit and entry. The aim of OSBPs is to reduce transit costs incurred at borders by combining the activities of both countries' border organisations and agencies at either a single common location or at a single location in either direction without increasing risk to public safety or revenue collection. OSBPs are earmarked for construction/improvement at five borders with Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mozambique. Once completed, these OSBPs will not only improve trade with neighbouring countries, but also contribute towards enhanced regional integration.

Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita

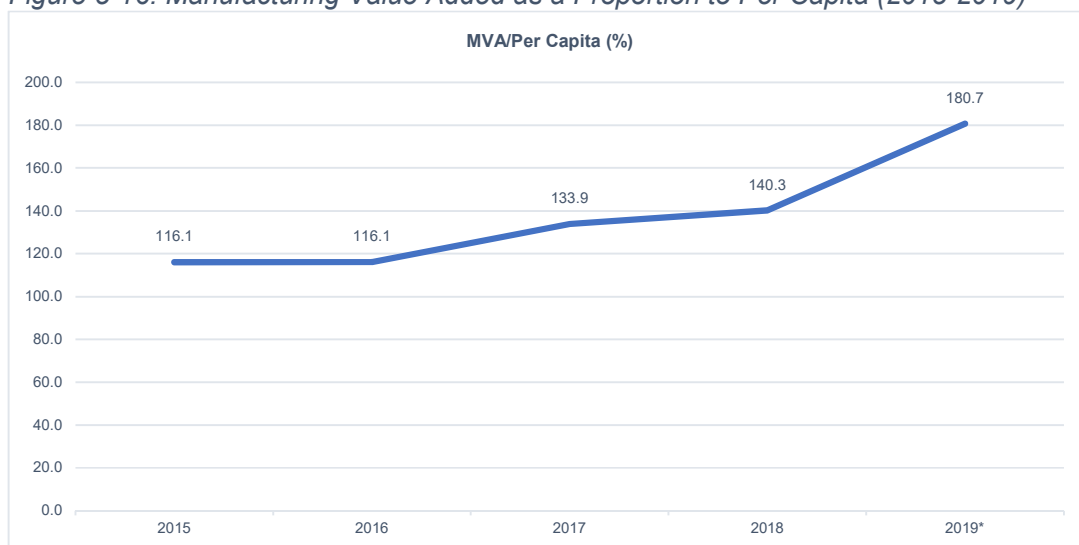
The share of manufacturing to GDP has remained stable over the 2014-2018 period (Figure 5-15). Further, manufacturing value added as a proportion to per capita consistently grew over the 2015- 2019 period (Figure 5-16). The manufacturing sector growth is attributed to the food and beverage sector (processing of livestock products, such as beef and dairy products, carbonated soft drinks production, processing of grocery products, grain milling and sugar production) and the wood and wood products sub-sectors. In addition, other activities contributing to manufacturing are smelting and processing of metals and refining of copper, and manufacturing of construction materials, such as cement, window frames, doors and roofing materials, as well as nuts and bolts.

Figure 5-15: Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion to GDP and Growth Rate (2015-2019)



Source: ZamStats GDP Estimates (2019)

Figure 5-16: Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion to Per Capita (2015-2019)



Source: BoZ GDP and ZamStats (2019) - 2019 values are preliminary hence subject to revision

5.8.4 Multi-Facility Economic Zones and Industrial Parks

Zambia has been promoting local and foreign direct investment with a view to stimulating industrialisation; in 2018, the country launched the Industrialization Policy. Notable projects include the creation of Multi-Facility Economic Zones (MFEZs) and Industrial Parks. By the end of 2019, three MFEZs were operational with investment worth more than US\$2.5 billion. Enterprises operating in these Zones are involved in manufacturing and value addition processes in food and beverage, tobacco, processing and cigarette manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and minerals processing.

Table 5-18: Multi-Facility Economic Zones Promoting Industrialisation

MFEZ	Company Name	Nature of Business	Cumulative Investment (million US\$)
Chambishi MFEZ	NFC Africa Mining Plc	Mining and Flotation	1,176

	Zhongdu International (Z) Co.,Ltd	Mining	136
Lusaka East MFEZ	Zambian Jihai Agriculture Co., Ltd	Mushroom Production	31
	Kingphar Pharmaceutical Company	Pharmaceutical Chemistry	2
	Hitachi Zambia Ltd	Construction Equipment	Setting up
Lusaka South MFEZ	Zambian Breweries	Manufacturing	Setting up
	Big Tree Brands	Manufacturing	Setting up
	British Tobacco	Manufacturing	Setting up
	NRB Pharma	Manufacturing	Setting up

Source: Zambia Development Agency (2019)

In line with the 7NDP programme for job creation, Zambia has been constructing Industrial Yards, which are specifically targeted at the youth and women. Such yards are involved in metal fabrication, wood works, agro-processing, gemstone processing and automotive works, including the manufacturing of motor spares. As at December 2019 construction of three industrial yards had commenced in Chipata, Mongu and Kasama Districts. Additional yards are planned for Ndola, Solwezi, Kitwe Mansa and Lusaka Districts.

Table 5-19: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Limited local technical capacity to construct climate-smart infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Facilitate peer learning among actors with varying competencies in designing locally appropriate and climate-smart infrastructure b) Enhance interventions aimed at strengthening partnerships with the private sector c) Capacity development in project design, implementation, and management.
2. Limited financial resources.	Pursue effective public private partnerships that achieve maximum development financing impact
3. Limited research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pursue partnerships with external research institutions to leverage financing for research and development b) Properly document, store and acquire property rights of innovations to encourage research and development
4. Over-reliance on roads as the major mode of transportation	Providing incentives to attract private sector investment in other modes of transport, especially for cargo transportation



**SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities:
Make cities and human settlements
inclusive, safe, resilient and
sustainable**

5.9 Overview of SDG 11

Zambia continues to experience high urbanisation trends. It is projected that urban population, currently at 42 percent, will grow to 50 percent by 2030 and 60 percent by 2050, presenting challenges for sustainable development. The carrying capacities of cities in most cases has been exceeded with effects on the rural hinterlands. Nonetheless, the Government is committed to creating an enabling environment for the attainment of the SDGs, particularly SDG 11. The Government is implementing SDG 11 within the framework of the 7NDP.

Some of the interventions for realising sustainable cities and communities include: Promoting integrated rural development; Promoting urban and peri-urban economies; Institutional capacity development; Awareness campaigns; Stakeholder coordination enhancement; and Solid waste management improvement.

Indicator 11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

The Government is implementing the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015, which is the principal legislation to guide sustainable human settlements development. The aim of the Act is to guide sustainable urban and rural planning and development, through a devolved, integrated, and inclusive planning system. The Act has brought unplanned urban settlements and customary land into mainstream planning and has introduced innovative partnerships in planning and development. Additionally, it ensures preservation of the environment, and cultural, and natural heritage against potential disruptive impacts of urban development.

By 2019, Zambia had made progress in formalising informal settlements by issuing occupancy licences in urban and peri-urban areas. A total of 298 informal settlements were formalised and 52,049 households issued with occupancy licences against the 2021 7NDP targets of formalising 15 informal settlements and issuing 10,000 occupancy licences, respectively (MNDP, 2019).

Further, under the Act, it is a requirement for all local authorities to have an Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The IDP provides an overall framework for development within a district that guides and informs decision-making by all levels of government and by all actors within the district. The Government, with goodwill from cooperating partners is supporting the preparation of IDPs in the districts.

To achieve this, the Government in 2018 embarked on the formulation of the National Urbanisation Policy with technical support from the United Human Settlements Development Programme. The Policy whose vision is “Prosperous, Inclusive and Resilient Urban Settlements”, has five thematic pillars which include inclusive settlements; productive settlements; integrated human settlements; urban governance; and resilient settlements. The Policy is a collaborative process of establishing a coordinated framework for sustainable urbanisation for the next 20-30 years. It addresses four critical issues that relate to SDG 11:

1. Proliferation of informal settlements;
2. Low local economic development;
3. Absence of supportive city form and functioning system of cities; and
4. Weak institutional and regulatory framework for urban development.

