

COUNTRY FACTSHEET



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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ZAMBIA 2019

Embassy of Switzerland
Swiss Cooperation Office for Southern Africa



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SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Switzerland is contributing towards reducing poverty and vulnerability in Zambia by increasing resilience through enhanced food security; reducing new HIV infections among young people and by promoting employment among young people, who represent more than half of the population.

Context

Zambia's economy relies heavily on copper mining. The majority of people in the country live in rural areas, where they depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. Despite impressive performance in economic growth and global economic competitiveness, Zambia's indicators in terms of human development have been disappointing. Poverty levels remain stubbornly high. The main reasons for higher poverty levels in rural areas include inability to afford agricultural inputs, while for people in urban areas, low salaries and wages, lack of employment and lack of capital for business are cited as major reasons.

Switzerland's support

Switzerland contributes an average of US\$2.5 million per year from the Regional Programme to Zam-

bia, which represents 11.3 percent of the total regional budget. In the HIV/AIDS sector this support complements the efforts of the Zambian Government to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat and important driver for poverty. Target group in this field are young people between 10-24 years. The main focus remains on preventive measures.

In the food security sector, Switzerland has been supporting smallholder farmers in Zambia for the last 10 years. Focus has been on harmonizing seed laws in order to create a wider market for both national and regional seed suppliers. Taking into consideration the impact of climate change and the need to improve forecasting, prevention, mitigation and recovery from adverse effects of natural disasters, Switzerland is also contributing towards vulnerability assessment and analysis.

SDC PROGRAMMES

Food security

Switzerland supports the **R4 Rural Resilience Initiative** in Zambia. The programme, implemented by the World Food Programme enables poor rural households to better protect and improve their food security situation and livelihood through a comprehensive risk management approach, which include work for assets, weather based insurance, access to loans and credit as well as savings.

In addition, support is also provided to the **Zambia Vulnerability Assessment and Committee (VAC)**, which has provided timely information on droughts and flooding enabling authorities and the humanitarian community to react quickly to assist the most vulnerable and food insecure. The programming is also focusing on integrating climate change, poverty and resilience, building VAC capacities and gradually handing over the lead to SADC Secretariat and its Member States.



In the food security domain, smallholder farmers are promoting commercially viable community seed production to improve food and nutrition security.

Through the **Seed and Knowledge Initiative** (SKI) programme, Switzerland supports food self sufficiency through the revival and strengthening of community-based seed and knowledge systems to ensure that farmers continue to exchange, save, sell and have access to diverse and adapted indigenous seeds. The programme has increased its engagement with government ministries and agencies on the national agricultural policy, the biosafety laws and seed related legislation.

The **Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture** programme is working to build the capacity of local stakeholders to track budgets and ensure that the allocated funds reach the local level and that there is indeed an improvement in service delivery.

HIV/Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights

Through the **Safeguard Young People Programme**, Switzerland contributes to the reduction of HIV/AIDS and improved sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of adolescents and youths aged between 10 and 24 years. Focus is on scaling up SRHR/HIV models that increase knowledge, skills and values to protect young people. Interventions are both at policy level to improve legislative environment in addressing young people's issues and activity level.

The **Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative** helps improve the psychosocial wellbeing and mental wellness of children, and young people to mitigate the negative impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty, and other vulnerabilities such as HIV positive adolescents, child marriages, and violence against children. It's helping the integration of psychosocial support into social services, health and education sectors and also to non-governmental organisations. Through the support from Switzerland, Zambia runs a successful Teachers Diploma in Psychosocial Care,



The HIV/SRHR programme is working towards reducing new infections among young people and is ensuring that they adhere to treatment for continued viral suppression.

Support and Protection.

Switzerland also supports the **Care and Support for Teaching and Learning** that ensures children and youth in school access care and support, HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programmes and services, particularly vulnerable girls and young women so as to improve education outcomes. It focuses on preservice teacher training for sustainability and achieving a national coverage.

Through the SRHR Africa Trust, Switzerland supports community capacity strengthening to map and address HIV and SRHR needs of adolescents, women and young people. To this end, SAT works with government and civil society organizations at national and grassroots levels. Ministries of Education and Health are supported to advocate for regional policies and frameworks to improve integrated service delivery of HIV and SRHR.

Transversal themes: HIV/AIDS, climate change, governance and gender

Switzerland places high importance in achieving **gender equality** and improvements in governance issues across all programmes. **Gender equality** is a priority at programme and institutional level. **HIV/SRHR** is mainstreamed in all food security activities, in order to reduce the burden of labour for people living with HIV. Three of the most important dimensions of good **governance** (non-discrimination, participation, accountability) are also mainstreamed in all programme activities working closely with Government structures at various levels. **Climate smart** approaches are also used in programme design and implementation in order to address the specific vulnerabilities in various communities.

Partners

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| World Food Programme | United Nations Population Fund |
| Biowatch South Africa; | Regional Psychosocial Support |
| Africa Centre for Agrobiodiversity; | Initiative |
| Action Aid International | Media in Education Trust |
| SRHR Africa Trust | |

Facts & figures (source World Bank Indicators)

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| Surface area: | 752,618 km ² |
| Population: | 16.60 million (2016) |
| Annual Population growth: | 3% |
| Life expectancy at birth: | 54 years |
| Adult illiteracy rate: | 62% |
| Per Capita GDP: | 1,400USD |

Impressum

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