

## Country Profile

**Area:** 753,000 km<sup>2</sup> (about twice the size of Japan)  
**Population:** 19.61mil (annual growth rate (2010-22) 3.4%) (2022 Census) **(19th in SSA)**  
**Ethnic groups:** 73 tribes (Tonga, Nyanja, Bemba, Lunda)  
**Religion:** Christianity (nearly 80%), others (e.g. Islam, Hinduism, traditional religions)  
**Languages:** English (official), Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga  
**GDP:** 28bilUSD (2013) → 20.9bil (2016) → 21.2 bil (2021) (nominal, WB) **(20th in SSA)**  
**Real GDP growth:** 1.4 (2019) → -2.8% (2020) → 3.6% (2021)  
**GNi per capita:** 1,760 (2013) → 1,370 (2016) → 1,040USD (2021) (WB) downgraded from low-middle to low income country in 2022 (WB)  
**HDI:** 0.571 (2016) → 0.584 (2019) **(14th in SSA)** (UNDP)  
**Unemployment Rate:** 8.6% (2013) → 10.9% (2016) → 13.0% (2021) (WB)  
**Poverty Rate:** 54.4% (2015, WB)  
**Gini Coefficient:** 57.1 (2015, WB)  
**Geopolitics:** Landlocked country surrounded by 8 countries. Lusaka, the capital city, is located at the nexus of international corridors, including the Nacala Corridor and the North-South Corridor connecting to Durban.



## Development Policy and Planning

### National Long-term plan “Vision 2030”

The goal is to become “A Prosperous Middle Income Nation by 2030”, with specific targets such as to reduce national poverty head count to less than 20% of the population.

### Medium-term plan “Eight National Development Plan 2022-2026”

“Socio-economic transformation for improved livelihoods” and the key development areas are;

- 1) Economic transformation and job creation:** increased trade and private sector investment for higher value addition and diversification. Agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing are identified as key sectors with reference to ICT promotion.
- 2) Human & social development:** improving access to education, health, water and sanitation in order to develop a highly skilled and healthy population.
- 3) Environmental sustainability:** promoting green growth for sustainable use of nature and enhanced resilience to climate change.
- 4) Good governance environment:** promoting the rule of law and constitutionalism.

## Politics and Diplomacy

### Political System

- ◆ Independent from the UK in 1964, the country introduced a multi-party system in 1991 shifting from a one-party system for 20 years. Since then, democratic politics has taken root, having survived seven general elections without major disruption.
- ◆ The Patriotic Front (PF) was in power from 2011-2021, however due to huge debt and a sluggish economy, Hakainde Hichilema under the UPND won the presidential election in August 2021 and power was peacefully transferred.

