

Zambia in Brief

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# Population, Health & Nutrition

## Development Challenges

Zambia is one of the hardest hit countries in the worldwide HIV/AIDS pandemic, with an estimated one million individuals (10% of the population) currently HIV-positive. It is predicted that Zambian life expectancy will have fallen from 51 in 1990 to 42.6 in 2002; and the rate of population growth is expected to decline from 3.5 percent to about 2.6 percent. This is largely due to the effects of AIDS. The general health status of Zambia's population has worsened over the past decade. The infant mortality rate is 109 per 1,000 births and the maternal mortality rate is 649 per 100,000 births, one of the highest in Africa.

In 1992, the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) began taking a new decentralized approach to health services with the goal of providing "Zambians with equity of access to cost-effective, quality health care as close to the family as possible." Zambia's decentralization of health services marked a radical departure from past approaches, often excessively centralized and non-consultative. The new approach works by moving responsibility for essential service functions to the district level to make services more responsive to local needs and accountable users. Despite the Ministry of Health's accomplishments to date, much remains to be done before all Zambians have access to quality health care.

USAID/Zambia's Strategic Objective Three (SO3) focuses on integrated child and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS interventions. This objective is consistent with the Zambian Government's health reforms. Through the integrated approach, USAID aims to increase demand for population, health and nutrition (PHN) interventions among target groups; increase delivery of PHN services at the community level; increase delivery of PHN services by

the private sector; improve health worker performance in the delivery of PHN services; and improve policies, planning, and support systems for PHN service delivery.

## Activities and Partners

### **Zambia Integrated Health Program (ZIHP) -**

USAID developed the Zambia Integrated Health Program (ZIHP) in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Zambia to address the main health problems of the people of Zambia and to continue the process of the government's health reform. ZIHP is implemented by a group of American and international agencies and organizations in partnership with Zambian public and private institutions and other international cooperating agencies.

With a four-year budget of \$41 million from 1999-2002, ZIHP's partner agencies focus on a set of GRZ demonstration districts. Within these districts, they especially target adolescents, women caring for children, pregnant women, men and people requiring selected curative services with information and care related to current health issues including HIV/AIDS, malaria, reproductive health, and child health and nutrition. ZIHP partners seek to attack these problems through communication/behavior change, building community and private sector partnerships, improving health worker performance, strengthening non-government organizations, and system support. ZIHP helps the GRZ test new methodologies, identify successful strategies and achieve health impact at the community and the household level, through providing "essential health care packages" in those districts.

To achieve maximum coverage and lasting impact, ZIHP works with the GRZ and local partners to achieve results in a variety of areas:

- Policies and standards in support of health sector services
- Pre- and in-service training
- District action planning
- Management training support
- Quality of care
- Logistics and distribution systems
- Health care financing
- Monitoring and evaluation

- Supervision and referral

**ZIHP Implementing Partners -**

**ZIHPCOMM** - Communication and Community Partnership

Implemented by John Hopkins University/Center for Communication Program (JHU/CCP), with CARE, Africare and Manoff.

**ZIHPSERV** - Service Delivery and NGO Strengthening

Implemented by John Snow, Inc., with CARE, Initiatives, Manoff and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

**ZIHPSYS** - Policy, Planning and Systems Support

Implemented by Abt Associates with Pathfinder, Initiatives, AMEG and UNZA.

**ZIHPSOM** - Social Marketing Implemented by the

Society for Family Health and Population Services International

**Local Groups:** World Vision, Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ), Youth Activist Organization (YAO), Africa Alive!, YWCA, Rotary International, Lions International, University of Zambia (UNZA), Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Development Aid from People to People in Zambia (DAPP), the Zambia Ministry of Health's Central Board of Health (CBOH), the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) and District Health Management Teams (DHMT).

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[Link to Population, Health & Nutrition Project Map](#)

[Success Stories](#)

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*Other Related Links:*

[WWW.INFO.USAID.GOV](http://WWW.INFO.USAID.GOV) [Population, Health & Nutrition Page](#) - Further information about USAID Population and Health programs around the world

*Last Updated: April 1, 2000.*

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