Further, in 2019 Zambia revised the National Housing Policy and developed an Implementation Plan to facilitate sustainable, decent and affordable housing for all. The Policy embraces participatory housing development initiatives such as housing cooperatives and public private partnerships, to promote innovations, enhance resilience and lower construction costs. The country also launched the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme III, after the successes of phases I and II, with support from UN Habitat, in line with the Government’s effort in upgrading unplanned settlements through participatory processes.

Zambia has continued to improve access to decent housing. In the period 2017 to 2019, a total of 3,152 low and medium cost houses were constructed and 46 squatter settlements upgraded in urban and peri-urban areas against the 7NDP target of 10,000 decent houses and upgrading of two squatter settlements by 2021 (MNDP, 2019).

The Government is also implementing the Systematic Land Titling Project, to improve security of tenure through issuance of title deeds in peri-urban areas which were previously excluded, with a target of 5.2 million titles by 2022. The Government has partnered with UN Habitat in implementing a resilience Framework for Action to enable cities and local communities to adapt to climate-related challenges.

The country has also developed various modes of financing urban development at local authority level, such as the Constituency Development Fund, the Equalization Fund, grants in lieu of rates, and the Ward Development Fund. In addition, the country is implementing projects to improve transport systems for vulnerable groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. Notable is the Lusaka Traffic De-congestion project in the capital city, which involves road expansion, improvement of arterial roads and construction of dedicated bus lanes for bus rapid transit.

Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities

The local authorities are responsible for the disposal of solid waste; this function is provided for under the Solid Waste Regulation and Management Act No. 20 of 2018. Prior to enactment of the Act, solid waste disposal was characterised by inefficiencies, such as low collection and disposal rates. The 2015 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey reported that approximately 7 percent of households in Zambia (15 percent urban and 2 percent rural) had their refuse collected for disposal at designated sites. The challenge of solid waste disposal is exacerbated by rapid urbanisation, resulting in increased waste generation with an estimated 800,000 tons/year being generated since 2011, countrywide.

Table 5-20: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Lack of current data and weak mechanisms to collect data on human settlements	a) Strengthen mechanisms for collecting data on human settlements b) Enforce the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018
2. Lack of spatial data to inform decision-making in development of human settlements affecting progress in implementation of programmes	Invest in integrated spatial data collection and develop an integrated spatial database
3. Lack of National Spatial Development Framework	Develop a Spatial Development Framework which will act as a national guide for spatial development
4. Low capacities for localisation of SDG 11 at local level	a) Build capacity in mainstreaming of SDGs in IDPs, specifically SDG 11

Challenges	Required Actions
	b) Improve capacity of local authorities as implementers of SDG 11
5. Weak M&E mechanisms	Strengthen and integrate local level M&E mechanisms to national M&E systems
6. Resistance from some traditional leaders to release land for development	Continuous engagement with traditional leaders
7. Slow pace of developing and implementation of IDPs	Accelerate the development and implementation of IDPs in all districts



**SDG 13 – Climate change:
Take urgent action to combat climate
change and its impacts**

5.10 Overview of SDG 13

Zambia has been experiencing the effects of climate change which have resulted in extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, rising temperatures, and unpredictable rainfall patterns. The frequency and intensity of climate events is expected to rise in future, with negative socio-economic impacts on communities. It is estimated that climate change will cost the country approximately 0.4 percent of annual economic growth and without action, rainfall variability alone could lead to losses of 0.9 percent of GDP growth over the next decade. The key sectors that will be most affected include agriculture, manufacturing, mining, energy, and services. For instance, the poor rainfall during the 2015-2016 season, led to a 600 MW decline in the country's hydro-power generation. Other adverse effects have led to increased costs of treating climate-related diseases such as malaria and the loss of natural environments, damage to infrastructure and disruption of biodiversity. These effects are likely to adversely impact the Government's effort to reduce poverty.

Zambia emitted 120 million metric tons of greenhouse gases in 2011. The land-use change and forestry sector contributed 61 percent to overall emissions, followed by the energy sector (19 percent), agriculture sector (17 percent), waste sector (2 percent) and industrial processes sector (1 percent). Greenhouse gas emissions increased 3 percent from 1990 to 2011, while the GDP grew from US\$5.2 billion to US\$13.4 billion in the same period. This suggests that the economy became less carbon intensive during this timeframe. Zambia's Nationally Determined Contribution commits to reducing carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions by 25 percent by 2030 compared to 2010 base year emission levels.

Some of the interventions implemented for accelerating action toward climate mitigation include: Improving surveillance systems for climate-related risks; Improving utilisation of climate data and information; Strengthening sustainable forest management; Improving solid and liquid waste treatment, disposal and GHG emission reduction; Introducing low carbon, efficient mass transit systems for public transportation in Lusaka and Copperbelt Provinces; Replacing fossil fuel-based power generation with renewable energy sources; Increasing coverage of early warning centres; and Establishing Emergency Operation Centres.

Indicator 13.2.1: Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalisation of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

The country has joined the rest of the world in effecting climate change actions. Zambia is a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It has also ratified subsidiary instruments under the Convention, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Further, in response to the threat

of climate change, the Zambian Government has developed the following frameworks that have guided its interventions in this regard:

1. National Adaptation Programme of Action of 2007 to respond to the immediate and urgent adaptation needs as a Least Developed Country;
2. Study on the Economics of Climate Change in Zambia (2011) to assess the economic impacts of climate change on the Zambian economy and the cost of addressing the challenge;
3. Technology Needs Assessment in 2014 to identify the country's technology needs and priorities for both adaptation and mitigation interventions on climate change;
4. Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action of 2015 to identify mitigation actions which are appropriate to the country's circumstances and may result in a win-win situation;
5. Nationally Determined Contribution of 2015 to contribute to the attainment of the overall objectives of the Paris Agreement;
6. National Policy on Climate Change of 2016 to provide a policy framework for a coordinated response to climate change;
7. National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) of 2015 to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in order to ensure sustainable natural resource management, improvement of livelihoods and achievement of a green economy; and
8. Forest Investment Plan of 2018 to identify and prioritise ways in which deforestation can be reduced in Zambia. The Investment Plan would also be used for resource mobilisation for the identified activities.

Through the National Policy on Climate Change, Zambia has established a framework for a coordinated response to climate change as well as a supporting institutional framework. The Policy established a governance system on climate change with the Council of Ministers as the apex policy and decision-making body headed by the Vice-President, followed by the Steering Committee on Climate Change of Permanent Secretaries as the main advisory body to the Council of Ministers on policy, programme coordination and implementation. There is also a Technical Committee on Climate Change as the technical advisory body to the Steering Committee (Istanbul Programme of Action Report, 2019).

Indicator 13.3.1: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

Climate change has been integrated in the school curriculum and would be taught in all primary schools from the beginning 2019/2020 academic year and extended to junior and senior secondary schools in subsequent years. As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to train teachers across the country on teaching and learning materials ahead of the commencement of the academic year. In addition, climate change courses have been introduced in four public universities to help promote climate-related research and policy analysis. The objective of this initiative is to improve the knowledge of pupils and help change the behaviour of both children and adults towards the environment and thereby help in the fight against climate change in the country.

Indicator 13.3.2: Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic, and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

Zambia has developed strategies to enhance adaptation and resilience to the effects of climate change. The National Adaptation Programme of Action has identified seven priority sectors: agriculture, water, forestry, energy, wildlife, infrastructure and health. In line with the 2015 Nationally Determined Contributions, Zambia continues implementing adaptation of strategic productive systems, appropriate infrastructure, health systems, and research, technology transfer and finance for enhancing capacity to adapt to climate change. In addition, extra financial and other resources are being mobilised through use of the public private partnership model.

The country has piloted two flagship projects under the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience in the Barotse and Kafue Basins. The objective of these projects is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of rural communities to better respond to both immediate and long-term consequences of climate change. The Projects focus on three areas of intervention: (i) Production systems that emphasise diversification and intensification in agriculture, and natural resources technological innovations; (2) Infrastructure development that develops adaptations focused on applying design parameters and codes that strengthen rural roads; and (3) Institutional support and capacity building focusing on institutional strengthening.

Indicator 13. b. 1: Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialised support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalised

5.10.1 Capacity Building for Policy and Planning

The Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) has been instrumental in capacity building of government institutions to mainstream change considerations in policy and planning. The PPCR developed climate change screening guidelines and tools in 2019; these are used for screening sector policies for climate change risks and vulnerabilities. The guidelines and tools assess alignment of policy instruments with the development policy framework and climate change policy framework. The guidelines are used for climate change mainstreaming in planning processes at national and sub-national levels.