### Diplomacy

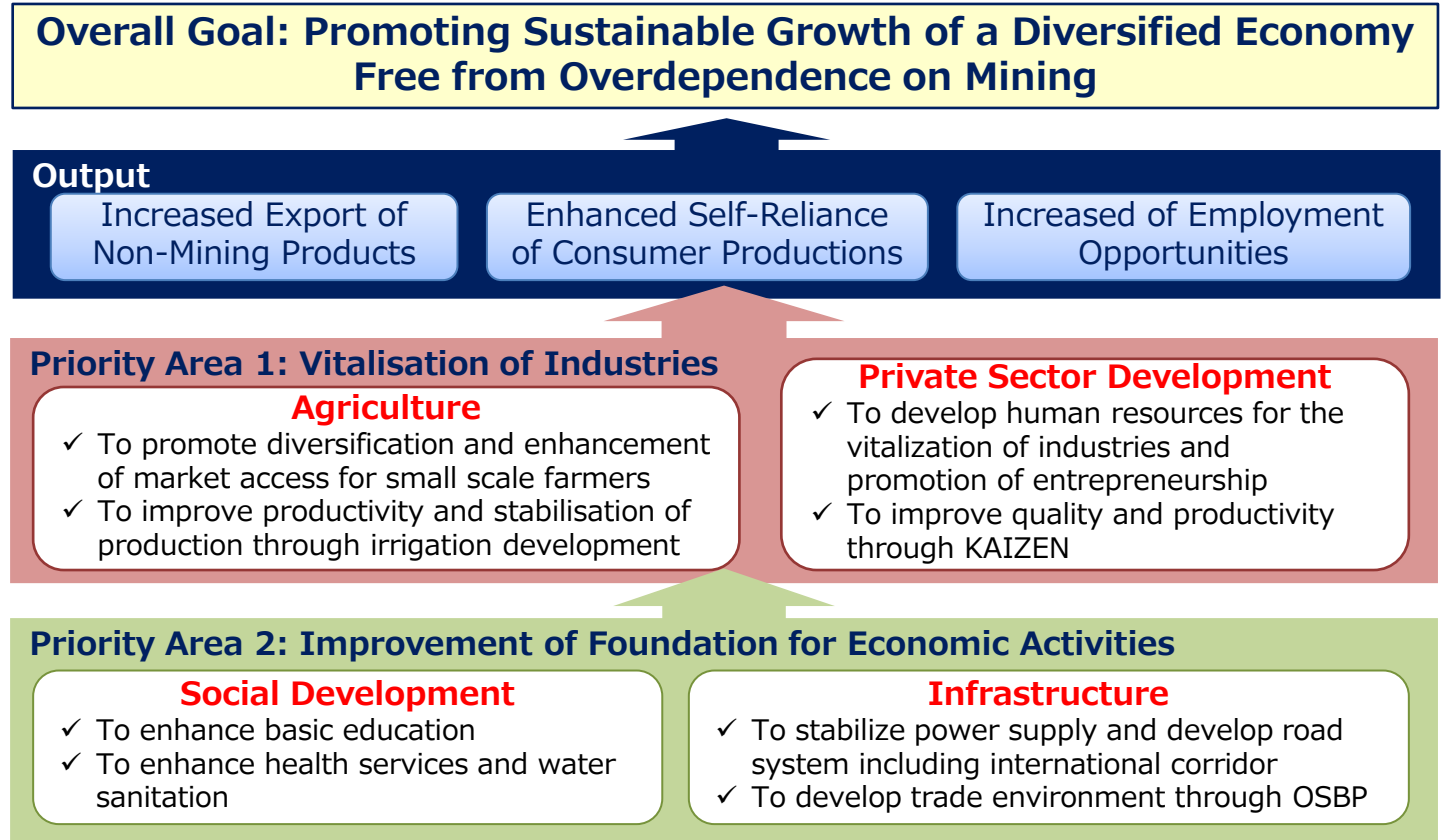
- ◆ Strives to maintain good relations and peace diplomacy with neighbouring countries, contributing to peace and stability in the Southern African region. (i.e. mediating the Angolan Peace Accord (1994), promoting the Congolese People's Peace Accord (1999), open to receiving refugees from Angola and other countries).
- ◆ A key member of the SADC and COMESA (HQ in Lusaka).
- ◆ Policy dialogue between Zambia and Japan was held in Aug 2022. JICA's cooperation strategy is in line with the 8NDP.

## Economy and Finance

- ◆ Monoculture economy dependent on copper (approx. 70% of export values).
- ◆ GDP growth has gradually declined since 2010, when it reached the highest of 10.3% (2010), and fell to -2.8% in 2020 due to the COVID-19, but recovered to 3.6% in 2021, mainly because of high copper prices in international market.
- ◆ Debt has grown due to budget deficits and huge infrastructure investment; defaulted on Euro bond in Nov. 2020 and applied for debt restructuring to the IMF in Dec. 2020 and to the Common Framework (CF) in Feb. 2021; in August 2022, agreed a 3-year Extended Credit Facility of approx. 1.3bilUSD in Dec. 2022.

