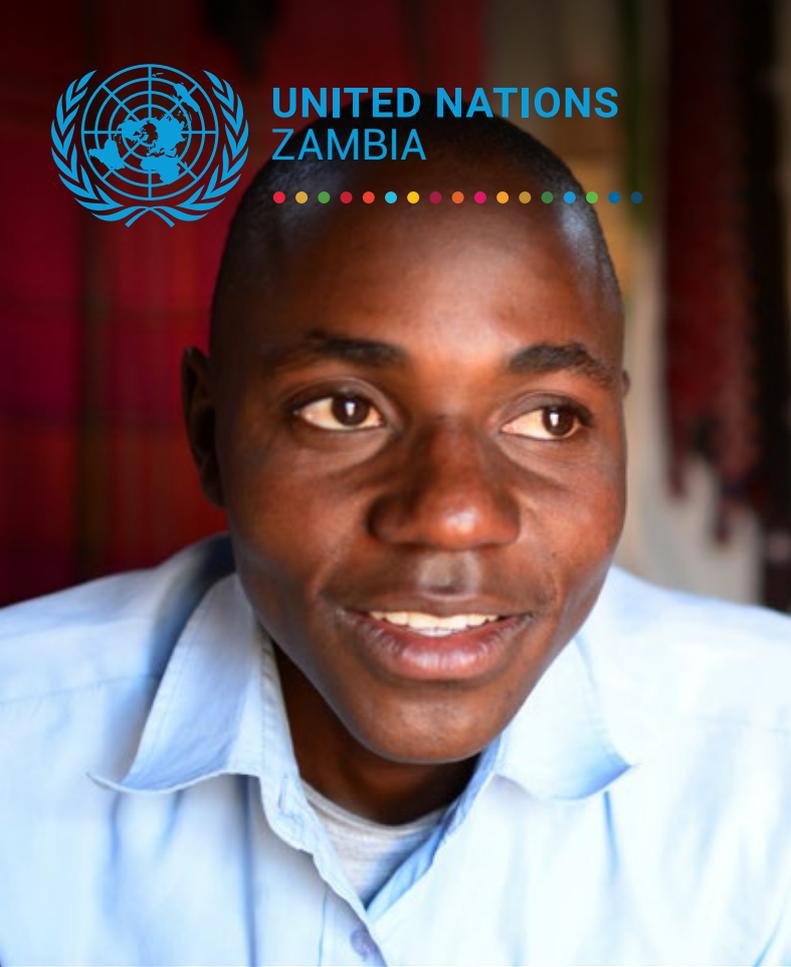




UNITED NATIONS
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UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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Foreword

As we are all aware, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic meant an unprecedented time that brought many challenges and added another layer of difficulty in the fight against poverty. However, looking back at the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) results in 2020, I commend the efforts deployed by the 22 UN Resident and Non-Resident agencies namely United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Food and Agricultural organization (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations (OHCHR), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organisation (WHO) that remained committed to providing technical and financial support to the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and for the wellbeing of Zambian population. In 2020, we saw UNOPS establishing its presence in Zambia and adding to our response and Delivering as One mechanism.

UN Zambia assistance ranges from providing global expertise and policy advice to technical assistance, support for service delivery and capacity development in key priority areas. It abides by the UN system's Delivering as One Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which seeks transformation in the way UN agencies work together to strategize, plan and deliver support to national priorities in the new sustainable development world. The Partnership Framework represents an agreed partnership between GRZ and the United Nations in Zambia, as part of its national development planning process and ensuring progress towards the Zambia Vision 2030.

In 2020, US\$65 million was disbursed within the implementation of the UNSDPF. While 19.07 percent of this budget was from UN agencies' core resources, 80.92 percent was provided by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, donor countries such as China, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, and other organizations and entities such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, Gavi, Global Land Tool Network, UNAIDS *Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework* donors and the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security.

While the report does not go into details of all UN achievements during the year 2020, it provides further details on some key flagship results. Let me also highlight key support at strategic level that contributed to strengthening the collaboration between the GRZ and UN Zambia in 2020:

- **Elaboration and implementation of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP):** for the country to build back better, UN Zambia elaborated and implemented the SERP that is organised around five pillars: health, social protection, economic recovery, macroeconomy, and social cohesion. Through the SERP, UN Zambia aims to ensure inclusive and integrated recovery interventions while leaving no one behind.

- **Launching and implementation of the COVID-19 Response Plan:** through which UN Zambia played a key role in providing humanitarian assistance across eleven sectors such as health, food security, education, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), protection, social protection, risk communication and community engagement, nutrition, governance, immediate economic support and coordination – targeting the most affected and vulnerable persons, while strengthening their resilience.

- **Launch of the Voluntary National Review Report 2020:** which showcases the country's path in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Zambia has adequately mainstreamed SDGs (86 percent) into the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). Therefore, the country is implementing and reporting on the SDGs together with other national programmes using the 7NDP institutional arrangements, the National Development Coordinating Committee, Provincial Development Coordinating Committee, District, and Ward Development Coordinating Committee.

- **Launch of the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) 2020-2023:** with focus on addressing the weaknesses observed in recent years and building on lessons learnt to foster meaningful benefits at both macro and micro levels.

On two important cross cutting areas, gender and disability inclusion, it is important to note that for the first time, UN Country Team (UNCT) Zambia undertook the UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard and the UNCT Disability Inclusion Scorecard exercises. These exercises allowed the UNCT to not only take stock of potential achievements but also identify the gaps that need to be addressed, leaving no one behind, in its interventions and functioning.

2020 was also the year marking the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. In this regard, despite all challenges, especially those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Zambia was able to reach more than 50,000 people in the UN75 survey whose results are presented in this report.

As we move forward in the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs, I am confident that UN Zambia is well equipped and ready to face the challenges to come, while delivering tangible results for the wellbeing of the Zambian people.

Marcoumba
Dr Coumba Mar Gadio
UN Resident Coordinator

01



Country Context and Trends



Zambia is a large, landlocked, resource-rich country with sparsely populated land in Southern Africa. It shares its border with eight countries namely Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) that serve as an expanded market for its goods.

The country is experiencing a large demographic shift and is one of the world's youngest countries by median age. Its population, much of it urban, is estimated at about 17.9 million and growing rapidly at 2.8 percent per year.

The political landscape in Zambia has remained relatively stable, when compared to regional neighbours. Zambia has earned a reputation as one of the continent's most stable democracies ever since it returned to multi-party rule almost 30 years ago.

Zambia's economy is predominantly dominated by a large mining and agricultural sector that contribute to approximately one fifth of Zambia's GDP each and employ more than three quarters of the working population. However, the government's continued efforts to benefit meaningfully from the mining sector by increasing taxes on mining companies to a more mutual beneficial tax regime seems to drive away foreign investment and thus keeping exports well below potential.

In June 2020, monetary targets such as inflation spiralled outside the set 6 to 8 percent band at 15.9 percent while lending rates remained above 26 percent during the first half of 2020. Gross International Reserves significantly reduced to 2.3 months of import cover at US\$1.43 billion against a target of at least 3 months. The economic outlook for 2020 and the medium term, exacerbated by the COVID-19, remained a challenge and required decisive policy measures to restore macroeconomic stability, clear domestic arrears, return to sustainable

debt levels, migration to a more sustainable fiscal path and reinvigorate growth. Therefore, the Government of Zambia developed the ERP 2020-2023 as a stabilisation, recovery and growth plan meant to re-establish stability and growth.

Regarding economic empowerment in Zambia, as shown by the Labour Force Survey 2017, women and girls largely remained dependent on male incomes for survival. This situation limited their ability to act to either report or move away from violence especially when it was perpetrated by an intimate partner or other persons, they were dependent on for livelihood and essential personal needs. In addition, without property rights, women have limited say in household decision-making, and no recourse to the assets during crises. Women's individual ownership of assets enabled their economic empowerment and provided protection in the case of, violence, marital dissolution or abandonment. Women being strongly economically dependent on men, violence occurs against a backdrop of high societal acceptance of GBV as evidenced by accepting attitudes towards Intimate Partner Violence. The 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey¹ discusses spousal control as a means by which men subject women to GBV, reporting the prevalence of spousal control at 32 percent among women aged 15 to 49 years. Services for GBV remain highly specialised and provided through vertical approaches which limit their availability for the most vulnerable and hard to reach populations.