At the local authority level, the PPCR has supported mainstreaming of climate resilience in District Development Plans and Ward Development Plans. Local authorities are trained how to conduct area specific Climate Risk Assessments, which establish districts' exposure to climate risks and devise adaptation plans. The PPCR has also built capacity of district officers to effectively implement climate resilience programmes through the provision of technical assistance and support to communities that fall under their jurisdiction. Communities have been trained to undertake climate risk assessment, plan and implement adaptation measures in a participatory manner. Special focus is placed on vulnerable groups such as women and the youth, including orphans and vulnerable children.

5.10.2 Early Warning Systems

The Government, through the Zambia Meteorological Department, is improving early warning systems to facilitate timely dissemination of weather information so as to enhance preparedness for extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. The Department is translating weather information into the seven main local languages and is using community radio stations to ease communication with people at the grassroots. Through the PPCR) there is a component on strengthening of climate information by establishment of an open data platform for use by vulnerable communities in four provinces namely, Western, Southern, Lusaka and Central Provinces.

5.10.3 Weather Index Insurance

To build resilience in agricultural production, the Government is implementing a weather index insurance scheme through the Farmer Input Support Programme. Weather Index Insurance is a form of crop micro insurance designed in such a way that farmers receive automatic pay-outs in case of severe weather conditions that affect their crops. The system makes use of satellite technology, through use of satellite data to monitor rainfall daily throughout the agriculture season. The insurance payment is made to farmers based on the rainfall data captured during the season. In case of a dry spell of 20 consecutive days, affected farmers will receive compensation for the loss suffered.

5.10.4 Promoting Alternative Sources of Livelihood

To reduce vulnerability to climate change, the Government is promoting alternative sources of livelihood. This is being done through provision of farming inputs as well as beehives for honey production to communities that depend on harvesting timber for charcoal production. The Government is also facilitating the link between small-scale farmers and the private sector to enhance access to markets for produce.

5.10.5 Climate-Smart Agriculture

The Government, working through the Ministries responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock, is promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, such as minimum tillage and residue retention, agroforestry, diversification of crops and crop rotation as well as drought resistant small ruminants, such as goats and sheep. The Government is also supporting the growing of drought tolerant crops and crop varieties including cassava, sorghum, and millet in areas prone to droughts.

5.10.6 Water Harvesting

The Government is enhancing water management to withstand erratic rains through water harvesting, water conservation, and small-scale irrigation. It is building infrastructure, such as water dams to ensure that farmers can engage in crop production throughout the year.

5.10.7 Climate Proofing of Infrastructure

The Government is climate proofing infrastructure such as roads and canals to ensure that they withstand extreme weather events. In this regard, it has revised the standards and codes for construction of infrastructure. The first ever climate resilient gravel road, the 247km Kalomo-Dundumwezi-Ngoma-Itezhi-Tezhi Road, was constructed using the revised standards and codes and is expected to be more durable compared to conventional gravel roads.

5.10.8 Sustainable Forest Management

The Government is promoting sustainable forest management by supporting the planting of trees in new areas, reforestation and natural regeneration of degraded forests. It is promoting sustainable harvesting of forest products by providing alternative livelihoods such as farming and beekeeping for honey production to communities. The Government is also engaging communities in community forest management to ensure they derive benefits from the forests and sustainably manage them.

5.10.9 Renewable Energy

The Government is making strides in diversifying the electricity generation mix to improve the resilience of supply of power in the country through implementation of various projects. The electricity generation mix has improved from around 99 percent hydropower in 2010 to 80.6 percent hydropower in 2019 with thermal at 16.4 percent (405 mw) while solar is at 3 percent (89.85 mw). The Government is also providing an enabling environment for the participation of the private sector in the renewable energy sub-sector by implementing the Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff strategy. This initiative is aimed at accelerating private investments in small and medium-sized renewable energy projects to increase the number of players in the electricity sub-sector and increase access to clean energy services. Further, the Government is progressively phasing out subsidies to make tariffs cost-reflective to attract more investors into the sector. The Government has also mapped out the potential sites for the generation of wind and solar power to ease investments by would-be investors.

Table 5-21: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Inadequate capacity in development of bankable climate change project proposals	Enhance the capacity of stakeholders for bankable project proposal development to enable a pipeline of project proposals for submission to multilateral climate funds
2. Inadequate domestic finances to implement climate change projects	Enhance domestic resource mobilisation for the implementation of climate action. Instruments that could be utilised include green bonds.
3. Inadequate capacities for conducting climate risk analyses, vulnerability assessments, and identifying and appraising adaptation options	Enhance capacities for conducting climate risk analyses, vulnerability assessments, and identifying and appraising adaptation options
4. Weak partnerships between the Government and the private sector in climate change programmes/projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strengthen partnerships between the Government and the private sector in climate change programmes/projects b) Promote private sector participation to enhance financing for climate action.
5. Inadequate data on climate change impacts e.g. on biodiversity, ecological systems, GHG emissions etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Build capacity to produce climate change related data b) Establish an information system to collect data on climate change impacts e.g. on biodiversity, ecological systems, GHG emissions etc
6. Inadequate awareness on climate change	Raise awareness on climate change and its potential impacts on social and economic development, livelihoods, and ecosystems



**SDG 15 – Life on land:
Protect, restore and promote
sustainable use of terrestrial
ecosystems, sustainably manage
forests, combat desertification, and
halt and reverse land degradation and
halt biodiversity loss**

5.11 Overview of SDG 15

Forests are one of the most important natural resources and are central to the achievement of a low carbon green economy and sustainable development. Sustainable forest management is, therefore, reflected in key economic development policies. The 7NDP has domesticated SDG 15 by treating it as a cross-cutting issue in all the Key Development Result Areas.

Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area

According to the Zambia National Forest Policy (2014), forests cover 66 per cent of the country's total land area. This translates into approximately 49.97 million hectares (Figure 5-17). About 66 percent of the total land is covered by forests, of which 40 percent constitutes miombo woodland dominated by Caesalpinioideae tree species including the genera *Brachystegia*, *Julbernardia* and *Isoberlinia*. The country has national protected areas that include 20 National Parks, 39 Game Management Areas, 432 Forest Reserves, 59 Botanical Reserves, 42 Important Bird Areas and two Bird Sanctuaries. These are, however, facing serious threats from practices that include human encroachment for settlement, subsistence agriculture, mining activities, charcoal burning and logging, uncontrolled late season forest fires and poaching.

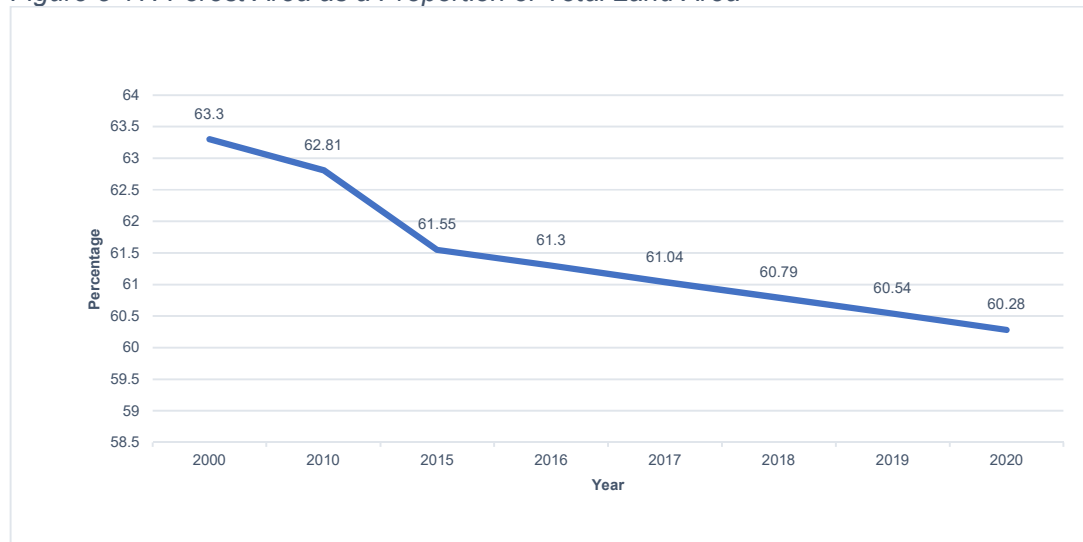
To tackle the challenge of deforestation and forest degradation, Zambia has developed a national strategy based on an integrated natural resources management perspective at landscape level. The Government is implementing various programmes and interventions to achieve SDG 15. For instance, in 2019 a total of 1,195,355 hectares of land had forest management plans against the 7NDP target of 1,250,000 hectares, representing 95.6 percent achievement in strengthening sustainable forest management (MNDP, 2019). This achievement is attributed to effective community forestry management groups, natural regeneration, and integrated forest landscape management as well as the implementation of a framework for national forest monitoring developed in 2012.

