



USAID/Zambia ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS ENABLING PROJECT (BEP)

The USAID Business Enabling Project is designed to catalyze greater gender equality and inclusive private sector investment and trade in rural areas by strengthening the Government of the Republic of Zambia and select civil society organizations to improve and streamline policies and processes for economically viable and gender-balanced rural enterprises. The project will support the development of an enabling environment that incentivizes investments in trade, agriculture, energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable natural resource management.

Policy challenges in the agricultural sector are highlighted by unbalanced agriculture policies favoring maize production, thereby disadvantageous to the production of other crops, poor financing for research and development, and low mechanization and information communication technologies to increase yields. Challenges in the tourism sector include limitations in policy enforcement and illegal demands on natural resources, such as bush meat, charcoal, and timber, among others.

- **Life of Project:** February 2022 - January 2027
- **Geographic Focus:** National
- **Implementing Partner:** Cardno Emerging Markets, LTD.
- **Total USAID Funding:** \$14.2 million.
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Energy as a driver of economic diversification is constrained by electricity generation sources and significant gender differences in access, use, and effects of different energy sources.

The USAID Business Enabling Project (BEP) has two mutually-reinforcing objectives: 1) improve processes and policies that catalyze gender-equitable private investment in agriculture, trade, energy, and natural resources/eco-tourism; and, 2) strengthen decision-making for the Government of the Republic of Zambia policy implementation and formulation through linkages with strengthened civil society organizations and the private sector where women's interests are equally represented. This will enhance investment for inclusive Zambian-led economic growth and development.

Expected Results

- Increased value of investments in the agriculture, energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable natural resource management industries, including women-owned businesses.
- Increase in the volume and value of domestic and internationally traded goods and services due to improved trade policies and processes.
- Improvements to business owners' perceptions of the regulatory and investment opportunities and challenges in target sectors.
- Increased access to modern energy, increased reliability of the existing energy supply, and increased proportion of renewable energy for measured success in the energy sector.
- Increase in the number of functioning mechanisms and increased levels of participation by stakeholders for dialogue between and within public and private sectors.
- Improved women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

About USAID's Economic Development and Environment Office

The USAID-DOI project contributes to USAID's approach to reducing rural poverty in Zambia, based on three pillars: improving the business enabling environment, strengthening rural enterprises, and sustainably managing Zambia's natural resource base. USAID strives to engage local partners, strengthen their skills and potential, and set them on a path to address some of Zambia's most significant development challenges.

Zambia's rich forests and wildlife are threatened by poaching, illegal logging and charcoal production, over-harvesting, and habitat degradation. USAID supports the Government of the Republic of Zambia to improve the management of natural resources and thereby provide a long-term, sustainable platform for broad-based economic growth and poverty reduction in rural areas. This is accomplished through Partnership-Based Natural Resource Management models that place Zambians at the forefront as the primary beneficiaries.