ZAMBIA

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

Southern Province is home to the mighty Mosi-oa-Tunya, “The Smoke that Thunders” in the local Tonga language (Victoria Falls), Zambia’s most notable landmark. The exquisite falls are fed by the Zambezi River, one of Africa’s major river systems. Beyond the tourist hub (and once capital city) of Livingstone, Southern Province boasts the country’s largest expanse of commercial farmland. On its southeastern edge lies Lake Kariba, formed by the Kariba Dam, Zambia’s primary source of energy via hydro-generated power and Africa’s largest man-made lake.

USAID ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE

In the Southern Province, USAID/Zambia implements 13 activities in the Health, Education, and Economic development sectors. Through these activities, USAID/Zambia directs a large amount of funding into Southern Province. With an HIV prevalence rate of 12.4 percent, a large proportion of USAID’s overall provincial investment focuses on preventing the spread of HIV and providing treatment and support services to persons living with HIV (PLHIV) to ensure Zambia is on track to achieve our 95-95-95 framework. Additional focus is placed on preventing new HIV infections through high-impact, evidence-based programs, with additional health funding for gender-based violence prevention, family services, and TB detection and treatment.

USAID operates its flagship education activity, USAID Let’s Read program, in Southern Province. USAID Let’s Read strengthens curriculum delivery to improve literacy levels in every community and government school in the province. In 2018, the Education Data Activity conducted an Early Grade Reading Assessment which set a baseline for Let’s Read to help measure progress made towards national reading benchmarks for Grade 2 learners.

1 The 95-95-95 framework is an international goal for ending the AIDS epidemic referring to: 95 percent of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status; 95 percent of people who know their status on treatment; and 95 percent of people on treatment having suppressed viral loads and non-infectious.
HEALTH

ACHIEVE
USAID ACHIEVE project strengthens the capacity of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and community structures to deliver comprehensive and standardized case management to vulnerable children and adolescents (VCA). The project improves the ability of the Zambian government to serve the needs of VCA. ACHIEVE works with MCDSS at national, province, district, and community levels to strengthen its systems and improve planning and implementation of key activities. ACHIEVE will develop a functional VCA tracking system and strengthen MCDSS systems and capacity to provide real time data to plan, identify gaps, and budget to meet areas of greatest need. The project will also strengthen MCDSS's capacity to successfully implement government-to-government initiatives to achieve and maintain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, children, and youth.
Partner: Pact, Inc.
Duration: Nov. 2020 - Nov. 2025

Empowered Child and Adolescents Program II
The Empowered Children and Adolescents Program (ECAP) works to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and improve the health and well-being of highly vulnerable children and adolescents (VCA) and their families. Targeting the communities hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, the program provides wrap-around, needs-based services to support the resilience of families to be healthy, stable, safe, and educated, working in partnership with health facilities, school, and other community structures. By responding to the unique needs of children and adolescents living with or at high risk of HIV, ECAP is contributing to epidemic control in Zambia.
Partner: PCZ
Duration: Sept. 2020 - Sept. 2025

Family Health and Nutrition (FHN)
The USAID FHN activity aims to strengthen the capacity of the Zambian public health system to sustainably deliver reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH&N) services through improved service-delivery capacity, strengthened health management and financial systems, and improved engagement of communities in health.
Partner: Jhpiego
Duration: June 2021 - June 2026

Open Doors
Open Doors aims to expand HIV care, prevention, and treatment services for under-served populations along one of Zambia’s primary transport corridors and in other HIV hotspots. The activity focuses on closing existing gaps in service delivery and on increasing access for key populations, including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals. In Southern Province, Open Doors is implemented in Livingstone District.
Partner: FHI 360
Duration: May 2016 – Dec. 2022

Scaling Up Early Childhood Development in Zambia
Scaling Up Early Childhood Development in Zambia (SUpErCDZ, or “Super Kids”) provides Early Childhood Development (ECD) innovations to improve physical and cognitive health outcomes for Zambian children between the ages 0-6 in Choma, Kalomo, and Pemba districts. To achieve this, SUpErCDZ improves access to ECD services by establishing community-based parenting groups to better respond to needs of young children, and providing training and mentoring to local healthcare workers, volunteers, and caregivers to improve ECD-related knowledge and behaviors.
Prime Partner: Right to Care Zambia
Service Delivery for HIV Prevention (SDHP) I Project
SDHP seeks to improve the health outcomes of Zambians by preventing new infections among priority and key populations most at risk of acquiring HIV such as adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), adolescent boys and young men (ABYM), men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers (FSW), transgender people and prisoners. The SDHP I project combines two separate prevention activities: Zambia Community HIV Prevention Project (Z-CHPP) and the Open Doors Project. In Southern province, the project is in Livingstone district.
Partner: Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)       Duration: Oct. 2021- Oct. 2026

