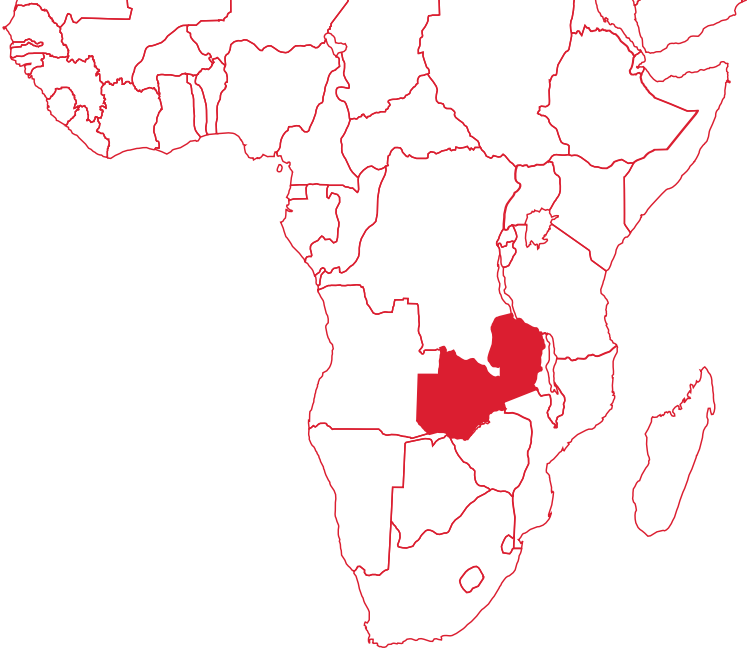


Ireland's Partner Countries

Factsheet



Zambia

Zambia is a landlocked country in southern Africa, bordered by Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Zambia has high plateaus, hills and mountains, and several large rivers, including the Zambezi. It is famous for the spectacular Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest waterfalls. The climate is tropical, except in areas of high altitude, with a distinct rainy season from October to April.

Formerly Northern Rhodesia, Zambia gained its independence from Britain in 1964. Kenneth Kaunda, its first President, oversaw an era of one-party rule lasting 27 years. In this period, Zambia went from being one of sub-Saharan Africa's wealthiest countries to one of its poorest.

Multiparty elections in 1991 were won by the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy, which continues to dominate Zambian politics. Following his election in 2001, President Levy Mwanawasa worked to reduce corruption, resulting in the successful prosecution of several cases. Upon his death in 2008, Mwanawasa was succeeded by his Vice President Rupiah Banda.

Development in Zambia

Since its independence in 1964, Zambia has moved from being the world's third largest copper producer and potentially one of Africa's richest countries, to now one of its poorest. The reasons for this reversal include Zambia's colonial legacy, the 1975 fall in copper prices, mismanagement, poor governance and debt.

Additional challenges for the country have been impact of receiving more than 280,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, and an HIV and AIDS pandemic which has resulted in about one million deaths. These factors have all contributed to deep economic and social instability.

However, progress has been made: economic growth rates have averaged 6 per cent since 2005, and life expectancy has increased from 37 years in 2003 to 49 years in 2011. There are indications that Zambia will achieve the Millennium Development Goals in relation to hunger, education, gender, and HIV and AIDS.

The challenge for Zambia as copper prices continue to fall is how to maintain the economic stability required to overcome persistent issues of poverty, HIV and AIDS, and gender inequality.

Irish Aid's poverty reduction work in Zambia

Zambia became a partner country of Irish Aid in 1980. In 2010, Irish Aid provided almost €25 million to Zambia. Irish Aid works with the Government of Zambia on improving access to education, particularly for the most vulnerable children. Between 2006 and 2009, an additional 360,000 children had enrolled in school and the proportion of pupils reaching grade 8 in primary school had increased by over 40 per cent by 2010.

Tackling inequality is an important feature of the Irish Aid programme, which focuses on vulnerable people, such as those affected by HIV and AIDS and gender inequality.

Irish Aid also supports Zambia in the area of good governance, state accountability and citizen participation through support to Government institutions, civil society and the independent media. Recent international assessments have reported that Zambia's performance is improving in areas of anti-corruption, human development and ease of doing business.

Comparison table

Source: UNDP, 2011 ¹	Ireland	Zambia
UNDP Human Development Index Rank (of 187 countries)	7	164
Population	4.5 million	13.5 million
GNI (Gross National Income) per capita	US \$29,332	US \$1,254
Life expectancy from birth	80 years	49 years
Number of doctors per 100,00 people²	310	10
HIV prevalence³ (15-49 years)	0.2%	15.2%

¹UNDP Human Development Report 2011 (November 2011)

²UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

³UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

Facts about Zambia Did you know...?

Full name:	Republic of Zambia
Head of State:	President Michael Chilufya Sata
Capital:	Lusaka
Area:	752,618 sq km
Major languages:	(all official) English, Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, Luanda, Kaonde, Luvale
Major religions:	Christianity, Islam, Hinduism
Monetary unit:	Zambian kwacha
Main exports:	Copper, cobalt, electricity, tobacco, cotton

Find out more

www.irishaid.ie - Learn more here about Irish Aid's work in Zambia

www.undp.org.zm - the United Nations Development Programme in Zambia

www.concern.net and www.trocaire.org - Both Concern and Trocaire work in Zambia and have background information about the country on their websites



Irish Aid is the Government's programme of assistance to developing countries, and is administered through the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

You can visit the
Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre,
27 - 31 Upper O'Connell Street,
Dublin 1.
Phone number: 01 854 69 20

Organised visits to the Centre, including workshops, are available for school and college groups by arrangement.