Further, the country has in place the National Investment Plan (2018-2022) which is aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation in an effort to reduce rural poverty and improving livelihoods. The implementation of the Investment Plan focuses on addressing different drivers of deforestation in both the forestry and other identified key sectors, in particular agriculture, energy, mining and land use, through a landscape approach. The National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation has identified key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as agriculture expansion; settlement expansion; and other land expansion. These drivers are hardly in isolation but act in combination across production landscapes.

Assessments of the state of forests under Zambia's second Integrated Land Use Assessment indicate that there is a decline in forest resources due to degradation and deforestation, which consequently worsens soil erosion and siltation to water bodies. The country has a rich endowment of biodiversity resources which include wildlife, fauna, fisheries, and forest in which 19 percent (145,194 km²) is occupied by water. Climate change continues to pose a major threat on biodiversity and its impact will

increase as the structure and function of ecological systems are altered. Continued warming and dry spells have resulted in reduced inundation and coverage of wetlands which provide ecosystem services. Such weather conditions (droughts) have further resulted in increasing water stress in arid regions such as the Southern Province where ecological hotspots for water sources for rural communities and animals have dried resulting in loss of livestock.

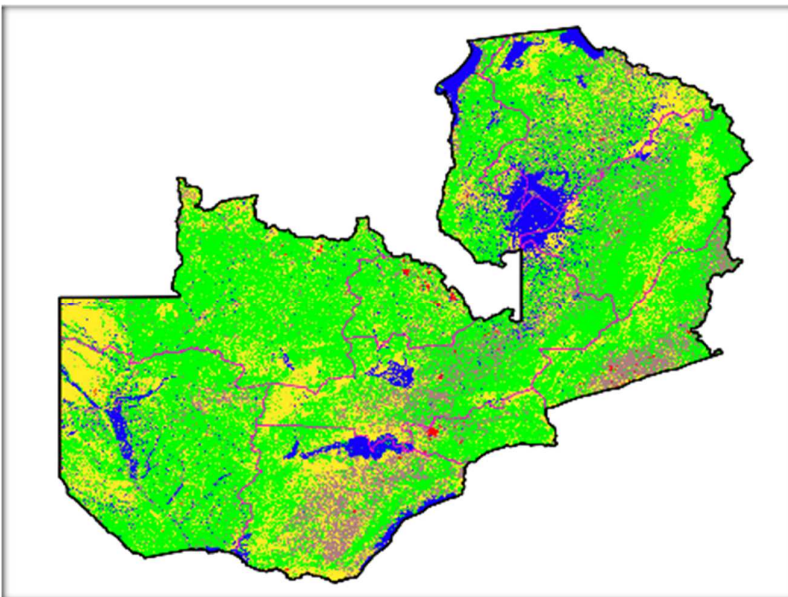
Figure 5-17: Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area



Source: MLNR, 2020

The data in Figure 5-18 shows that there has been a steady decline in the proportion of forest cover, having been estimated at 63 percent in 2000, 62 percent in 2015 and 60 percent in 2019. The loss of forest cover is attributed to agriculture activities and the widespread practice of charcoal burning.

Figure 5-18: 2010 Land Cover Map



Source: MLNR (2017)

Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

Developments in the agriculture, water and energy sectors are a source of significant potential threats to biodiversity. Therefore, investments in ecological systems require careful design as these can affect flow regimes and habitat availability, which in turn can affect the productivity of fisheries and their contribution to the comprehensive value of water resources.

Additional risks for biodiversity arise from pollution caused in part by the mining sector and chemical use in agriculture in the Kafue and Zambezi Basins. For example, there have been periodic outbreaks of fish diseases over the past few years. In mitigating this challenge, the Government has built capacity for research and monitoring and revised the fisheries policy to regulate the sector. The Government is currently addressing these policy issues through development of a biodiversity strategy and Implementation Plan.

Other important drivers of biodiversity loss include habitat modification through human encroachment and land use change. For example, endangered species of the Mukula tree resulted in the Government introducing measures which include a ban on harvesting the species, patrols and police check points.

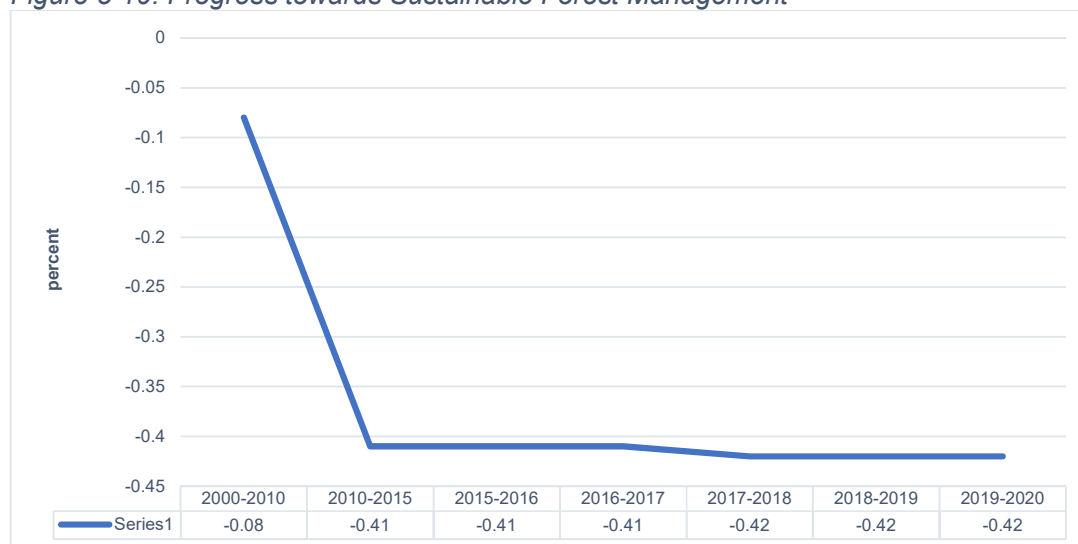
Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management

Zambian forests can contribute more to GDP through sustainable forest management, if the identified threats are slowed or reversed. Currently, forest-based industries account for at least 3.7 percent of GDP; charcoal production and fuelwood collection account for 2.2 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively. Commercial logging and non-timber forest products contribute about 0.3 percent and 0.1 percent to the GDP, respectively. In addition, opportunities presented by forest carbon markets may enhance the contribution of the sector to GDP.

A study by UN-REDD (2015) on Benefits of Forest Ecosystems in Zambia and the Role of REDD+ in a Green Economy Transformation showed that the direct and indirect values of forests (excluding the market value of carbon) are estimated to make a direct contribution equivalent to about 4.7-6.3 percent of GDP or US\$957.5 million (using 2010 figures). This figure is substantially higher than the updated national accounts that were released in July 2014. The study also revealed that the contribution of forest ecosystem services to the Zambian economy that are currently not accounted for in GDP – such as ecotourism, erosion control and sediment retention, pollination and carbon storage – is estimated to be 2.5 percent of GDP or US\$515.4 million annually. It can, therefore, be stated that depending on the estimate of the contribution of forests to GDP in Zambia, which ranges from 3.7 percent (Puustjärvi et al. 2005) to 6.2 percent (FAO, 2014), there is an undervaluation of at least 40- 68 percent.

