



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

Source: Government of Zambia (DHS,2018)

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.

Key data for Zambia



Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	11.3%	2018	3rd
Public spending on health as share of total public spending ²	6.9%	2017	23rd
Policies			
Access to land (security of tenure) ³	Weak	2019	42nd
Access to agricultural research and extension services ³	Very Strong	2019	Joint 2nd
Civil registration system — coverage of live births	14%	2018	43rd
Functioning of social protection systems ³	Weak	2018	Joint 8th
Laws			
Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³	Weak	2016	Joint 29th
Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴	In Law, not in Practice	2019	Joint 3rd
Equality of women's economic rights ⁴	In Law, not in Practice	2019	Joint 9th
Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)	No	2017	Joint 26th

¹ Possible scores are: ● <75% of agri. spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Maputo Declaration) ● >=75% & <100% ● >=100%

² Possible scores are: ● <75% of health spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration) ● >=75% & <100% ● >=100%

³ Possible scores are: ● Very Weak/Weak ● Moderate ● Strong/Very Strong

⁴ Possible scores are: ● Not in Law ● In Law Not in Practice ● In Law & Practice

Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
Policies			
Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	99%	2018	Joint 2nd
Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Population with access to an improved water source	72.3%	2018	34th
Population with access to improved sanitation	30.2%	2018	27th
Health care visits for pregnant women	96.9%	2018	13th
Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	Strong	2017-2021	12th
National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2018	Joint 1st
Laws			
ICMBS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	Many Aspects Enshrined	2019	Joint 13th

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