With regards to health, by 31 December 2020, Zambia had registered 20,725 cumulative cases of COVID-19 and 388 deaths. Over 80 percent of the reported deaths as a result of COVID-19 and COVID-19 related complications occurred outside health facilities, which shows a surge in local transmission. Continued disregard of the laid down preventive measures affected the COVID-19 containment measures and resulted in rising community spread and increased mortality.

¹ [https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/phocadownload/Demography/ZDHS Key Indicator Report 2018.pdf](https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/phocadownload/Demography/ZDHS%20Key%20Indicator%20Report%202018.pdf)

The cumulative effect of persistent drought conditions², erratic rains, dry spells, and flash floods, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing economic challenges in Zambia, are having devastating effects on agriculture, livestock and crop production contributing to severe food insecurity conditions across the country. An estimated 2.3 million people, representing 24 percent of the population analysed within the assessment, were in Crisis or worse according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification³ (IPC) Phase 3 or above in October 2019-March 2020. Of these, an estimated 412,000 were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The southern and western areas of the country faced the highest prevalence of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). In addition, 3.1 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)⁴. The lack of adequate rainfall is also affecting the health of livestock, with insufficient

pasture and drinking water leading to poor herd conditions and increasing the potential for disease outbreaks.

The general ground-based observation of Zambia's natural environment seems to appear largely undisturbed. Some 60 percent of the land area is still forested. Major river catchments, which contribute to 40 percent of the water in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, are still largely unpolluted, and the air quality generally good. However, in some localised areas of Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt, Northern and Southern Provinces, there is environmental degradation due to land clearance for agriculture, unsustainable charcoal production and mining activities. These activities are responsible for the current high rate of deforestation which is estimated at 270,000 hectares per year.



²The Zambian Meteorological Department stated that the 2018/19 rainfall season was one of the poorest the southern half of Zambia has faced since 1981.
³The IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification provides: Differentiation between different levels of severity of acute food insecurity, classifying units of analysis in five distinct phases: (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine. Each of these phases has important and distinct implications for where and how best to intervene, and therefore influences priority response objectives.
⁴Integrated Food Security Phase Classification August 2019



02



UN Development System Support to the National Development Plan



2.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNSDPF RESULTS

Within this country context, guided by universally recognised human rights standards and international norms, through the UNSDPF 2016-2022, UN Zambia offers support fully aligned with the National Development Plan while focusing on the following: promotion of innovative and thought leadership; development of policies and normative frameworks as well as their implementation; and the development of knowledge networks and sharing, including to promote South-South learning.

PILLAR 1

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND JOB CREATION

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: ECA, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP

Agriculture

Among other results in agriculture, FAO provided support to address constraints experienced by 16,000 smallholder farmers from 158 cooperatives, located in 27 target districts and five provinces, through eight climate smart sustainable intensification technology practices under the Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Farming Systems in Zambia.

While enhancing technical knowledge on weather index insurance, among others, WFP supported the capacity building of 550 micro aggregators and 110 intermediary aggregators in market access and linked them to 10 private sector off-takers. As a result, 23,628.30 Metric Ton of various commodities (white and orange maize, cowpeas, sugar beans, groundnuts, sunflower, soya beans, etc.) from smallholder farmers was marketed through the aggregation network worth ZMW66,076,397 (US\$3,337,191.77). 21,829 smallholder farmers, 79 percent of whom are women, sold their surplus crop through the network.

IFAD supported the private sector market development of the product uptake by financing premiums for 5,000 farmers participating in the pilot phase. The Livestock index insurance scheme is expected to reach an estimated 600,000 farmers across the country, including 16 districts under the Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia (SCRALA) project.

Trade facilitation

FAO provided support to improve market access and marketing earning opportunities through capacity building on harmonisation and provision of agricultural and marketing information across SADC Member States to traders and farmers. Further, FAO supported the Central Veterinary Research Institute, strengthening the skills of staff in laboratory diagnostics, which is important for the proper implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures for effective market access in the local and external markets.

With IOM support, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed for the coordination of border management and facilitation of human mobility and trade at Chirundu and Mwami border crossing points.

ECA supported capacity building in macroeconomic modelling in Zambia and provided technical assistance to the Government in undertaking a policy study 'Unleashing the potential of the private sector to drive green growth and job creation'. ECA also supported the development of an African Continental Free Trade Area Country Business Index for Zambia, working closely with the private sector, which was by year end awaiting approval before implementation.

Policy, legal and regulatory sector support

In addition, ECA provided support to boost local enterprise development and built the capacity of more than 500 people through training and outreach programmes. The formalisation strategy will increase the number of Artisanal and Small-Scale Enterprises operating in a formalised environment and will enhance incomes.



PILLAR 2 POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY REDUCTION

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO

Social Protection

Jointly, UN agencies in Zambia supported the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) to conduct the 2019-2020 in depth vulnerability and needs assessment and identify needy areas within the development of a contingency and mitigation plan.

UN Zambia continued to support the government to deliver regular social cash transfers with support from the World Bank. UNICEF delivered the second cycle of the Emergency Cash Transfers in 23 drought-affected food insecure districts reaching 92,202 households.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF implemented the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer programme ensuring that those at risk to be left behind are considered in the targeting criteria. UNFPA

procured and distributed 601 dignity kits to the most vulnerable women and adolescent girls in need in Nakonde, Chirundu, and Chililabombwe. 600 Mama Kits (Dignity supplies and baby layette) were distributed to vulnerable pregnant and postnatal mothers facilitating increased demand for skilled birth attendants and reducing preventable maternal deaths.

UNFPA intervened in the protection of women and adolescents. Among other results, 105 fistula repairs took place. Out of 45 fistula survivors, 33 were linked to the Social Cash Transfer programme. 26 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) benefited from capacity building to better support adolescents and young people through provision of information and seek a better trajectory away from marriage and adolescent pregnancy. These CBOs were able to refer 20 adolescent girls to social services. 125 chiefs and 16 chiefs'

spouses were mobilised within the implementation of adolescent centred programmes. 133 female and 59 male marriage initiators were engaged in the drive towards ending child marriage. 90 adolescents with disabilities benefited from mentorship programme in safe spaces so that they could have access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services.

Through its cash-based interventions, UNHCR provided support to 5,864 persons of concern to be able to meet their household daily needs. Additional COVID-19 related cash-based interventions were provided to 37,612 persons of concern to help mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

HIV/AIDS and access to Reproductive Health (RH) services

Through the UN Joint Task Force on HIV/AIDS, UN Zambia was able to ensure evidence-based programming, wider stakeholder engagement, liaison with the Global Fund, and support to writing the funding request. UNAIDS contributed to building cities' capacity to understand the local HIV/AIDS epidemic, provided support in an evidence analysis on SRH, HIV/AIDS risks and vulnerabilities, as well as in strengthening policy and legal environment on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

A TV programme on HIV/AIDS called Timveleni was produced in partnership with the Deaf Society to strengthen disability mainstreaming in health care delivery systems.

In collaboration with Ministry of Health and National AIDS Council, UNFPA supported the implementation of Social and Behaviour Change Communication programmes through the roll out of the Young Safe and Smart HIV prevention and CONDOMIZE campaigns in 55 districts reaching over 100,000 young people. Community action plans were developed in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, teenage pregnancy and child marriage. 22,984 young people (13,286 females and 9,698 males) were reached through different events including HIV counselling and testing, Sexually Transmitted Infections screening and pregnancy testing. 4,486 youth were referred to health facilities. A total of 1 million condoms were distributed to youth.

In line with the "Universal Health Coverage" agenda, IOM lobbied for the provision of SRHR and HIV services to migrants, young people, and sex workers in migration affected communities, namely through capacity building of community change agents and support to community information hubs.