Realising the value of the forest ecosystems will depend on interventions for forestalling forest loss. The data on sustainable forest management, however, shows that not much progress has been made; progress towards sustainable forest management was negatively rated from 2010-2015 to 2019-2020 (Figure 5-19).

Figure 5-19: Progress towards Sustainable Forest Management



Source: MLNR (2017)

Indicator 15.6.1: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits

Zambia has made considerable progress on developing conducive policy and legislative instruments as well as strategic plans for addressing climate change within the broader national economic development context. Some of the specific achievements that form the building blocks for REDD+ implementation in Zambia include among others, the following:

1. Vision 2030 – sets the country’s long-term development vision emphasising development based on “sustainable environment and natural resource management principles” with an overarching principle to have a competitive national economy that is dynamic, resilient to external shocks and supports the stability and protection of the biological and physical systems characterised by development of policies consistent with sustainable environment and natural resources conservation;
2. Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP, 2017-2021) – emphasising an integrated (multi-sectoral) development planning and implementation approach with a goal to create a diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and socioeconomic transformation driven, among others, by agriculture. This is in support of the Smart Zambia Transformation Agenda 2064 in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063. The priorities within this investment plan are aligned with the 7NDP Implementation Matrix.
3. Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2, 2015) – the vision of Zambia’s NBSAP2 is “By 2025, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy environment and delivering benefits essential for all Zambians and the Zambian economy.” It sets out overarching objectives for biodiversity conservation in the country and emphasises multi-sectoral coordination;
4. National Policy on Environment (NPE, 2007). The focus of the NPE is achievement of measures that address the pressing need to manage the impact of human activities on the environment, including biodiversity loss, deforestation, land degradation, air pollution, inadequate management of water resources and water pollution. This is in line with the landscape approach at watershed level of the REDD+ strategy;
5. National Policy on Climate Change (NPCC, 2017). The objectives of NPCC include: strengthened implementation of adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures to reduce vulnerability to climate variability and change; implementation of sustainable land-use

- management practices in order to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from land use and land use change and forestry; human resource and institutional capacity building for effective implementation of climate change interventions; and promotion of investments in climate resilient and low carbon development pathways in order to generate co-benefits and provide incentives for addressing climate change more effectively;
6. National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS, 2012). The NCCRS identifies clear priorities for adaptation and mitigation activities in various sectors of the economy and proposes a new institutional and governance structure for managing climate change issues, and emphasises a multi-sectoral and coordinated approach among different stakeholders to effectively reduce emissions towards a climate resilient and green economy.
 7. Zambia National Forest Policy (ZNFP, 2014) and Forest Act (2015). The policy recognises the importance of minimising the impact of greenhouse gas emissions and conserving biodiversity through the achievement of programmes on socio-economic and ecologically sustainable forest management, maintaining and increasing the total natural forest cover and increasing the percentage of land under plantation. Both the Policy and Act explicitly recognise the important role of the community and the private sector in the sustainable management of forest resources.
 8. National Agriculture Policy (NAP, 2016). The Policy explicitly recognises the significance of climate change adaptation by promoting climate-smart agricultural practices such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry and linkages to other sectors such as forestry, energy, land use and infrastructure development.
 9. Environmental Management Act (EMA, 2011). The Act provides the legal provisions for the integrated management of the environment and natural resources in the national development context. It provides for the development of sector-specific environmental management strategies and application of strategic environmental assessment of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that may be determined to have an impact on the environment across all sectors of national development. It further provides for public participation in environment management decision-making.
 10. National Energy Policy (NEP, 2008). The NEP recognises the potential role that renewable energy sources can play in meeting the country's energy demand and cushion the Zambian economy against the impacts of climate change and variability. It emphasises the development and deployment of off-grid renewable energy technologies through public and private sector investments (e.g., solar, mini/micro hydro, wind, biomass and geothermal).

Figure 5-20: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Low awareness of the impact of climate change on biodiversity	Raise awareness on the impact of climate change on biodiversity and its quantification
2. Lack of a specific biodiversity policy to regulate the sector including human induced activities that threaten biodiversity.	Put in place a biodiversity policy that regulates the sector, including the impact of human activities
3. Pollution and poor waste disposal into ecological systems	Strengthen partnership with the private sector on sustainable waste management.



SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions:
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

5.12 Overview of SDG 16

A peaceful and inclusive society is a pre-requisite for political stability, human security, economic growth, and sustainable development. This is premised on democracy; constitutionalism; the rule of law; human rights; sound professional and technical-based public institutions; and transparent and accountable economic as well as administrative governance systems. Some of the interventions being implemented to ensure peace, justice and strong institutions include: Strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms; Strengthening public financial management; Strengthening electoral processes and systems; Strengthening land administration and management; Enhancing access to justice; Promoting human rights; and Promoting platforms for religious engagement and participation.

Indicator 16.1.3: Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence in the previous 12 months

The review used DHS data to report on violence. These data were restricted to women and specifically captured GBV. The ZDHS implemented a module of questions on domestic violence, the most common form of violence against women. More than one-third (36 percent) of women age 15-49 experienced physical violence at least once since age 15, and 18 percent experienced physical violence within the 12 months prior to the survey. Thirty-two percent of ever-married women aged 15-49 reported that their current or most recent husband or partner has exhibited at least three types of specified controlling behaviours. Forty-seven percent of ever-married women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent husband or partner. Among ever-married women who had experienced spousal physical violence in the past 12 months, 35 percent reported having sustained physical injuries. More than half (52 percent) of women never sought help and never told anyone about the violence they had experienced.

Indicator 16.3.2: Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

Unsentenced detainees stood at 25 percent against the 7NDP target of 15 percent. However, as at December 2019, the number of unsentenced detainees was 4,393 while that of convicts was 16,973. This means the target for this activity was not met. The reason for not meeting the target is due to high backlog of cases at the Judiciary.

Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

Zambia has implemented interventions for fighting corruption such as establishment of Integrity Committees, enhancing electronic services and one-stop service centres. The fight against corruption is urgent, especially in the light of the perceived rise in public perception on corruption, as reflected in the Zambia Bribe Payers Index. The aggregate bribery index rose to 15 percent in 2019 from 13.5 percent in 2017 (Table 16.1).

Table 5-22: Public Perceptions on Corruption

No	Name of Institution	KPIs Weighted Average Score				
		2009	2012	2014	2017	2019
1	Health Services (MoH)	14.0	12.4	9.0	12.3	9.3
2	Immigration Department	7.0	4.7	4.9	2.0	0.6
3	Judiciary (courts)	11.0	8.3	7.4	9.5	6.6
4	Local Authorities	8.0	7.5	17.5	37.0	23.0
5	Agriculture and Livestock	3.0	2.3	10.1	2.7	0.8
6	Education	7.0	6.4	13.0	28.5	22.3
7	Lands	20.0	11.6	6.1	4.7	5.9
8	Works and Supply	2.0	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.0
9	National Registration Office	22.0	12.3	9.1	4.7	8.0
10	Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA)	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2
11	Passport Office	14.0	8.0	8.2	3.6	4.8
12	Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA)	15.0	14.4	14.7	19.8	39.0
13	Zambia Police Service (ZP)	66.0	48.3	78.3	82.9	89.7
14	Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA)	12.0	8.9	7.9	5.6	8.3
15	Zambia Telecommunications Company Limited (ZAMTEL)	2.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
16	Zambia Electricity Supply Company (ZESCO)	15.0	8.4	3.9	2.5	9.9
	Overall Aggregate Bribery Index	13.6	9.8	11.9	13.5	15.0
	Difference from Preceding Reporting Year		-3.8	2.1	1.6	1.5

Source: Transparency International Zambia (2019)

The country has undertaken measures aimed at strengthening relevant national institutions through international cooperation, building capacity to prevent violence, and combating terrorism and crime. This can be attested to by the restructuring of institutions such as the Human Rights Commission; Police Public Complaints Commission; Judicial Complaints Authority; Office of the Public Protector; Zambia Police Service; and Financial Intelligence Centre. Further, Zambia reviewed the Anti-Terrorism Act No. 21 of 2007 in 2015 (Act No. 2 of 2015). This facilitated the establishment of the National Anti-Terrorism Centre, which is now operational. The Act was also amended as the Anti-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation Act No. 6 of 2018 to include non-proliferation which further enhances the efforts in combating terrorism.

