



COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID/Zambia

USAID provides more than 1,200 scholarships to Zambian girls who would otherwise not be able to pay secondary school fees. This program also offers education in HIV/AIDS, adolescent reproductive health, and life skills to girls, while giving them information to help other students and community members learn about these issues. The underlying goal is to empower girls and raise their self-esteem.

ZAMBIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1964
Population: 11.4 million (2004)
Income per person: \$450 (yr)
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN ZAMBIA

www.usaid.gov/zm

OVERVIEW

Zambia faces daunting challenges to maintain broad-based economic, political, and social development. With annual per capita income of \$450 in 2005, some 78 percent of its people live below the poverty line with little access to basic health and education services. The country's legacy of corruption, limited foreign and domestic investment, and sporadic drought have hampered growth in business and trade. Despite these overwhelming challenges, there are some promising signs. In 2005, donors forgave \$3.8 billion of Zambia's public debt; and, in 2006, a rapid rise in the world price for copper, Zambia's leading export, also augmented government resources.



USAID assistance in Zambia concentrates on improving the health of Zambians, raising the quality of basic education for more school-aged children, enhancing private sector competitiveness in agriculture and natural resources, and holding government officials more accountable to their citizens.

PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

With more than 67 percent of the workforce in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, agriculture is central to Zambia's economy. But high transportation costs, weak market infrastructure, uneven production, inconsistent quality, and cyclical drought make growth in this sector difficult. Through a comprehensive business-oriented approach, USAID addresses these constraints by strengthening the Zambian financial sector's contribution to economic growth, increasing participation in global trade and investment, improving economic policy, enhancing sustainable management of natural resources, increasing food security, and promoting public-private alliances. For example, USAID helped introduce a "warehouse receipt system," which enables farmers to take out loans using their crops as collateral. As of June 2005, loans worth \$2.18 million had been disbursed against warehouse receipts.

IMPROVING BASIC EDUCATION

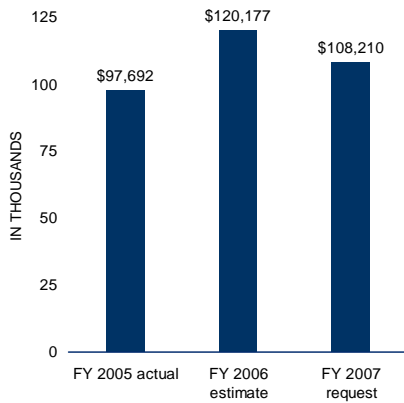
Only 60 percent of Zambian children who start primary school actually complete it. USAID's program helps to increase access to education for



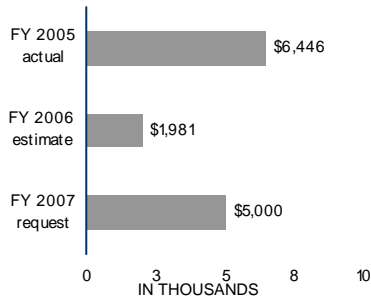
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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA



USAID FOOD AID TO ZAMBIA



For more information, see the
 FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mission Director
 James F. Bednar
 P.O. Box 32481
 Lusaka 10101
 Zambia
 Tel: 260-1-254-303

Katie Donohoe
 Zambia Desk Officer
 202-712-1518
 Email: kdonohoe@usaid.gov

girls and other vulnerable children, improves the health and nutrition of pupils, supports teacher training, and strengthens the Ministry of Education's policy reforms. The interactive radio instruction (IRI) program, which uses radio to broadcast lessons, is a vital way to reach school-age children who are not enrolled in government schools. In 2005, 893 IRI centers enrolled up to 55,000 children who otherwise had no access to education. USAID also trains teachers to deliver medications for the treatment of bilharzia (a parasitic disease) and vitamin pills to improve students' health.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ZAMBIANS

Eighteen percent of Zambian children die before their fifth birthday, and an estimated 15 percent of Zambians between ages 15 and 49 are HIV-positive. USAID is helping the country address these and other health issues in communities, and nationwide. USAID further supports vitamin A supplementation through twice-yearly national Child Health Weeks to ensure the development of children's immune systems.

As a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS, USAID support has led to over 20,000 individuals regularly receiving antiretroviral treatment. In 2005, USAID supported the launch of new and strengthened prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services in 81 facilities. To date, almost 25,000 pregnant women have received PMTCT services in 2006 through USAID support. Additionally, USAID/Zambia has integrated HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment education in all of its work.

INCREASING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Promoting open democracy and good governance remains a substantive challenge in Zambia. Fighting corruption is one of the Zambian government's top three stated priorities (along with encouraging economic growth and combating HIV/AIDS). The USAID democracy and governance program in Zambia supports legal, policy, and institutional reforms to develop a more accountable government. Core activities focus on increasing civil society demand for transparency, greater public sector accountability, and helping to strengthen oversight institutions.