

# COUNTRY FACTSHEET



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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## ZAMBIA 2024

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Switzerland.

### OVERVIEW

Switzerland actively engages in development cooperation with Zambia through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The focus spans various sectors, including agriculture, food security, healthcare, governance and private sector development. Projects aim to promote sustainable farming practices, improve healthcare access, strengthen governance structures, and stimulate economic growth, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. Switzerland also provides humanitarian assistance during emergencies. Collaboration with international organizations ensures a coordinated approach to address Zambia's development challenges, reflecting Switzerland's commitment to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of the Zambian population.

### Context

Zambia has experienced political change with the peaceful transition of power to President Hakainde Hichilema after winning the 2021 election. Social challenges persist, including issues of poverty, high unemployment, and significant health concerns related to HIV/AIDS. In the economic sphere, Zambia heavily relies on copper mining, and fluctuations in global copper prices impact its economic performance. The country faces debt challenges, prompting discussions about restructuring, and there is a recognized need for economic diversification to reduce dependence on copper.

### Bilateral relations

Switzerland and Zambia enjoy good bilateral relations. Since 1 March 2020 the Swiss embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe has represented Switzerland's political interests in Zambia. Switzerland's presence in Zambia dates back to the late 19th century. Switzerland recognised Zambia immediately after it gained independence in 1964 and established diplomatic relations with the new state two years later. A Swiss consulate was opened in Lusaka in 1969.

### Key aspects of diplomatic relations

In 2023, Switzerland and Zambia formalized their commitment to enhance collaboration through a comprehensive framework agreement on international cooperation. The agreement covers technical, financial, and cultural cooperation, as well as humanitarian aid. The signing of the agreement marked a crucial milestone in the partnership between the two countries, paving the way for impactful initiatives and positive outcomes in various sectors.

### Economic cooperation

The volume of trade between Switzerland and Zambia is low. Switzerland imports precious metals and agricultural products, and exports pharmaceutical products and machinery.

### SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2023-2026

At the end of 2023, Switzerland and Zambia launched a new bilateral Swiss Cooperation Programme valued at US\$50 million for the next four years. The programme, addresses the pressing challenges and contribute significantly to sustainable development in Zambia. Noteworthy features include a comprehensive approach covering food security, healthcare, social protection, climate change, and governance, with a specific focus on the well-being of women and youth. A key aspect is the strategic partnership with the private sector.

### Cooperation Programmes

#### Food Security

Switzerland is actively involved in addressing food security challenges in Zambia, particularly focusing on smallholder farmers. The programme emphasizes climate-resilient and nutritious crops, with a goal to benefit women and youth, while promoting climate-friendly agricultural techniques. The initiative also seeks to strengthen connections between rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. Collaborating with the private sector, the programme facilitates access to financial and insurance products, enhances market-relevant skills, and supports vulnerable populations, especially youth and women, in economic development. Key interventions include **promoting drought-tolerant crops, agro-ecological farming practices, and access to clean energy**. Switzerland's approach involves cash transfers to encourage investments in productive activities and improve market linkages.

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## HIV/Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR)

Switzerland is expanding its approach to SRHR beyond the HIV perspective. The focus is on delivering a broader range of integrated and quality services, with an emphasis on enhancing the healthcare system's capacity. Additionally, Switzerland aims to build resilience among target groups to climate-induced and man-made disasters that hinder poverty reduction. Employing a multi-sectoral strategy, the initiative identifies gaps and strategic entry points for service integration, especially in SRHR, within education systems and communities. The programme also supports shock-responsive social protection and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) systems, advocating for better quality services and increased domestic spending. Switzerland's interventions include policy advocacy, data generation, and capacity development in health, social protection, and DRR systems.



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## Human Rights and Governance

Switzerland is emphasizing the importance of human rights and democratic governance for sustainable development and peace in Zambia. The initiative aligns with the Guidelines on Human Rights 2021–2024, with a focus on supporting government entities and independent oversight institutions to fulfil their mandates accountably and in respect of human rights. Recognizing that citizens' fundamental rights are crucial for conflict management, economic growth, and human dignity, Switzerland aims to empower communities, especially women and youth, to actively participate in decision-making, including in business and economic matters. Key interventions involve anti-corruption efforts, capacity-building for oversight institutions, and promoting civil society participation.



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## Transversal themes: Gender equality, HIV/AIDS, governance, climate change & arts and culture

Switzerland integrates governance, gender, and climate change as key cross-cutting themes in its programmes in Zambia. Governance is not only an outcome but also serves as an entry point for systemic change, collaborating with both governmental and non-governmental actors. Gender equality is a central focus, with efforts aimed at continuous strengthening through policy advocacy, programming, and capacity building, employing gender-transformative approaches. Climate change integration follows the guidance of the CEDRIG tool, prioritizing addressing vulnerabilities, investing in adaptation and mitigation, and ensuring responsive service delivery and social protection systems. Switzerland also emphasizes emergency preparedness and capacity-building for the Zambian government. The initiatives include promoting sustainable environmental management, agriculture techniques, and clean energy, along with a new art and culture programme to engage young people and raise awareness among communities and decision-makers in the country.



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## Partners

World Food Programme; Biowatch; Africa Centre for Agrobiodiversity; Action Aid International; SRHR Africa Trust; United Nations Population Fund; Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative; and Media in Education Trust

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## Impressum

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