Indicator 16.9.1: Percentage of children under 5 years whose births have been registered with a civil authority

Zambia's vital registration system has not been effective in recording, on a continuous basis, vital events. To address this anomaly, the Government passed Statutory Instrument No. 44 of 2016, which made registration of births mandatory. The registration process has been decentralised, with 8 out of 10 provinces being covered by 2019. Further, over 900 birth registration desks were established at district and sub-district levels. The 2018 ZDH data shows that only 14 percent of children's births were registered with the civil authorities. There was no variation by age or sex in the percentage of births registered. However, 25 percent of urban children were registered, as compared with only 8 percent of rural children.

Indicator 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

To mainstream SDG 16, the Government is focused on strengthening the capacities of institutions that promote human rights, peace, security, and justice. Through amendments of the Constitution, new institutions, such as the Constitutional Court, Court of Appeal, Family Court, and Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs were established. Further, Constitutional amendments also facilitated strengthening of the mandates and functions of existing institutions such as the Zambia Correctional Service, National Prosecutions Authority, and the Office of the Public Protector. These interventions are aimed at accelerating reduction of all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.

The right to access information by the public is vital for ensuring that the population is well informed and gatekeepers are held to account. There has been a raging debate on enacting legislation that would guarantee access to information. The Government passed the Access to Information Bill in March 2020. This is expected to enhance effective and timely communication of information. The often-cited risk of abuse of access to information can be addressed through self-regulation of media practitioners, who have been the main advocates of the legislation.

Further, the Government introduced the National Legal Aid Policy in 2018 to serve as a framework to guide, among others, the provision of legal aid services by CSOs and community-based organisations. The overall objective of the Policy is to strengthen prosecution services, enhance access to justice, and promote human rights. Implementation of the Policy has seen the enrolment of 280 paralegals for training under various categories, at the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education and Cavendish University. Further, the Government established service units and paralegal desks in selected districts. This has strengthened legal empowerment of rights-holders and their access to legal assistance in civil and criminal justice cases. Special focus is on the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities. The paralegals also contribute to improving legal literacy through participation in awareness campaigns and civic education. The number of people being assisted with legal aid services has increased from 2,314 in 2018 to 9,229 in 2019.

Table 5-23: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Limited access to public information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expedite enactment of the long-delayed legislation on access to information b) Implement a sanctions system to deter misuse of information c) Implement systems to ensure validation of information disseminated in the public domain
2. Negative public perception on corruption in the public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Introduce/enhance the implementation of service delivery charters in the public sector b) Empower the investigative and prosecutorial arms of government
3. CRVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhance implementation of CRVS in Zambia b) Build capacities of local authorities and communities in CRVS c) Capacity building in the utilisation of vital statistics at both national and local levels d) Forge mutually beneficial relationships between producers and users of vital statistics
4. Gender-based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continued implementation of awareness and empowerment programmes regarding female self-efficacy b) Build on the successes of the Victim Support Unit of the Zambia Police Service by scaling up: c) Fast track courts to four more provinces; d) Village-based one stop centres; e) Community and men's networks; and f) Savings and lending groups (women's and girls' empowerment)



**SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals:
Strengthen the means of
implementation and revitalise the
global partnership for sustainable
development**

5.13 Overview of SDG 17

International collaboration is key to the success of the SDGs. Financing requirements for the implementation of the SDGs in Zambia is from a combination of financing sources, which include domestic revenues, domestic and foreign borrowing, and private sector engagement through mechanisms such as public private partnerships, FDI and cooperating partners. Among the interventions being implemented to enhance resource mobilisation for implementation of the SDGs are: Taxation reforms to alternative revenue sources and strengthening tax compliance and administration; Reprioritising expenditures; Leveraging remittances from the diaspora; and Providing incentives for domestic savings.

Indicator 17.1.1: Total Government Revenue as a Percentage of GDP

The proportion of total Government revenue as a percentage of GDP remained static, at an average of 18 percent over the 2014-2018 period. The proportion was 18.9 percent in both 2014 and 2015, declined slightly to 18.2 percent in 2016, declined to 17 percent in 2017, and 19.7 percent in 2018. The domestic resource mobilisation strategies have not generated the required domestic resources for service delivery. This could be attributed to subdued economic activity and consequent low local ability to mobilise resources. This in turn is reflective of the recorded low economic growth during the 2014-2018 period.

Indicator 17.3.1: Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

There has been a consistent downward trend in FDI, reversing a period of steadily rising FDI in the years prior to 2015. The decline in FDI between 2015 and 2018 reflects an unfavourable business environment, marked by subdued economic growth, which has been characterised by droughts and consequently energy shortages. Available data shows that FDI peaked in 2010 at US\$2,824.7 million, and thereafter consistently declined, reaching the lowest level of US\$1179.6 million in 2017 (Figure 5-21). The declining FDI has serious consequence for general economic conditions in Zambia and especially employment creation, which is key to eradication of poverty, an ultimate goal of the SDGs.

Figure 5-21: Foreign Direct Investments

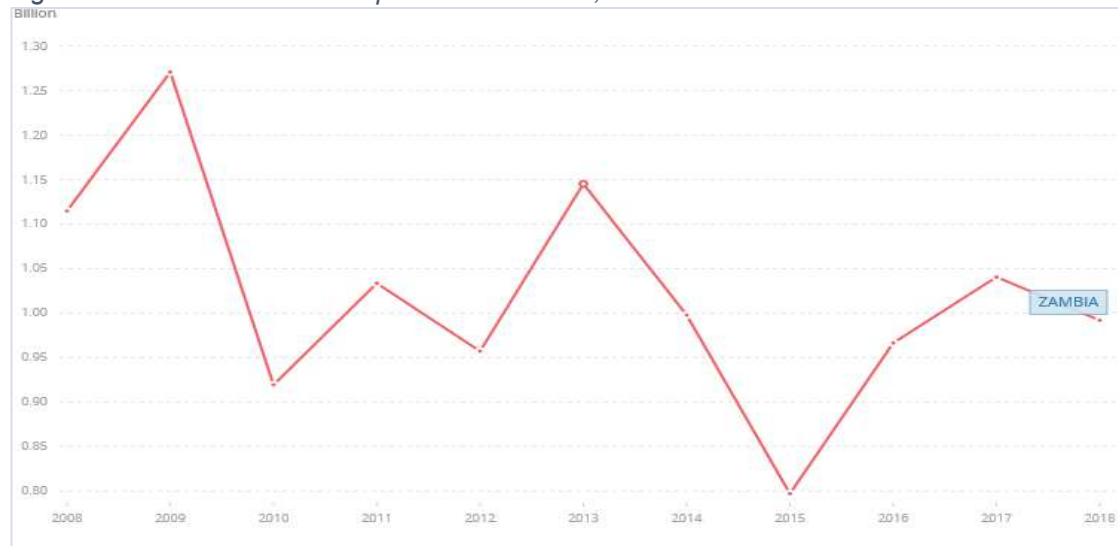


Source: Foreign Private Investment and Perceptions Survey (2017 and 2018)

5.14 Official Development Assistance

The flow of ODA into the country, though fluctuating has been generally declining. The flow was at its highest when the country was still classified as a highly indebted and poor country. The post Highly Indebted Poor Countries period witnessed an economic rebound, marked by positive economic growth and increased FDI; these contributed to the country to graduate to lower middle-income status. While the country benefitted from the combined effects of reduced debt burden and economic resuscitation, it gradually witnessed a reduction of ODA inflows (Figure 5-22). As the figure shows, the downward trend has persisted, with 2015 having recorded the lowest level. This is happening at a time when economic growth has slackened.

Figure 5-22: Overseas Development Assistance, 2008-2018



Source: World Bank, 2018

Indicator 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

At the height of the debt crisis in the 1990s, the total national debt was estimated at US\$7 billion. The debt was written off under the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative, resulting in very low national debt of US\$0.5 billion at the end of 2006. The debt cancellation accorded the country fiscal relief, which facilitated improved financing of social services.