PILLAR 3 REDUCTION OF DEVELOPMENT INEQUALITIES

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: FAO, ILO, IOM, UN-HABITAT, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP

Migration and human trafficking

IOM supported the Government in drafting different policies including the Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Policy to address challenges in these areas. The national migration policy was drafted to ensure migrant-centred and gender-sensitive migration management. This has been followed by the capacity building of 332 frontline officers to comprehensively respond to trafficking in persons and vulnerable migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM supported in preparing the national progress report on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

UNODC strengthened the capacity of criminal justice practitioners in the collection of trafficking in persons data, using among other tools the on-line Regional Trafficking in Persons Data Collection System. UNODC supported the Zambia Law Development Commission to develop a comprehensive legal framework to combat smuggling of migrants. An Inter-Ministerial Drafting workshop was convened to review the draft legislative framework relating to smuggling of migrants in an effort to introduce suitable provisions and identify regional and international best practices with regards to combatting human trafficking.

Sustainable resettlement

UNDP and IOM supported the strengthening of social cohesion initiatives between former refugees granted local integration and their host communities in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. Two GBV one stop centres were set up within the local integration areas, while local community leadership structures with former refugees and host communities were set up in both settlements, and capacitated.

UN-Habitat contributed towards the formalisation of 298 informal settlements countrywide making them eligible for Government, private sector and other stakeholders to provide basic infrastructure and social services. 49 informal settlements had partial upgrading with basic infrastructure and basic WASH services, lessening the burden of fetching water on women and girl children.

Accessing of vulnerable pupils in secondary bursaries

UNICEF, within the bursary support through a cash-plus initiative under Service Efficiency and Effectiveness for Vulnerable Children and Adolescents project reached a total of 14,280 vulnerable children who were supported with school requisites across 15 districts in Lusaka and Copperbelt.

Women and vulnerable groups economic empowerment

Among other UN Zambia achievements, 7 women housing cooperatives and 75 women had their capacity built in using locally available materials to make soil stabilised bricks and construction of eco-friendly low-cost housing. 43 women and 87 youth received capacity building in land parcel mapping using GPS and Q-GIS based Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM). WFP supported Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and Ministry of General Education through capacity building aimed at enhancing women, youth and vulnerable groups income generation and livelihood support. IOM supported MCDSS to assist 75 families of victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants through economic empowerment opportunities.

COVID-19 Impact: Livelihoods Recovery Support to persons of concern

UNHCR coordinated a multi-stakeholder rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on refugees' livelihoods. The assessment showed that at least 70 percent of the population of concern had their livelihood strategies negatively impacted, leading to increased economic vulnerabilities. To address the negative impact, UNHCR developed a response plan to support livelihoods recovery. Thus, 600 persons of concern received cash grants through mobile money. A mobile based KoBo Toolbox is currently in place to determine results and change at household level from the digitised livelihoods recovery support.





PILLAR 4 ENHANCED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO

Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic

WHO continually undertook analysis of the COVID-19 situation to enable the Government to respond adequately to the situation. WHO provided support in conducting 101,252 COVID-19 Laboratory and diagnostics which included High Throughput Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), extraction kits, PCR reaction kits, PCR test kits and Gene Expert Machines. With UNICEF support, an estimated 38,000 people benefitted from COVID-19 diagnostics and 12,000 health workers from Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). UNHCR supported the refugee hosting districts with 4,000 Panbio Antigen Rapid test kits.

UN agencies supported the Government in strengthening oxygen supplies. Among others, UNICEF supported the procurement and delivery of oxygen supplies including 310 units of oxygen concentrators, 260 units of oxygen cylinders, 150 units of Low-pressure Oxygen Gauze, and 120 units of flowmeters. UNDP supported the procurement of 21 ventilators, improving and ensuring smooth availability of oxygen therapy. UNHCR supported the Ministry of Health with essential medicines and medical supplies to facilitate treatment and care of the ailing. WHO supported the procurement and delivery of 610 Biomedical supplies which among others included oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, high flow nasal cannulas, with tubing and patient interface for adult and paediatric with accessories and patient ventilators, intensive care, for adult and paediatric with breathing circuits and patient interface (Type1), and ventilators type *BIOBIPAP001*.

UN agencies provided support through the procurement of different tools and materials to help reduce COVID-19 transmission, among others:

- > IOM also provided PPE for border officials and Infection Prevention and Control supplies and commodities for use by travellers at points of entry.
- > UNFPA assisted in providing 45 health facilities with PPE and Infection Prevention and Control supplies in the points of entry in Nakonde, Chirundu and Chililabombwe districts, and to support continuity of health services in Central, Luapula, North-Western and Western provinces.
- > UNHCR provided 211,000 surgical face masks, 25,370 Disposable hospital gowns and coveralls, 179 Infra-Red Thermometers and 376 goggles.
- > UNICEF supported the procurement of 3,500 hand sanitisers bottles; 6,720 N-95 Masks; 519,950 Surgical Masks; 53,352 pieces of protective Coveralls and Gowns; 1,680,840 pairs of Gloves.
- > WHO provided support to Infection Prevention Control through the procurement of 976,500 PPE which included gloves, gowns, masks of various types, specifically for Infection Prevention and Control, 1,200 handwashing equipment, 200 infrared thermometer and 200-foot operated hand washing facility were purchased to support the response.

The COVID-19 pandemic had affected an estimated 10 percent of healthcare providers across the country, compounding service delivery of both COVID-19 and continuity of essential services. In this regard, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO supported the development and roll-out of national guidelines and SOPs on the continuity of essential health, nutrition, HIV and Early Childhood Development services.

Jointly, UNAIDS, WHO, ILO provided support to the National AIDS Council and Ministry of Health on the continuity and availability of essential health services for antiretroviral (ARV), HIV Testing, family planning, tenofovir/lamivudine/dolutegravir, viral load suppression, Tuberculosis preventive therapy and viral hepatitis, pre-exposure prophylaxis services. WHO provided 7,696 medical supplies for case management

which included insulin and other medicines. WHO provided support to train 394 health workers in case management, 205 hospital staff in critical care, 263 staff in infection and prevention control, 296 health workers in rapid response to COVID-19 and 124 Government officials at points of entry.

In line with the Leave No one behind principle, UNAIDS and UNODC supported the Zambia Correctional Services in its response to COVID-19, through the technical drafting of SOPs for prison settings, provision of much needed prevention material, screening equipment, Information Education and Communication (IEC), PPE, training and equipping of isolation prisons covering a total of about 2,500 inmates. IOM supported the strengthening of capacities of border officials at points of entry to prevent, detect and respond to COVID-19. UNHCR promoted risk communication and community engagement and distributed over 150,000 reusable face masks to the persons of concern and host community. In addition, it supported training of 485 individuals in COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in three refugee hosting districts namely Kaoma, Kalumbila and Nchelenge.





Health of mothers and new-borns

In order to reach women, new-borns, children and adolescents with high-impact health interventions through sustained continuity of essential health services amid addressing the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with public health emergency responses, UNFPA and UNICEF advocated and leveraged resources to assure availability of essential medicines, vaccines and medical commodities to complement the continuity of essential health services delivery by securing 12 months' stock of traditional vaccines (BCG⁵, Td⁶, bOPV⁷ and MR⁸) and 6 months' stock of essential medicines for curative

treatment and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services by procuring a total of 2,815 units of UN Interagency Emergency Health Kits and essential maternal health medicines and supplies.

UNICEF facilitated the provisioning of polio vaccination to 90 percent of under-five children in 4 provinces resulting in containment of a polio type cVDPV2 outbreak. 77 percent of under-five children received Inactivated Polio Vaccine, 73 percent of adolescent girls were vaccinated against Human Papilloma Virus, 69 percent of infants received Penta³⁹ and 62 percent of women delivered at health facilities nationwide. UNFPA supported recruitment of 69 temporary midwives to ensure skilled delivery at birth and to conduct quality SRH/HIV/GBV services.

WHO provided support to the Ministry of Health in the many areas. Isoniazid 300 milligram were procured for Tuberculosis preventive treatment. 42,500 cartridges of GeneXpert MTB/RIF¹⁰ were also procured to improve coverage for diagnosis of tuberculosis and testing for Rifampicin drug resistance. WHO provided technical to review and validate the cost estimates of the national Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Roadmap 2021-2026. WHO provided support towards compiling the UN Inter-Agency Tool for monitoring continuity of essential Sexual Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Services in East and Southern Africa questionnaire, for the period October-December 2020. WHO supported antenatal care new guidelines Implementation research. WHO provided support for hosting the meeting on "Disseminating and implementing guidelines and tools for Women at high risk for HIV in family planning programs and service".