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021
Real GDP growth (%)	4.0	1.4	▲2.8	3.6
Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	▲8.3	▲9.4	▲12.9	▲3.4
Current account balance (ZAR million)	▲435	▲342	140	2,742
Price inflation (%)	7.49	9.15	15.73	22.02
Foreign exchange reserves (bilUSD)	1,569	1,449	1,204	2,754
Outstanding external debt (milUSD)	26,711	30,596	33,379	38,091

## Country Development Cooperation Policy



## ODA performance

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Cum. Total
Technical Cooperation (bilJPY)	18.4	18.7	17.8	12.7	11.0	678.5
Trainees received (persons)	167	201	227	104	60	4,360
ABE students (persons)	9	15	2	1	1	33
Dispatch of Experts (persons)	57	64	75	50	8	1,436
Survey Missions (persons)	80	35	28	32	12	2,195
JICA Volunteer (persons)	31	39	52	23	0	1,607
Grants (bilJPY)	3	39	0	0	26.5	850.8
ODA Loan (bilJPY)	0	0	0	0	0	464.8

- ◆ T/C: peaked in 2018, but still has an annual scale of 1bilJPY.
- ◆ Grants: synergy with T/C in agriculture, health sector, etc.
- ◆ ODA Loan: new loans suspended after Zambia's default in Nov. 2020.
- ◆ JICA Volunteer: started deploying in 1970. Has a long history in Africa.

## Summary

### Notable Points

- ◆ Promoting cooperation with a view to the role of Regional Hub (Centre of Excellence) (e.g. OSBP, infectious disease control, veterinary medicine, lesson study methods, etc.).
- ◆ Promoting development of cross-border infrastructure (bridges, OSBPs, etc.) and major trunk roads (Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone, etc.) to support logistics networks within the Southern African region.
- ◆ In the agric. sector, the focus is on rice cultivation and small-scale irrigation. It has also been cooperating with the University of Zambia over 40 years, contributing to veterinary training and zoonosis control.
- ◆ Supporting the policy of local integration of former refugees, including improving the livelihoods and building local integration systems, in cooperation with UNDP and other partners.
- ◆ JICA Volunteers in collaboration with Hiroshima Univ. with a total of 38 volunteers dispatched so far.

### Other Development Partners

- ◆ The US occupies about 39% of OECD cooperation amount (2020), followed by the UK and EU, while non-OECD countries such as India and China are also active.
- ◆ China: significant presence both in public and private sector in various fields (e.g. international airports, international conference centres, "Confucius Academy" in UNZA, mining development and tourism accommodation) and has co-chaired the Creditors Committee with France.

## Major Recent Projects

Sector	Project Name	Period
Agric.	Market-Oriented Rice Development Project (MOReDeP)	2019.10-2025.9
	Expansion of Community-based Smallholder Irrigation Development Project (ECOSI)	2018.12-2024.2
	Clinical Studies Enhancement Project for School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia	2021.9-2024.9
	Southern Africa Agriculture Value Chain Enhancement Project	2021.3-2025
	Zambia Marumori rural community development project through market oriented farming	2021.2-2024.10
PSD	SME Partnership Promotion Survey for Sustainable Pulp Production from Banana Stems (private partnership project)	2021.11-2023.1
Education	Improvement of Pedagogical Content Knowledge of Mathematics and Science Educators in SMASE AFRICA	2021.7-2025.3
Health	Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of General Hospitals in Lusaka District	2021.5-2026.5
	Project for the Epidemiological Research on Zoonotic Virus in Africa	2019.6-2024.5
	Project for Upgrading Health Centres to District Hospitals in Copperbelt Province	2020.7-.
Infra.	Project on Bridge Maintenance Capacity Building in Zambia (phase II)	2019.3-2024.3
	Project for Capacity Dev. for Smooth Operation of OSBPs on the North-South Transport Corridor	2020.11-2025.3
Sanitation	Lusaka Clean City Project	2022.4-2026.4
Others	Projects to support local integration of former refugees	2020.3-2025.1