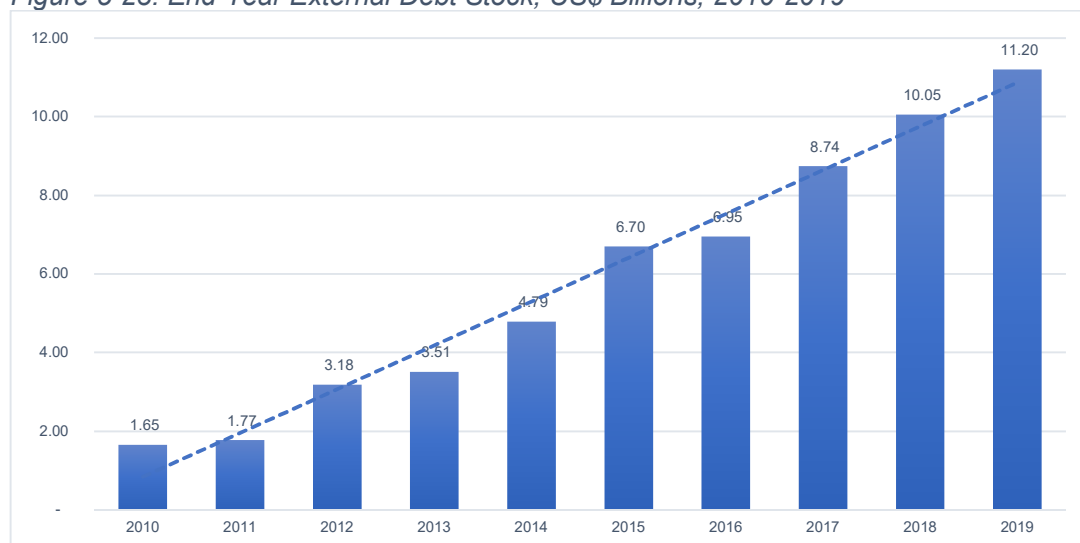
Zambia achieved lower middle-income country status in 2011 during a decade (2004-2014) of impressive economic growth, averaging 7.4 percent per year. However, growth only benefitted a small segment of the urban population and had limited impact on poverty. In a bid to address decades of under-investment, the Government embarked on a massive infrastructure development programme that was financed by the contracting of new, mostly non-concessional debt. The country launched its first sovereign bond for US\$750 million in 2012. Since then, two more bonds amounting to US\$1million and US\$1.25 million (in 2013 and 2015 respectively) were launched. These sources of capital provided relief in the short to medium term.

The ratio of debt to GDP was estimated at an average of 21 percent between 2001 and 2010. In 2011, the ratio was estimated at 20.5 percent, rising to 25.5 percent in 2012, 28.6 percent in 2013 and 35.2 percent in 2014. Public and publicly guaranteed debt has nearly quadrupled from 20.5 percent of GDP in 2011 to 78.1 percent of GDP in 2018, driven by accumulation of both external and domestic debt. The debt composition has also significantly shifted towards commercial and Non-Paris Club bilateral creditors, exacerbating the country's exposure to exchange rate and market risks. Overall public and publicly guaranteed debt is expected to increase to 98 percent of GDP by 2020, while external public and publicly guaranteed debt service obligations over 2019-21 are estimated at \$4.6 billion.

The 2019 World Bank/International Monetary Fund Debt Sustainability Analysis concludes that Zambia's risk of overall and external debt distress remains very high and that public debt under the current policies is on an unsustainable path. Domestic debt, excluding arrears as at December 2017 was K48.3 billion from K32.0 billion in 2016. Domestic debt service was K4.02 billion in 2016 compared to K2.95 billion in 2014. Heightened borrowing activity is mainly for infrastructure projects. Debt service is being exacerbated by the depreciation of the Kwacha against major tradable currencies.

The stock of both external and domestic debt has been increasing rapidly since 2010. Notably, the external debt stock increased to US\$11.2 billion in 2019, from US\$6.70 billion in 2015 representing a 67.2 percent increase. The lowest external debt stock, at US\$1.65 billion, was recorded in 2010.

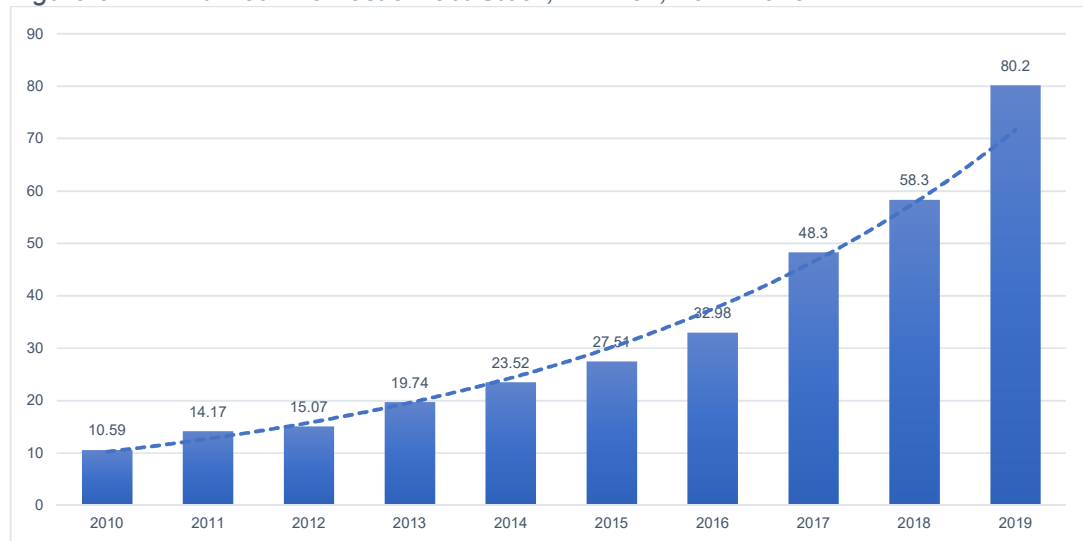
Figure 5-23: End Year External Debt Stock, US\$ Billions, 2010-2019



Source: MoF/BoZ, 2019

The domestic debt stock also rose from a low of K10.59 billion in 2010 to K80.2 billion in 2019. However, significant increases were observed after 2015, when the debt stock more than trebled to K80.2 billion in 2019. Debt service payments associated with the loans have resulted in the shrinkage of fiscal space as discussed earlier. Further, the country is increasingly having difficulty in meeting debt service obligations as they fall due, exemplified by the recent default on an African Development Bank Group loan of just US\$1.4 million. A number of loans to other creditors are also in default.

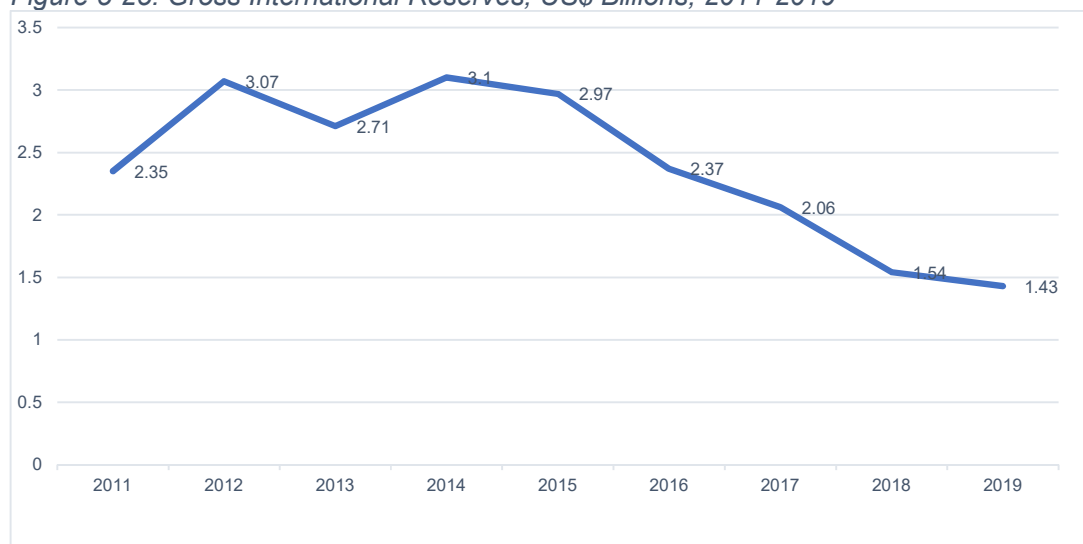
Figure 5-24: End Year Domestic Debt Stock, K'Billion, 2011-2019



Source: MoF/BoZ, 2019

Gross international reserves recorded the highest level in 2014 at US\$3.1 billion. However, rising debt service and related costs have been key drivers to the decline in international reserves of almost 50 percent from over US\$3 billion in 2014 to around US\$1.4 billion in 2019. With debt service projected at US\$1.2 billion in 2020, the reserve position continues to face severe stress. This in turn will increase the vulnerability of the country to external shocks, and occurrence of intermittent episodes of exchange rate volatility.