STOP GBV
STOP GBV aims to strengthen and expand opportunities for girls, women, boys, and men and enable them to live lives free of gender-based violence (GBV) and enjoy healthy, gender-equitable relationships. The STOP GBV project builds government and traditional leaders’ capacity and commitment to GBV prevention, response, and law enforcement and works with communities to challenge unhealthy gender norms. Additionally, One-Stop GBV response care centers manage cases and provide the following: victim-support services by the Zambian Police, paralegal services, HIV testing and linkage to treatment, and child-friendly counseling services. STOP GBV is implemented in Livingstone District.
Partner: Zambia Center for Communication Programs       Duration: Nov. 2018 – Nov. 2023

Tuberculosis Local Organization Network
Tuberculosis (TB) Local Organization Network provides local solutions to strengthen laboratory services and the diagnostic network, and enhance facility and community TB case detection. Improving early TB detection and treatment helps reduce morbidity and limit community spread, ultimately contributing to Zambia’s goal of eliminating TB. The project strengthens data management in order to better plan for service delivery, identify programmatic gaps, and budget effectively to meet areas of greatest need.
Partner: Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)       Duration: March 2020 - March 2025

Zambia Accessible Markets for Health (ZAM-Health)
USAID ZAM-Health aims to improve health outcomes for Zambians by increasing the use of high-quality health products and services among priority audiences. The project aims to accomplish this through sustainably expanding the availability and accessibility of high-quality health products and services in the private sector, improving health knowledge, and increasing the adoption of healthy and health-seeking behaviors. Within the framework of a total market approach, the program employs private sector approaches and partnerships with commercial and for-profit entities to achieve these outcomes.
Prime Partner: John Snow, Inc.       Duration: June 2021 - June 2026

EDUCATION

Education Data
The Education Data activity provides assessment, data management, research, and evaluation services for USAID, and provides baselines and mid-point data to measure the progress of the USAID Let’s Read project against its targets in order to identify priority areas, inform decision making, and strengthen the capacity of the Zambian government to improve learning outcomes in Zambia.

Let’s Read
USAID Let’s Read works with the Ministry of General Education to improve reading outcomes for over 200,000 children in Southern Province. The project strengthens delivery of the primary literacy curriculum
through improved teaching and learning materials, regular pupil learning assessments, school and learner performance tracking, and engagement with communities and the private sector. The goal of the activity is to ensure students read with age-appropriate comprehension and fluency in one of Zambia’s seven official languages of instruction. Let’s Read is operational in all community and public schools in the province.

Prime Partner: Education Development Center

Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)
To improve low reading levels among Zambian students, USAID/Zambia, in collaboration with the Ministry of General Education, is implementing the TaRL methodology in each Southern Province district. TaRL assesses student’s literacy and numeracy levels and groups students according to proficiency level, as opposed to grade. Students then follow a learner-centered program that targets their current learning levels and helps them recover foundational skills to “catch up” to the grade level corresponding to their age.
Partners: J/PAL Africa and UNICEF/Zambia
Duration: July 2017 – March 2022

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Emerging Farmers Partnership GDA (EFP)
Zambia has fewer than 1,000 commercial farmers who have access to commercial finance and utilize irrigation and mechanization. Over the past decade, a new class of “emergent” farmers has become established through the commercialization of some smallholder farmers as well as through investments by salaried and business persons. The emergent farmers operate more as businesses and cultivate over 20 hectares. In turn, emerging farmers serve as lead agro-entrepreneurs who can link organized groups of smallholder farmers to input and output markets and promote the adoption of more productive, climate resilient technologies. The ultimate goal is to commercialize 10,000 emerging farmers to increase the scope and trade of high-value products, thus building a stronger economy. This activity is implemented in Chikankata, Mazabuka, Monze, Kalomo, and Choma districts.
Partner: Global Communities
Duration: Oct. 2020 - Oct. 2023