⁵ Bacille Calmette Guerin, immunization against tuberculosis

⁶ Tetanus, Diphtheria vaccine

⁷ Bivalent oral polio vaccine

⁸ Measles-rubella Vaccine

⁹ Vaccine that contains five antigens (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b

¹⁰ The test simultaneously detects Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MTBC) and resistance to rifampin (RIF) in less than 2 hours.

Adolescents and youth

UNAIDS, UNESCO and UNFPA intervened jointly in supporting the Ministry of General Education in the implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). A two-year study with the aim of strengthening the linkage of CSE to the utilisation of SRH services by young people in schools was commissioned. 4,725 teachers from the provinces of Central, Eastern, Lusaka, North-western and Southern were trained to effectively deliver the CSE curriculum. 30 community dialogues on CSE and Adolescents SRH were held for increased support to adolescent health and to empower leaders with knowledge to support CSE and ASRH.

UNDP provided technical assistance to organisations representing Key Populations by preparing modules on Community Systems Strengthening with a specific focus on adolescents.

UNFPA supported and enhanced the capacity of public health facilities in four provinces through capacity building of 239 health care workers in adolescent service provision, dissemination of adolescent friendly guidelines and sensitization of community volunteers to increase demand for Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health services. UNFPA supported community based adolescent sexual reproductive health services and reached 22,984 (13,286 females and 9,698 males) youth. A total of 4,486 adolescents and young people were referred to health facilities for more services. The number of adolescents receiving SRHR information and services reached 48,187 through UNFPA support. In partnership with the Young Women Christian Association, UNFPA reached 10,189 (5,923 girls and 4,266 boys) with life skills through a mentorship programme. As a result, 129 girls of these opted to return to formal schooling.

Through the SRHR/HIV programme in peri-urban areas of Lusaka and Ndola, UNICEF supported in reaching over 9,000 youth with information and provided technical support to 212 Adolescent Friendly Spaces (AFS), of which seven were added in 2020. Therefore, the proportion of health facilities providing adolescent friendly services increased from 57 percent to 62 percent.

Food and Nutrition

Jointly, UN agencies namely UNICEF, WHO, WFP and FAO supported the Government in reducing high levels of stunting by setting a foundation to implement the Scaling Up Nutrition Phase two (SUN-II) Programme with the main goal to scale up nutrition during the 1,000 Most Critical Days in 17 of 34 high-burden districts. UNICEF provided support to ensure the continuity of nutrition services amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. 3,375,072 children aged 6-59 months were able to get Vitamin A supplementation and deworming. Through the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Programme targeting 58 drought-affected districts, UNICEF provided treatment services for the Severely Acutely Malnourished (SAM) and Moderately Acutely Malnourished (MAM) children in 14 districts resulting in 8,521 children admitted on SAM and 5,153 children on MAM, with 64 percent recovery rates for SAM.

The Zambia Bureau of Standards and National Food and Nutrition Commission benefited from UN support to implement the Good Food Logo that enables consumers to identify nutritious foods at point of purchase through a front of the pack logo. Through private sector engagement, over 26 food products have been certified to be nutritious and accessible to the general population.





WASH

UNICEF provided support in the development of the “National Action Plan for Improving Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance” and the “WASH Sector Contingency and Response Plan for COVID-19”. In addition, the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy and National WASH Communication Strategy were launched. 106,543 people gained access to basic drinking water while 187,510 people gained access to basic sanitation. Emergency WASH interventions supported by UNICEF benefitted over 88,050 people living in drought affected areas, over 6 million people in urban areas and 122 COVID-19 treatment centres and health facilities. UNICEF reached 15,000 children through WASH facilities in schools in Maheba, Mayukwayukwa and Mantapala refugee settlements.

Protection

Zambia received the status of a Pathfinder Country with the Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children. This status came as the result of the development of the National Prevention and Response Plan on Ending Violence Against Children 2021-2025 on which UNICEF supported the Government.

UNHCR and UNICEF jointly contributed to improved protection systems among 14,962 adults and children in Mantapala Refugee Settlement. This was achieved through the establishment and strengthening of multiple Sexual Exploitation and Abuse reporting mechanisms with 5,181 community members reached through sensitisation and 3,297 children (1,641 girls and 1,656 boys) and 1,175 adults (689 females and 486 males) reached through direct counselling. Nationwide, 135,375 children and adults have access to an UN-supported Sexual exploitation and abuse reporting channel. Refugees and other persons of concern in the 3 settlements (Meheba, Mayukwayukwa, Mantapala) and Lusaka had access to SRH and GBV services. UN Zambia and partners recorded and managed 408 incidents of GBV. In addition, within the UN Joint Programme on GBV, a Prosecutor’s Handbook for Sexual Violence offences was developed by the National Prosecution Authority.



Education

UN Zambia collaborated with different partners to ensure education continuity amidst COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines on Re-opening of schools to minimise the risk posed by COVID-19 were developed.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of General Education with the launch of the National E-Learning Portal and the Smart Revision with the aim to provide teaching and learning through electronic educational content for Early Childhood Education, Primary, Secondary, Youth and Adult Literacy Education. The Smart Revision (accessible at www.smartrevision.co.zm) provided revision content for Examination Classes (grade 7, grade 9 and grade 12). Support was provided in the development of content for the provision of lessons on TV and radio (Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, TV4 on Top Star Bouquet, DSTV and GOTV). The Catch-up programme, reaching 239,663 learners in 1,877 schools in Eastern and Southern provinces, was implemented. 15,000 pupils in refugee settlements (Maheba, Mayukwayukwa and Mantapala) benefited from remote learning interventions. The first Government approved Secondary School for refugees was set up in Mantapala. The Government deployed 6 teachers to enhance access to secondary education to over 5,000 refugee children.

WFP provided support to the Government in the launch of the first-ever National Home-Grown School Meal Strategy (2019-2024) with the aim to transform it into a sustainable safety-net that contributes to children’s nutrition and education, while providing a market for smallholder farmers. 34 hydroponics gardens were established in 16 districts across the country, benefiting over 24,200 school children. 175 teachers, 140 school children, 90 community members and 20 community leaders were trained on how to operate and manage the hydroponics production units.

UNESCO provided support to the Ministry of General Education to develop content for the provision of lessons on both TV and radio when schools were closed. Within the Capacity Development for Education Programme towards the implementation of the Education Sector Contingency Plan to COVID-19, a training manual was developed and used to build the capacity of 360 teachers on how to use ICT as a pedagogical tool for teaching and learning.

UNHCR was awarded a total of US\$600,000 from the Education Cannot Wait fund to provide remote learning interventions to more than 15,000 refugee children. The resources were used for: promoting remote and catchup learning materials through provision of 500 radios and 500 educational tablets to support remote learning; infrastructure needs to ensure a safe environment when schools re-opened, with a total of 3 (1 by 3) classroom blocks being constructed; provision of mental health and psychological support for girls and boys during COVID-19 for them to be able to cope with the new situation.





PILLAR 5 GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF

Reform of the labour policy and legislative framework

ILO supported the government through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Ministry of Higher Education and the social partners in different areas. ILO supported in the repeal and replacement of the 1964 Apprenticeship Act into a Work Based Learning Act to incorporate other forms of work-based learning apart from apprenticeship. Further, ILO supported in the development of a new National Employment and Labour Market Policy an important step in promoting the ability to make a living wage fundamental for the attainment of SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Migration laws and policy, protection for victims of trafficking

UNHCR supported the drafting of a national refugee policy and regulations to support the implementation of the Refugees Act of 2017. In addition, a data collection exercise was conducted towards the development of the policy. In collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR conducted capacity building trainings on Refugee law and Refugee Status Determination for government officials involved in Refugee Status Determination in North-Western, Copperbelt and Western provinces.

With IOM assistance, a draft national migration policy framework was developed and validated by relevant government ministries and was expected to be adopted as a policy document in 2021. Further, the Government commenced a series of government-led diaspora engagement processes to promote ongoing dialogue between the Government and the Zambian diaspora.

IOM and UNICEF contributed to strengthened child-migrant Best-Interests-Determination panels in three districts through capacitating 62 frontline officers (25 females and 37 males).

Support in Electoral processes and systems

UN Zambia, with UNDP as lead technical agency, provided technical and financial support within the Democracy Strengthening in Zambia project for the rollout of the Voter Registration Logistics Plan led by the Electoral Commission of Zambia resulting in the registration of 7,020,749 eligible voters (84 percent of eligible voters) during November and December 2020.