Figure 5-25: Gross International Reserves, US\$ Billions, 2011-2019



Source: MoF/BoZ (Ministry of Finance, 2019)

Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet

The data from the Zambia Information and Communication Agency (ZICTA) shows that the increase in the proportion using fixed internet was less than the rate of increase of the population using mobile internet. In 2016, 22 percent of the population had access to fixed internet; this remained almost the same in 2017 and rose to 30 percent in 2018. The use of mobile-based internet, on the other hand, rose from 32 percent in 2016, 47 percent in 2017, and reached almost 60 percent in 2018 (Table 5-24).

Table 5-24: Internet Usage and Mobile Broadband Penetration, 2016-2018

Internet usage	2016	2017	2018
Internet subscription – fixed wireless	35,919	36,121	44,711
Prop. of fixed Internet users per 100 inhabitants	0.22	0.23	0.30
Mobile Internet users - Smartphones/Blackberry/Dongos	5,156,365	7,723,855	9,825,716
Prop. Mobile Internet users per 100 inhabitants	0.32	0.47	0.58
Internet users – fixed wireless & mobile Internet usage	5,192,284	7,759,976	9,870,427

Source: ZICTA, 2018

The increase in mobile internet use is mirrored by data on telephone connectivity. A review of telephone subscriptions shows that there has been an increase in mobile cellular connectivity. This has been facilitated by the wide availability, ease of access to, and falling prices of cellular phones. In 2018, the mobile subscriber base grew by 15.1 percent to 15,470,270 from 13,438,539 subscriptions in 2017. The growth represents an improvement in penetration rate to 91.6 percent in 2018 from 81.9 percent in 2017 due to increased competition among the operators. In addition, the emergence of machine to machine services, such as point of sale and other data-based devices that utilise sim cards drove growth in penetration.

The increase in cellular phone usage presents opportunities for both business and social service delivery. Both the private and public sectors are increasingly using mobile technology to facilitate transactions, be it information sharing between producers and buyers or delivery of health, education, and other social services. Mobile phones are increasingly being used to facilitate business, especially in the financial sector where mobile banking has become commonplace. The increasing financial intermediation in rural areas is testimony to the power of mobile phones. Exploiting the full potential of mobile phone technology will, to a large extent, depend on overcoming lingering impediments, such as internet speed and connectivity in rural settings.

Table 5-25: Challenges and Required Actions

Challenges	Required Actions
1. Reduced fiscal space	a) Enhance implementation of domestic resource mobilisation strategy b) Improve allocation and utilisation efficiencies of government agencies c) Improve the environment for FDI, which will in turn broaden the tax base
2. Limited infrastructure and technical capacity to expand communication	a) Improve supportive infrastructure in order to expand access to internet, especially in rural areas b) Scale up e-governance in public institutions c) Improve infrastructure in public institutions in order to expand access
3. Limited information management capacities in sectors	a) Scale up supervisory role of ZamStats over other producers of data b) Improve the capacities of government units to collect, collate and analyse data c) Scale up implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
4.	
5. COVID-19 induced disruption of public and private functions	Assess options for scale up of proven cost-effective models of service delivery (e-learning, e-health care, e-governance, e-commerce, and e-banking)

Box 6: Increasing Non-Tax Revenues through E-Government Payment Systems

The nation is currently facing extreme financial challenges, which have been exacerbated by the crippling national debt. Government capacity to pay for goods and services has been severely constrained. The Government has embarked on resource mobilisation in order to minimise the risk to service provision. Efforts are being made to broaden the low tax base by enhancing non-tax revenues through E-payment platforms.

For example, the Government through the Ministry of Finance and SMART Zambia Institute is implementing the Government Service Bus, which is meant to integrate new and existing information technology solutions in order to enhance non-tax revenue collection. This measure will reduce human contact and increase transparency, efficiency, security and compliance by utilising solutions such as mobile payments, debit cards, vendor terminals, e-Kiosks, Electronic Points of Sale, web-based online payments and electronic bank transfers.

Immigration services: In 2018, the Department of Immigration introduced an E-platform for immigration services. Through this innovation, the Government was able to collect US\$1 million in additional service fees in the first six months of implementation, representing 41 percent growth from collections in 2017. Additionally, there was a 98.5 percent cost saving through the switch from paper booklets to digital permits and laminated cards. Riding on this experience, E-Government Payment Systems will be replicated for road and vehicle licensing and land services.

Road and vehicle licensing: Road and vehicle licensing, which was previously manually done has migrated to electronic platforms. Further, traffic officers will be issued with point of sale machines, to facilitate transactions for traffic offences or violations. These changes are expected to enhance the collection of non-tax revenues, raise public finances and support service delivery.

Land services: Through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Government will introduce online payment systems for ground rent and other related services. It is expected that once this measure is implemented, it will lead to improved capacity to collect fees associated with land ownership, and improved timeliness in collection of ground rates and other land ownership associated fees.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Conclusion

After endorsing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Zambia has undertaken policy and institutional changes to facilitate the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs programmes. The political leadership has demonstrated the will to domesticate the SDGs by ensuring that both the Executive and Legislative arms of the Government are actively engaged. At the implementation level, the NDCC brings together key sector stakeholders a, civil society, the private sector, cooperating partners, the youth, women and vulnerable groups. These constituencies participate at both the national and sub-national levels in a multi-sectoral approach.

The multi-sector, Cluster-based platform has been useful in ensuring ownership and achieving economies in mobilisation and utilisation of resources. At the national level, the NDCC is very active and functions as a referral point for Cluster Advisory Groups. Further, outcomes of the NDCC meetings feed into Presidential Quarterly Reviews, which are chaired by the Republican President. At the local level, the Provincial Development Coordinating Committees and the District Development Coordinating Committees carry out their supervisory and implementation roles; the links to the Ward Development Committees are, however, limited principally because of the low level of devolution.

There is evidence of success towards attainment of some SDG targets, though there are equally challenges that need to be addressed in order to raise the probability of success. These include deepening SDG ownership and awareness, especially at local levels; institutional changes; programme and policy reforms; and addressing monitoring and evaluation requirements.

6.2 Next Steps

Key policy and legislative reforms are essential to achieve a supportive institutional framework for SDG implementation: these include Planning and budgeting; Public finance management; Access to information; Monitoring and evaluation; and Decentralisation.

The multi-sectoral approach should be institutionalised by devolution of power to local authorities; capacity building of Government units and civil society in the implementation of the SDGs; and strengthening stakeholder participation in SDG monitoring and evaluation at national, provincial and district levels.

Addressing the data needs for planning, monitoring and evaluation, on-going strategies to enhance the capacity of the central statistics agency, ZamStats should be sustained, so that national capacity for informed decision-making is achieved. Further, ZamStats must be supported to raise management information system capacities of other Government agencies.

Deepening SDG awareness and partnership is especially key for the for-profit private sector, whose involvement could be improved. The public finance challenges which have been unveiled in the report underpin this urgency.

The success of any national plan is contingent on the prevailing and projected socio-economic circumstances. Unexpected circumstances sometimes impact plans and change the implementation path and attendant results. The implementation of the 7NDP has been impacted by three major shocks: COVID-19; decline in economic performance and rising national debt; and climate change. The key lesson from these shocks is that the country should raise the level of preparedness.

In the final analysis, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is about putting people at the centre of the development process; people must be the means and end of all the interventions. The extent of ownership of the SDGs by the community is critical to their success. There must be deepening of

engagement with communities and creation of a critical mass to mobilise social capital, a vital prerequisite for successful people-based interventions. The people must own, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the SGDs, in a manner that takes care of all their unique needs, especially the unemployed, marginal youth, under-powered women, under-served groups and neglected population groups.

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