USAID/Zambia  Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance

ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY (AGIS)

Through the AGIS project, USAID is promoting strong and sustainable oversight of public resources to advance better health and education outcomes. With a rich democratic history, Zambia is well-placed to build citizen-responsive systems of governance that advance the nation’s development priorities and reduce donor dependency. USAID works with Zambian citizens and the local government to combat corruption, strengthen government systems, and promote productive civic engagement.

- **Life of Project:** October 2017 - October 2022
- **Geographic Focus:** National and Eastern, Lusaka, and Muchinga Provinces
- **Partner:** Crown Agents USA
- **Chief of Party:** Maureen Simuyandi
- **Total USAID Funding:** $7.3 million
- **USAID Contact:** Nina Bowen - nbowen@usaid.gov
Strengthening Accountability in Zambia’s Education and Health Systems

The lack of accountability and transparency in service delivery institutions is a significant risk to both Zambian and United States government investments in health and education. It undermines the long-term sustainability of these investments and complicates the desired shift to domestic financing of service delivery as a step toward self-reliance.

USAID’s AGIS project supports the Zambian government and people in strengthening public financial management to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public funds allocated to health and education.

AGIS targets top public financial management priorities that will improve internal controls, audits, and procurement. In partnership with U.S.-based organizations and Zambian private and public institutions, including the Office of the Auditor General, the activity:

- Analyzes existing systems and interventions to identify transparency and accountability gaps in service delivery and catalysts for change;
- Develops capacity transformation plans to address issues agreed upon by USAID, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, and the implementing partner;
- Provides technical assistance to achieve specific public financial management goals within each target ministry and the Office of the Auditor General; and,
- Rolls down targeted improvements to district-level entities and improves the efficacy of central and lower-level linkages.

Expected Results

The AGIS project aims to:

- Improve public financial management skills of finance and non-finance managers in the Ministry of General Education and Ministry of Health;
- Increase compliance with public procurement law and regulations;
- Reduce unresolved audit queries;
- Increase functionality of procurement, internal audit, and ethics committees; and,
- Increase ability of the Office of the Auditor General to perform IT audits.