Further, within the context of election support, the Zambia Police Service benefited from capacity building to promote election security during 2021 and beyond through the revision and validation of the Zambia Police Electoral Security Handbook and training curriculum.

To support inclusive participation efforts, the UN leveraged stakeholder partnerships by mobilising the House of Chiefs to record and disseminate voter education and peace messages in seven local languages which were aired on national television and 43 community radio across the country. These peace messages complemented an Early Warning System and rapid response mechanism under the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Human Rights Commission. UN Zambia support to the operationalisation of a constitutional ruling to allow persons in lawful custody to vote enabled approximately 16,000 persons in correctional facilities and prisoners to register in advance of the 2021 elections. This marked the first time that persons in lawful custody would be allowed to vote in Zambia.



Human rights systems and structures

With the COVID-19 outbreak, OHCHR and UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Human Rights Commission, supported the Zambia Police Service to develop comprehensive SOPs to guide law enforcement response during the pandemic, thereby contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Zambia COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Programme. A virtual human rights Training of Trainers was organised for the Zambia Police Service on general human rights standards for law enforcement and non-discrimination, vulnerable groups, arrest, detention, use of force and accountability. This resulted in the training of 3,300 police officers (1,076 females and 2,224 males) from Copperbelt, Lusaka, Muchinga and Southern Provinces in international policing, human rights standards, and general information about COVID-19.

Technical guidance and support were provided to the Ministry of Justice with the development of Terms of Reference for the Zambia national mechanism for reporting and follow-up to facilitate the capacity of the Government of Zambia to engage effectively with human rights mechanisms and to fulfil its

obligations in terms of reporting and implementation of recommendations. As a result, Zambia successfully submitted a State report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Paris Principles on the Status of National Institutions require national human rights institutions to cooperate with the UN in promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, OHCHR provided support to the Human Rights Commission in the preparation and successful submission of alternative reports on the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Following technical support to civil society organisations in Zambia to enhance their capacity to engage effectively with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, Zambia Disability Rights Watch successfully submitted a shadow report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Information from civil society is very useful to inform the work of the treaty bodies to engage constructively with State parties.



Access to justice

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, through different means, UN Zambia ensured continued access to justice to different categories of people. UNODC in collaboration with Africa Correctional Services Association Secretariat and the Zambia Correctional Service organised a virtual meeting to commemorate the Nelson Mandela Day and to promote compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules. UNODC provided support by drafting SOPs for prison settings, providing prevention material (screening equipment, IEC, PPE), training of prison staff and equipping of isolation wings within prisons, covering a total of about 2,500 inmates. This was followed by the procurement of maternity equipment for a clinic in Mukobeko Maximum Correctional Facility that serves a target population of about 6,000 persons (including the surrounding communities).

UNDP supported on consolidating the functioning of 6 Anti GBV fast track courts established in 2019. The Fast-Track Courts facilitated capacity increase in targeted districts to deliver quality legal services, leading to timely disposal of GBV cases at subordinate court level.

UNICEF supported the National Prosecution Authority in the development of the Prosecutor's Handbook for Sexual Violence offences and provided financial assistance for rolling out the Handbook, through training of 98 percent of prosecutors throughout the country. Further, UNICEF supported advocacy work to ensure less custodial sentences and use of child detention as a matter of last option. Additional support was provided to MCDSS for diversion piloting in 4 districts (Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, and Kapiri Mposhi) where 14 percent of cases were diverted away from criminal justice proceedings by partnering with NGO, UpZambia, and reached 337 juveniles through direct provision of services (legal representation and psychosocial support) and supported an additional 80 juvenile offenders in detention.

Scale-up public service reforms

ILO supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in the implementation of social protection reforms through a Trust Fund Project for Actuarial Assessments. An actuarial Valuation was conducted and yet to be disseminated.

UNODC provided technical assistance on Whistle-blower Protection and Interagency Coordination to Anti-Corruption Commission, Drug Enforcement Commission, Financial Intelligence Centre, Ministry of Justice and National Prosecution Authority.

Through Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa, UNODC provided mentors to Zambia to conduct Gap Analysis and support the country in the development of a framework for Asset Management for seized and forfeited assets and drafting an asset forfeiture strategy. Zambian officials who are members of the network participated in five regional online webinars and workshops on Combatting Transnational Crimes and Enhancing Asset Forfeiture, Combatting Money Laundering, Corruption in Wildlife Crime, Wildlife Crime Train the trainer workshop, Cybercrime and Trade Based Money Laundering.



SUPPORT OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

UN Zambia through IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO supported the Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP) and the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) on the planning and implementation of the Phased Integrated Household Survey, through a three-pronged approach: the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Households, the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey, and the Enterprise Survey. To inform, mitigate and respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in Zambia's economy, UN Zambia supported the undertaking of various sector-specific assessments aimed at collecting primary data and information at national and sub-national levels. Highlights of these assessments include the COVID-19 Business Survey, the Impact of COVID-19 on the Informal Economy, and on the Tourism Sector. In addition, several agencies supported on other statistical issues, which are critical in the 8NDP development and the upcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), among others:

- > FAO supported in building the Ministry of Agriculture and ZamStats capacity in harmonisation and provision of agricultural and marketing information across SADC member States to traders and farmers for decision making in their business transactions.
- > ILO, through the International Training Centre, supported ZamStats through training on COVID-19 Response for Producers and Users of Labour Statistics.
- > UNFPA strengthened MNDP, ZamStats and the University of Zambia's capacity to undertake sub-analysis of human development indicators based on the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2018. UNFPA strengthened the country's statistical system and utilisation of disaggregated data by supporting the development of population database, 2020 census mapping, training in the usage of Geographic Information Systems including development of a geospatial census data. It enabled Zambia, through the health sector, to meet its annual Global AIDS Monitoring reporting obligations. UNFPA ensured continuous advocacy on the need for age and sex disaggregated health data, to ascertain progress in adolescent health programming.
- > UNHCR supported the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees in maintaining and managing the Refugee database (ProGres V4) for the office to capture persons of concern with specific vulnerabilities at points of registration and provide them with necessary assistance.
- > UNICEF, in collaboration with MNDP and ZamStats, initiated a Situation Analysis of the Status of the Wellbeing of Women and Children in Zambia.
- > WFP supported ZamStats and the National Food and Nutrition Commission on data collection, management and analysis on nutrition, including baseline studies to establish the cost of providing a nutritious diet in 10 districts.



2.2. PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SDG ACCELERATION

UN Zambia continued to engage with International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa as well as the European Union to collaborate in providing holistic support to the Government of the Republic of Zambia in its economic recovery efforts to build back better and faster. Within this engagement with International Financial Institutions and in line with the Decade of Action to accelerating the SDGs, UN Zambia continued to advocate for supporting the socio-economic assessments and recovery frameworks at country level.

UN Zambia, through its joint Programme on Zambia's Integrated Financing Framework for Sustainable Development started in June 2020, is expected to develop and operationalise an Integrated National Financing Framework for sustainable development in Zambia that will improve development financing to ensure that the SDGs are actualised at national and subnational levels in the framework of the 7NDP. The Output-Based Budgeting was operationalised and transitioned to 23 local authorities as part of the Planning and Budgeting reforms and support to the decentralisation policy. The joint programme was also a key instrument to follow up on the Voluntary National Review recommendations.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

UN Zambia partnered and collaborated with the Business Coalition Council Emergency Task force which allowed the alignment of efforts with the private sector to collectively support the GRZ respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the multisectoral approach to stop the spread of the virus.

Programme for Country Partnership (PCP): UNIDO launched the PCP to accelerate the SDG 9 and SDG 17 implementation to drive economic diversification and job creation in Zambia. The PCP integrated investment promotion with support to business friendly and inclusive national and regional policies, strengthening productive capacities and value chains implemented with the International Trade Centre and the World Bank. Through Private Public Development Partnerships, industrial skills in the mining heavy equipment and transport sector were enhanced in partnership with Volvo Group.

