



FACT SHEET

Health, Population & Nutrition

USAID's health program supports Zambia's National Health Strategic Plan to combat malaria and tuberculosis; improve maternal and child health; promote family planning and reproductive health; and, prevent HIV and provide care and treatment for those affected by AIDS. USAID supports capacity development to promote behavior change, increase demand for and access to quality health services, strengthen the health system, and procure key commodities. USAID works through partners that provide direct assistance to the public and private sectors throughout Zambia.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zambia overwhelms the health system. USAID, under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, supports comprehensive activities under the Ministry of Health and National AIDS Council national plans. In five provinces, USAID partners work directly with the Ministry of Health to expand quality services for: prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, HIV counseling and testing, anti-retroviral therapy, and other treatment and care. USAID also supports private sector HIV counseling and testing through the *New Start* network of clinics. At the national level, USAID invests in the supply chain system for HIV/AIDS-related commodities and health worker retention programs. USAID procures anti-retroviral drugs, HIV test kits, and HIV-related lab equipment and supplies for the public sector.

Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Zambia, with nearly 4.3 million cases and 50,000 deaths per year. It is responsible for one quarter of childhood deaths and places a huge burden on the health system, accounting for almost 50 percent of hospitalizations nationwide. USAID support to the National Malaria Control Program focuses on the most vulnerable: pregnant women and children under age five. USAID helps expand availability and use of proven preventive measures, including insecticide-treated bed nets and targeted indoor residual spraying, addresses the dangers of malaria in pregnancy by reaching pregnant women with preventive treatment, and strengthens diagnosis and treatment of malaria—especially for children. USAID procures insecticide-treated bed nets, insecticides for indoor residual spraying, diagnostic equipment, and other commodities for the national malaria program.

Tuberculosis is another major cause of morbidity and mortality in Zambia. The incidence of tuberculosis in Zambia is on the rise, with new infections fueled by a 70 percent HIV co-infection rate. USAID supports the Ministry of Health to strengthen Zambia's capacity to deliver proven, cost-effective interventions. USAID's partners work in three provinces to expand and enhance Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) and improve the co-management of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Fast Facts-2006

1. 729 per 100,000 live births: Maternal mortality rate
2. 168 per 1000 live births: Child mortality rate
3. 43.4%: Percent of deliveries attended by a medically-trained provider
4. 23.7%: Percent of pregnant women who slept under an insecticide-treated net the previous night
5. 25.3%: Percent of married women currently using modern family planning methods



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Zambia's maternal mortality ratio is one of the highest in the world. Although under-five mortality has been decreasing, it still remains at an unacceptably high level. USAID supports priority activities under Zambia's National Health Strategic Plan via technical assistance and training that strengthen antenatal and emergency obstetric care, address childhood immunization and micronutrient needs, expand an integrated approach to managing childhood illnesses, and make clean drinking water more available.



Child receiving semi-annual dose of vitamin A.
(Photo: USAID/Zambia).

Investing in family planning and other reproductive health services is vital in mitigating the economic and environmental impact of population growth, and in improving maternal and child health—especially with Zambia's high HIV prevalence. Family planning and reproductive health services are not uniformly available around the country and are not always well-linked to HIV/AIDS interventions. USAID helps achieve Zambian family planning and reproductive health goals by providing technical assistance and training to expand access to family planning services in the public sector, and through social marketing and support of communication for behavior change.

USAID's partners assist the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to:

- Develop and distribute information, education, and communication materials to promote healthier behaviors
- Mobilize communities to understand and advocate for health services
- Socially market subsidized health products
- Train and supervise health workers
- Develop national strategies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures
- Strengthen national health supply chain, planning and management information systems
- Support the national Demographic & Health Survey and other surveys

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