



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Zambia

Country Setting

- ▶ Zambia is in the grip of an enormous socio-economic crisis underpinned by increasing deprivation and disease (mainly HIV/AIDS).
- ▶ There are wide regional and rural/urban disparities.
- ▶ There has been a significant rise in the number of orphans and other vulnerable children.
- ▶ Child deaths are caused mainly by preventable environmental diseases.
- ▶ Zambia has experienced declining rainfall for each of the last 30 years, with a recurrent drought pattern in the last two decades.

WES Sector Setting

- ▶ The Eastern province has water coverage of less than a third of the national average.
- ▶ All provinces have inadequate capacity for maintenance of rural water supply facilities.
- ▶ When supported, the community-based operation and maintenance system works well. This approach needs to be expanded to other districts and provinces.
- ▶ Government has phased out most of its drilling units and has encouraged the private sector. More than 15 drilling companies can drill both shallow and deep boreholes.
- ▶ The percentage of households practising hygiene practices is well below the water supply and sanitation coverage levels
- ▶ Investment is being made in skill development among extension workers in how to use participatory methods to work with communities.
- ▶ Some villages water has a high iron or dissolved salts content. UNICEF is piloting the use of rainwater collection in such areas.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	10,812
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	182
Total adult literacy rate (%)	78

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	90	68
Rural	36	32
Total	55	45

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- ▶ Contribute to the reduction of HIV/AIDS related opportunistic diseases and diarrhoea.
- ▶ Contribute to improving girls' enrolment by improving school sanitation facilities.
- ▶ Adopt actions at household and village levels to protect and manage the micro-environment in at least 75 per cent of the communities of target districts in selected provinces.
- ▶ The focus is on 15 districts (continuing) and expansion in 5 districts in a new province.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- ▶ UNICEF supported training of multi-sectoral teams from 27 districts in PHAST methodology; the Ministry of Health then adopted the methodology nationally.
- ▶ 758 school latrines were completed in 2002.
- ▶ ChildInfo has improved identification of and a focus on orphans and vulnerable children.
- ▶ HIV/AIDS awareness is a core activity of the WASHE programme.