Support to smallholder farmers: To protect smallholder farmers from crop losses and assets (livestock) due to extreme weather events, WFP supported 7,821 smallholder farmers from Southern Province for weather and livestock insurance scheme provided by May Fair Insurance, by contributing 75 percent of their premium (ZMW200). Following the drought in the 2018-2019 agricultural season, eligible smallholders received a total of ZMW5,489,567 worth of insurance pay-outs facilitated digitally through MTN mobile money wallets. The Maano Virtual Farmers Market, a digital platform with the aim of enhancing market linkages to formal and predictable markets for smallholder farmers was developed jointly with Digital PayGo. WFP partnered with Zambian Breweries to enhance livelihoods opportunities for more than 1,000 smallholder farmers through adoption of drought tolerant value chains in Gwembe and Pemba districts. UN Zambia partnered with Good Nature Agro to promote and support access to improved legume seed varieties among smallholder farmers.



Credit and savings: WFP partnered with five financial service providers (ZANACO, NATSAVE, MTN, Madison Finance, Vision Fund Zambia) to provide financial services to smallholder farmers. As a result, 3,876 smallholder farmers accessed digital savings wallet through Madison Finance. 18,083 smallholder farmers accessed MTN mobile money wallet under the resilience product intervention. 3,197 ZANACO AgriPay accounts were opened by the smallholder farmers. Vision Fund Zambia extended savings credit linked products to 298 savings in 15 districts. Savings support was provided to 38,511 smallholder farmers.

PARTNERSHIP WITH REGIONAL ENTITIES

Trade facilitation: IOM supported a study to review existing mechanisms to facilitate cross border mobility of small-scale traders within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region. The recommendations of the study would support trade facilitation and human mobility.

Industrialisation: A multi-year programme on Advancing Industrialisation Agenda in the COMESA region was conceptualised. The programme is coherent with the COMESA Industrial Policy and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap. A feasibility study on the establishment of a Common Agro-Industrial Park between Zambia and Zimbabwe was the first project under this initiative.

Investments in renewable and alternative energy increased: ILO supported the renewal of Memoranda of Understanding with public and private sector entities to support skills development and delivery on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Therefore, in response to COVID-19, three online trainings were delivered in partnership with the private sector in Industrial Energy Efficiency, Financial Modelling and Bank Financing for Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers in Africa.

Under the framework of the joint UNODC-SADC Regional Programme “Making the SADC Region Safer from Crime and Drugs 2013-2023”, a collaboration with the Southern African Judicial Education Institute allowed for capacity building of judges in the SADC region for them to share unique experiences from their jurisdictions on Trafficking in Persons.



2.3. UN ZAMBIA WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH JOINT PROGRAMMES AND JOINT INITIATIVES

Strengthening climate resilience of agricultural livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia (SCRALA) joint programme

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: FAO, UNDP, WFP

In line with the 7NDP, technical assistance was provided to the GRZ to improve the insurance index under the Farmers Input Support Programme and for rolling out the Livestock Index Insurance through technical product design and capacity building activities. Climate change adaptive capacities of 3,286 smallholder farmers in 10 districts (Nyimba, Mambwe,

Chama, Mafinga, Luangwa, Rufunsa, Chongwe and Chirundu, Mumbwa and Kasama) were strengthened through on-farm training and their participation in resilient practice demonstrations. This led to increased knowledge and improved production of small ruminant livestock. 76 Farmer Field Schools were established in eight districts (Mambwe, Nyimba, Mafinga, Chama, Luangwa, Rufunsa, Chongwe, Chirundu). The project had trained 2,300 small-scale farmers on locally identified adaptation practices and was expected to expand the initiative to eight other districts (Kazungula, Siavonga, Gwembe, Namwala, Sesheke, Shang’ombo, Senanga, Mulobezi).



Integrated National Financing Framework for Sustainable Development in Zambia Joint Programme

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: ECA, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF

Developed under the Joint SDG Fund and approved in June 2020 with a budget of US\$1.5 million, the Joint Programme aims at supporting the Government in developing an SDG-aligned plan and financing strategy to mobilize and manage domestic and international resources, broadening partnerships, leveraging resources from the private sector, seeking innovative financial solutions. Through the Joint Programme UN Zambia supported the preparation of Economic Recovery Programme 2020-2023, strengthened the national statistical system, and support the migration to Output-Based Budgeting.

GRZ United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection Phase II

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP

Implemented since 2019, the Phase II of the joint programme allowed UN Zambia to provide continuous support to the MCDSS to strengthen and expand linkages of the Social Cash Transfer systems and funding situation to other services such as gender, disability and nutrition. Developmental systems and programmes were rapidly leveraged to implement an emergency response to COVID-19 in 23 districts. The programme catalysed two new strategic donors for the social protection sector through the emergency response and facilitated the growing contribution of the World Bank to social protection in the country. Emergency Cash Transfer response for vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 either directly or indirectly was convened benefiting over 118,000 vulnerable households in 15 districts.



Promoting Disability inclusion in HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Social Protection

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO

Implemented in Luapula province, funded under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Fund, the joint programme brought UN agencies to ensure health inclusion of persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Responses included disability focused health communication such as training of health workers in the provision of services, translation of IEC materials in Braille, training of health care providers in sign language to enhance their communication with the disabled. The joint programme tailored support through nutritional aid and the provision of PPE.

GRZ-UN Joint programme on integrated SRHR/HIV/GBV services – Together for SRHR (2gether 4SRHR)

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO

Through the programme, UN Zambia supported the Ministry of Health and line ministries in evidence-based policy and planning, building capacity of health workers and peer educators to provide integrated SRHR/GBV services despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with government policy, UN Zambia supported the establishment and revitalisation of AFS in seven additional health facilities reaching a cumulative 212 AFS. The training of 35 health workers and 65 peer educators contributed to increased access to AFS. HIV testing among adolescents aged 15-19 years accounted for majority (81 percent) of the 328,378 tests in 2020. HIV positivity rate was 3 percent and was higher among girls (2.4 percent) than boys (1.5 percent). The positivity rate was higher than the 1.5 percent reported in 2019, probably due to changes in testing modalities scaled up in 2020 such as HIV index testing which targets adolescents at higher risk of HIV acquisition. ARV initiation declined from 98 percent in 2019 to 81 percent in 2020.



GRZ-UN Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence Phase II

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF

UN Zambia continued collaborating with the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, Young Women Christian Association and engaged five chiefs and their spouses on challenging social norms and negative cultural practices in the communities through awareness sessions. Among other results, 141 traditional leaders and their spouses (32 females and 109 males) were oriented in gender equality and the dangers of child marriage. Men and boys were reached in communities to foster a culture of positive masculinity and zero tolerance towards GBV. 15,428 survivors reported GBV cases across the country. 1,340 people were reached with information and services through community outreach programmes. 398 GBV survivors (361 females and 37 males) and those at risk were capacitated with entrepreneurship skills for start-up kits to start their businesses. After assessments, a One Stop Centre, Fast Track Court and Village Led One Stop Centre were planned to be established in Chinsali to cater for much of Muchinga province.

Global Programme to end Child Marriage

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: UNFPA, UNICEF

UN Zambia is one of 12 countries implementing the Global Programme to End Child Marriage that made sound progress amidst a complex COVID-19 situation. Community-radio guidelines focusing on girls' empowerment, preventing violence against children and child marriage were implemented in the pilot districts reaching 300,000 listeners. Support was provided to strengthen community-based and statutory-level district case management, both of which address cases of violence against children, with community-based case management reaching 1,000 children in the pilot districts of Senanga and Katete.

Joint Programme on Refugee response in Mantapala Settlement, Nchelenge, Luapula province

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP

One of the key lessons on the Refugee response programme is enhanced programming requirements and service provision for Protection, Cash Based Transfer, WASH, Nutrition and Health services. This has resulted in increased beneficiaries and improved cost effectiveness by reducing duplication of resources. UN Zambia provided support to implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. More than 15,000 refugees (7,575 females and 7,425 males) benefited from water supply. At least 3,370 women and girls in the refugee settlements were provided with Menstrual Hygiene Management kits and 120 of them in Mantapala refugee settlement received dignity and mama kits. UN Zambia conducted needs-based assessments at the Mantapala settlement with the aim to develop a common understanding of refugees' food security and socio-economic needs to inform needs-based targeting in lieu of status-based targeting.

