Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa) - 2019

Key data for Zambia

HANCI-Africa compares 45 African countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

**Strong Performance**

- Spending on agriculture (11.3% of public spending in 2018) meets government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services. This has been the case for an extended period.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Zambia’s medium/long term national development policy (7th National Development Plan) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Zambia instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Zambia benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2018.
- The Government of Zambia promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 99% of children in 2018.
- In Zambia 96.9% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2018.

**Areas for improvement**

- Zambia’s spending in its health sector (6.9% of public spending in 2017) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- The Government of Zambia has not ensured tenure security for rural populations. Land titling is weak and land markets do not function well.
- In Zambia, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (30.2% in 2018) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Zambia, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is weak.
- Social safety nets in Zambia are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- Civil registration rates are weak (14% in 2018) and potentially hold back children’s access to critical public services such as health and education.

Existing rates of:

- **Wasting:** 4.2%
- **Stunting:** 34.6%
- **Proportion of population underweight:** 11.8%

Source: Government of Zambia (DHS, 2018)
**Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa) - 2019**

### Key data for Zambia

#### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ Public spending on health as share of total public spending</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>23rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies**

- **Access to land (security of tenure)**
  - Weak
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: 42nd

- **Access to agricultural research and extension services**
  - Very Strong
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 2nd

- **Civil registration system — coverage of live births**
  - 14%
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: 43rd

- **Functioning of social protection systems**
  - Weak
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: Joint 8th

**Laws**

- **Level of constitutional protection of the right to food**
  - Weak
  - Year: 2016
  - Rank: Joint 29th

- **Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights)**
  - In Law, not in Practice
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 3rd

- **Equality of women’s economic rights**
  - In Law, not in Practice
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 9th

- **Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)**
  - No
  - Year: 2017
  - Rank: Joint 26th

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#### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies**

- **Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children**
  - 99%
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: Joint 2nd

- **Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2014
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Population with access to an improved water source**
  - 72.3%
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: 34th

- **Population with access to improved sanitation**
  - 30.2%
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: 27th

- **Health care visits for pregnant women**
  - 96.9%
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: 13th

- **Nutrition features in national development policy**
  - Strong
  - Years: 2017-2021
  - Rank: 12th

- **National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2018
  - Rank: Joint 1st

**Laws**

- **ICMBS^ Enshrined in domestic law**
  - Many Aspects Enshrined
  - Year: 2019
  - Rank: Joint 13th

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1 Possible scores are: Very Weak/Weak | Moderate | Strong/Very Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

2 Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law | Few/Many Aspects Enshrined | Fully enshrined.

^ International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

www.africa.hancindex.org