Scaling up Nutrition Phase II Joint Programme

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

Implemented in partnership with the National Food and Nutrition Commission, the joint programme aims at supporting the 1,000 most critical days intervention in 17 districts. The collaboration between all participating agencies in the joint programme ensured diversified nutritious food production to provide support in the economic empowerment of women at reproductive age, to promote food safety and preservation and to ensure that hospitals were baby-friendly. In addition, the programme enabled the procurement of among others, 18 vehicles, diverse work and communication equipment, Anthropometric equipment, weighing scales and Mid Upper Arm Circumference tapes, personal hygiene and sanitation materials, disinfectants for the volunteers involved in Child Health Week to enable successful delivery of vitamin A and deworming for children under 5 and for routine services targeting 1,011,264 children.

Zambia Health System Strengthening

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: UNFPA, UNICEF

UN Zambia established partnerships for maternal, newborn and child health as part of a larger Reproductive Maternal New-born Child and Adolescent Health. To achieve greater coordination for the Family Planning Programme and working towards sustainable domestic financing, a costed Family Planning Implementation Plan and Business Case 2021-2026 was developed. Investment was made in commodity procurement of 60 percent of the national commodity needs and support to help overcome the persistent challenges worsened by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a reduction in stock out, with the proportion of the number of service delivery points with at least seven essential medicines and commodities increased from 90 percent in 2018 to 92 percent in 2020, despite the gaps in resources and logistics challenges occasioned by COVID-19.



Opportunities for Youth in Africa: Accelerating Job Creation in Agriculture and Agribusiness

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: FAO, UNIDO

The programme sets an integrated approach for the creation of quality on and off-farm employment and self-employment opportunities for African youth, women and men in agriculture and agribusiness. UN Zambia was able to support the creation on decent rural employment, develop agribusiness and value chain, and provide support to small and medium enterprises in agriculture. UN Zambia will leverage on their strengths as knowledge organisations as well as technical agencies with extensive experience on decent employment creation and entrepreneurship development to strengthen contribution collectively towards achieving SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth for all by collaborating on implementing SDG1 – No Poverty, SDG2 – Zero Hunger and SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.



Mechanism in place for legal identity for all and an integrated system of civil registration from birth to death

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES: ECA, IOM, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO

A UN Legal Identity Agenda Taskforce was put in place and facilitated a joint UN approach in supporting the Government’s Integrated National Registration and Information System. Previous analytical data from the Zambia Demographic and Health Surveys 2014 and 2018 showed a slow increase in birth registration. However, 2020 birth registration showed a decline attributed to COVID-19 prevention measures. UN assistance supported the finalisation of the second National Strategic Action Plan on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 2020-2024. To increase birth registration,

UN efforts supported the remaining two out of 10 provincial capitals (Muchinga and Western Province) to set-up birth registration printing centres. The Department for National Registration, Passport and Citizenship (DNRPC) was supported to develop a plan for piloting electronic birth notification at health-facility level, which would be rolled out through a pilot in 2021. The ministries of Foreign and Home Affairs and the DNRPC were supported to develop Guidelines and Procedures for the acquisition of national documents by Zambians in the diaspora.

UN EFFICIENCY THROUGH COMMON OPERATIONS

Co-chaired by ILO and UNDP, with the membership of all operating UN agencies in Zambia, the Operations Management Team continued to operate from the inception of the Partnership Framework. The implementation of its mandate was supported by five Technical Working Groups on Administration, Finance, Human Resources, IT and Procurement. The Operations Management Team was established to ensure an effective, efficient and harmonised approach to supporting the collective work of UN Zambia, in support of national development plans and humanitarian priorities, and in line with the UN Reform agenda. Subsequently, in response to the Secretary General’s UN reform targets, Zambia embarked on designing the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) 2.0 through the BOS online platform in support of a more effective programme delivery on the 2030 Agenda. The BOS 2.0 was formulated on the premise that common business operations were critical enablers for strengthening partnership with the Government, cooperating partners and other key stakeholders to deliver a transformational development agenda for the benefit of the people of Zambia.

GENDER EQUALITY

A Gender Theme Group was re-established under UNFPA leadership as the operational arm of the UNCT Zambia in ensuring gender equality is mainstreamed in UN Zambia programmes, communications and operations. Through the group, a robust gender, GBV and gender mainstreaming coordination platform was established. The first UNCT annual Gender Score Card was undertaken with the participation of ECA, FAO, ILO, IOM, UN WOMEN, UN-Habitat, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. The score card facilitated UNCT coordination, information sharing, accountability and transparency on SDG5 – Gender Equality and the importance of tracking resources for gender mainstreaming. As a result of the scorecard, a process for the development of the UNCT Zambia gender strategy was initiated.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND AND DISABILITY INCLUSION

UNCT Zambia decided to strengthen the coordination of the Leaving No one Behind and the Disability Inclusion efforts by establishing the Leave No one Behind Theme Group under IOM leadership. UNCT deployed a person with a disability as the disability inclusion focal point.

UNCT collaborated with line Government ministries and institutions towards disability inclusion. The UNCT also engaged with organisations of Persons with Disabilities in planning and programming and in undertaking a study on the needs assessments for learners living with disabilities. Through the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities funded Joint Programme, UN Zambia focused on the development of a Disability Module for Health Workers with the objective to provide SRH/HIV/GBV services to people with disabilities, mainly women and girls. Health workers were trained to provide services and to enhance their communication with the blind and hard of hearing.



HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

Under the UN Joint efforts on strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus, support was provided to refugees and their immediate hosts in Mantapala and Meheba refugee settlements. A rapid needs assessment in drought/floods affected districts such as Gwembe, Shang’ombo and Lunga was completed, and the progress made against the Humanitarian Appeal were assessed together with additional needs. The findings informed the next phase of the humanitarian response in Zambia. Technical support was provided to the DMMU to ensure the COVID-19 National Multi-sectoral Contingency and Response Plan integrates continuation of essential SRH services and response to GBV. Further, UN emergency appeal was developed and launched with Zambia being adopted in the global humanitarian response plan. A total of US\$74.6 million has been raised for the implementation of the COVID-19 emergency response.



FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Under UNAIDS leadership and with the membership of ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO and World Bank, the UN Joint Team on AIDS team focussed on 4 strategic areas:¹¹

i) Leveraging Communities for Acceleration of Elimination of Mother-to-child Transmission:

UNAIDS and UNICEF supported communities to mobilise pregnant women for HIV testing and access to ARV and ARV multi month dispensary strategy has been accelerated to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission component was integrated in the *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* proposal submitted and approved in 2020.

ii) Prevention with Focus on Young people and Key Populations

iii) Health System strengthening

iv) Sustainability of HIV/AIDS and Financing: The World Bank, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNDP and WHO focused on the implementation of efficiency analysis to identify opportunities for more efficient service delivery modalities and to inform the development of the National Essential Health Benefits package towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and linking the updated National AIDS Strategic Framework.

JOINT COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Co-chaired by FAO and UNESCO with the membership of all operating UN agencies in Zambia, the UN Communication Group (UNCG) played a key role in ensuring that the UN communicated as one on the UN Zambia interventions while integrating Global Communication Priorities.

UNCG leveraged partnerships with youth organisations (Youth United Nations Associations and school-based UN clubs) in disseminating key UN messages. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group reached 2,000 youth from all 10 provinces of Zambia through virtual engagements. Information disseminated included COVID-19 prevention from WHO and other UN sites as well initiatives such as Verified.

Persons with Disabilities were engaged in communicating SDGs awareness information through the UN Zambia Sport and SDG Each Reaches 10 initiative. Sign language interpreters were engaged while teachers offered support to communicate with children and youth with learning disabilities during in person activities outreach carried out in schools with strict adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures.

UN Zambia, in collaboration with Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, produced weekly radio programmes with the participation of Persons with Disabilities and reaching about 2 million listeners across the country. The selection of issues to be discussed was done in conjunction with representatives of national federations for People with Disabilities (Zambia Association for Persons with Disabilities, Zambia National Association of the Deaf and the Down Syndrome Association of Zambia). UNCG provided strong support to the Government-led Risk Communication and Community Engagement efforts around COVID-19, by providing coordination support, producing over 100,000 posters, multiple Social Media cards and messages to counter myths on the pandemic as well as the production of 56 radio and TV Public Service Announcements in English and seven local Zambian languages which were broadcast to support behaviour change efforts. Other initiatives included the recruitment of Youth Volunteers who undertook community awareness activities on COVID-19 including the placement and distribution of IEC materials in English and local languages. UN Zambia hosted virtual youth discussions on innovations in support of the SDGs, post COVID-recovery efforts and peace and security, reaching over 5,000 youth across the country with one dialogue having the participation of youth in Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

The UN Zambia website was migrated on the UN Development Coordination Office platform as per the UN Sustainable Development Group guidance.



UN75 DIALOGUES AND SURVEY

UN Zambia partnered with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development and collaborated with 130 youth in all 10 provinces of Zambia to undertake UN75 dialogues and administer UN75 one-minute surveys. Through this collaboration, 50,000 Zambians (43.5 percent females and 55.8 percent males) participated in the one-minute survey. Most of the participants were young people aged between 16-30. Following the community outreach, the youth continued receiving COVID-19 information from the UNCG and shared it with their counterparts through Social Media. According to the survey results, Zambians thought to recover better from the pandemic, the international community should prioritize: increase support to the hardest hit countries and communities; strengthen solidarity between people and nation; rethink the global economy; invest more in education and youth programmes. Zambians aspired mostly to better access to healthcare, more employment opportunities, and more sustainable consumption and production. The global trends they thought would mostly affect the future were related health risks, Climate Change and environmental issues, and rapid changes in the world’s populations.

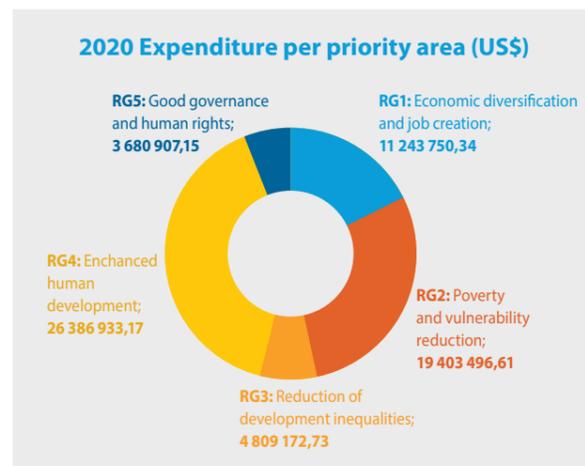
The 2020 UN Day commemoration was dedicated to a dialogue with youth representatives on “the future we want” culminating into a Youth Declaration that the participants presented to Zambia’s Minister of Youth, Sport and Child Development, detailing concerns and requested actions from the young people. The Resident Coordinator witnessed the presentation. Music was also used to communicate key messages. In this regard, UN Zambia commissioned the composition of a UN Day theme song highlighting UN work and youth aspirations for the future.

¹¹ Additional details on the results of the UN Joint Team on AIDS are elaborated in the section on the UNSDPF Results, in Pillar 2 – Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction, HIV/AIDS and access to RH services, and Pillar 4 – Enhanced Human Development, Adolescents and Youth

2.4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Within the implementation of the UNSDPF in 2020, UN Zambia disbursed US\$12.4 million and mobilised US\$52.6 million from the Government of the Republic of Zambia, donor countries such as China, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, and other organizations and entities such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, Gavi, Global Land Tool Network, UNAIDS *Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework* donors and the UN Trust Fund on Human Security.

The expenditure of the funds mainly addressed the implementation of the core areas of the Partnership Framework as follows:



¹¹ The Additional details on the results of the UN Joint Team on AIDS are elaborated in the section on the UNSDPF Results, in Pillar 2 – Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction, HIV/AIDS and access to RH services, and Pillar 4 – Enhanced Human Development, Adolescents and Youth.

2.5. KEY CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Despite the pandemic, UN Zambia made great achievements in the UNSDPF implementation and took into account challenges and lessons learned to re-align with a new way of working in this new context:

- > **Finance:** financial challenges because of the failure to raise resources timeously, affecting the commencement of activities and thus, the expected benefits to stakeholders. Programme delivery was derailed. In addition, low disbursements from the treasury to Government line ministries affected implementation and resulted in poor performance.
- > **Transition to the new normal:** The COVID-19 pandemic affected timely implementation of planned interventions because of restricted movements. Among the most affected interventions are the convening function and delivery of advisory services that require being 'on the ground'. Some activities could not be implemented, others delayed, and some had to be rescheduled. There was a slow-down in provision of some key services that required direct interaction with beneficiaries in almost all UN areas of intervention (education, health, justice, nutrition, etc.).
- > **Data availability:** The major concern on the issue of leaving no one behind is the risk of quality and reliable data. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, some data were still unknown such as data of juveniles in closed detention facilities, vulnerable children unable to access justice, children subjected to violence, the long-term impact of the pandemic and its victims. Limited national statistical capacity affects timely availability of reliable data needed for analytical studies, policy development, legislation and programming.

These challenges allowed UN Zambia to identify lessons learned that would allow for improving the UNSDPF implementation. In addition, UN Zambia took note of lessons learned on specific programmes, among which are:

- > **Joint programmes presented a great opportunity to respond efficiently to COVID-19:** UN Zambia was able to strengthen its Delivering as One approach and attracted new donors to fund joint programmes. Therefore, UN agencies should continue to conduct joint resource mobilisation, avoid competition, focus on complementarity and synergies.
- > **Gender equality and equity perspectives remain paramount** in programming during the COVID-19 pandemic as those adversely affected already have existing deprivations.
- > **The development of the WASH Sector Contingency and Response Plan** at the very onset of the COVID-19 emergency was a good initiative that helped Government and partners agree on the priority actions to focus on and helped mobilise resources.
- > **Development of the Integrated Management Neonatal of Childhood Illnesses evaluation** – through health facility survey helped feed into the development of the Integrated Management Neonatal of Childhood Illnesses strategic Plan.

03



UNCT Zambia Key Focus for 2021



Strengthened from the 2020 experience and challenges on how to effectively implement the UNSDPF while facing the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Zambia remained resolute to enhance and improve further the results of its programme in 2021. Further, UN Zambia was fully aware of the challenges ahead with the upcoming general elections in August 2021 and the key role it needed to play in support of the Government to ensure continued peace while strengthening democracy in the country. Therefore, together, UN Zambia – within the Delivering as One spirit – will focus on the following during 2021:

- Pursue and strengthen further the joint approach and cooperation with the Government, especially in the implementation of the 7NDP and development of the 8NDP, as well as the implementation of the COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan.
- Support the Government in conducting the COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment whose objectives are to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, to stimulate the short and medium-term recovery needs within and across the key development sectors, to provide the basis for ensuring innovative partnerships and financing opportunities, to inform Government policy as well as the formulation of the 8NDP and other development processes.
- As 2021 is the penultimate year of the extended UNSDPF, UN Zambia will undertake its final evaluation, conduct a Common Country Analysis and develop the UNSDCF 2023-2027.
- Support the national Government to undertake the Census of Population and Housing, a national undertaking to generate data to inform national planning, policies and programmes.
- Elaborate and implement the UN Zambia Gender and Disability Inclusion strategies based on the results of the UNCT SWAP gender equality and Disability Inclusion score cards, as well as update, implement and report on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse action plan.
- Pursue the UN effort in communicating as one, strengthening UN joint communication on the SDGs, supporting Risk Communication and Community Engagement efforts in line with the COVID-19 pandemic challenges, and promoting UN interventions within the UNSDPF implementation.
- Implement the BOS 2.0 on the premise that common business operations are critical enablers for strengthening the partnership with the Government, cooperating partners and other key stakeholders to deliver a transformational development agenda for the benefit of the people of Zambia. The implementation of the BOS over the period 2021-2023 amounts US\$741,110.

List of Acronyms

7NDP	Seventh National Development Plan
8NDP	Eighth National Development Plan
AFS	Adolescent Friendly Spaces
BOS	Business Operation Strategy
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DMMU	Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
MAM	Moderately Acutely Malnourished
MCDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
MNDP	Ministry of National Development Planning
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition

SCRALA	Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plan
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
SUN-II	Scaling Up Nutrition Phase two
UN	United Nations
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDPF	UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
ZamStats	Zambia Statistics Agency
ZANACO	Zambia National Commercial Bank
ZMW	Zambian Kwacha

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