



# TURNING THE ICPD VISION INTO REALITY

**Annual Report | 2023**





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# Message from the Representative

Over the last 30 years, Zambia has made significant gains towards realizing the vision of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The ICPD reaffirms that the path to sustainable development is through the equitable achievement of dignity and human rights, good health, security of place and mobility and achievements secured through good governance and accountability.

In 2023, UNFPA in Zambia continued its relentless efforts to advance the ICPD's vision for all women, men, and young people - whoever they are, wherever they live.

## Turning the ICPD Vision into Reality

Despite the hurdles that tested our resilience and determination, UNFPA's collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia and stakeholders achieved significant milestones in pursuit of our vision: a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Through the successful hosting of the 10-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+10) in November 2023, Zambia continued to demonstrate its leadership in championing continental political commitments around the ICPD, towards realizing The Africa We Want.

This UNFPA Zambia 2023 Annual Report underscores collective achievements for women and young people, achieved in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, its generous development partners, and the women and young people themselves.

Looking ahead to 2024, UNFPA remains committed to scale up evidence-based and innovative strategies for every adolescent girl vulnerable to teenage pregnancy and child marriage; every woman in hard-to-reach areas with limited access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services; and every young person seeking a healthy and safe transition from childhood to adulthood.



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**Seth Broekman**  
UNFPA Representative





# Country Context



252

Maternal deaths **per 100,000 live births**. In 2023, **742 maternal deaths** were recorded as per the national Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) report



20%

Of married women would like to use family planning, but are unable to access it



36%

Of women have experienced physical violence; while 14% have experienced sexual violence



11.1%

Overall HIV prevalence rate, of which 14.2% is among females and 7.5% among males



80.4%

Of live births are delivered by a skilled health provider



82%

Of the total population is aged below 35 years



29%

- Adolescent girls are married by age 18. This translates to **1.7 million** girls, with 400,000 married before age 15
- Another **29%** of adolescent girls become pregnant by age 18

## DATA SOURCES

- Census of Population and Housing (2022)
- Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (2018)
- Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response report (2023)



# UNFPA in Zambia

**UNFPA'S mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.**

In Zambia, UNFPA is currently implementing its 9th Country Programme of Cooperation with the Government of Zambia (2023-2027).

The Programme is aligned with Zambia's 8th National Development Plan (2022-2026); Zambia's Vision 2030; and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023 – 2027).

UNFPA's collaboration with the Government of Zambia also advances the ICPD Programme of Action, as well as supports the implementation of African, East and Southern Africa and SADC commitments related to sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, and population and development, amongst other strategic frameworks.

## Our Goals by 2027



Reduce unmet need for family planning from 20% to 15%.



Reduce maternal mortality ratio from 252 deaths per 100,000 live births to at least 160 per 100,000 live births.



Reduce the proportion of women and girls who experience gender-based violence, including a reduction in child marriage from 29 per cent to 25 per cent.



Reduce the sexual transmission of HIV, as a regional priority.





# Towards ZERO Unmet Need for Family Planning





## SNAPSHOT



## Key UNFPA supported results in 2023

**\$2.7 Million**

Government commitment to co-financing of modern contraceptives and essential maternal and newborn health medicines (an increase of 3,857%)

**90,000**

Additional users of modern contraceptives were reached, bringing the total number of users to 1,840,000

**690,000**

Unintended pregnancies were averted, due to the use of modern methods of contraception

**172,000**

Unsafe abortions were averted due to the use of modern methods of contraception

A key milestone for the year was the signing of the Compact of Commitment match funding modality between the Government of Zambia and UNFPA Supplies Partnership, aimed at increasing availability of modern contraceptives and essential maternal health medicines to the last mile.

In line with this, the Government committed USD 2 million and disbursed USD 2.7 million. This was beyond the expected USD 70 thousand (5% of the USD 1.4 million committed by UNFPA).

During the year, UNFPA contributed to the overall national level results that reflect an increase in total number of users of modern contraceptives from 1,750,000 in 2022 to 1,840,000 in 2023; as well as the aversion of 690,000 unintended pregnancies and 172,000 unsafe abortions. This was achieved through UNFPA's procurement of more than 60% of the country's reproductive health commodities, funded through the UNFPA Supplies Partnership and bilateral donors.

Further, a total of 3,100,000 Couple-Years of Protection against unintended pregnancy were recorded through commodities procured by UNFPA.

To ensure consistent condom supply and availability as closer to the point of need as possible, UNFPA partnered with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders on an integrated, comprehensive and sustainable condom delivery pilot project. The pilot facilitated increased demand and synergies to strengthen community-based distribution of condoms, reaching 1,832,000 people with condom messaging and providing 1,008,000 condoms to 42 hotspots.





## Midwives expanding access to family planning in underserved areas

Chiwaya Christopher is a registered midwife at Miluji Rural Health Center, located 475 kilometers from Mufumbwe District Centre. As a midwife working in a rural setting, he shares his inspiration and fervent desire to enhance access to contraception as key towards empowering women.

*"I witnessed my sister's unfortunate experience with a complicated teenage pregnancy, resulting in the loss of her baby," Christopher reveals, reflecting on the catalyst that inspired his career choice. "This motivated me to become a midwife, to help prevent teenage pregnancies among adolescent girls by providing family planning services as well as comprehensive care for women during and after childbirth."*

Christopher's commitment goes beyond professional duty; it's deeply personal. His wife has benefited from Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) methods, igniting his passion to mentor colleagues in offering these services. *"LARC methods can prevent unplanned pregnancies and empower families to manage resources better,"* he emphasizes.

Yet, challenges abound. Christopher grapples with dispelling myths about intrauterine devices (IUDs) and intrauterine systems (IUS), while engaging male partners in family planning discussions remains a hurdle. Despite these obstacles, his dedication never wavers.

*"In spite of challenges, I continue to engage with the community to raise awareness about the benefits of LARC methods."* Christopher asserts.

Integrating reproductive health and family planning education into patient interactions, Christopher empowers individuals to make informed choices. His commitment extends beyond the clinic, collaborating with teachers and village leaders to expand LARC awareness among adolescents.

Looking ahead, Christopher envisions enhanced collaboration with educators and community leaders to provide adolescents with better access to family planning services. He underscores the importance of thorough investigation before offering any method, acknowledging the transformative power he wields as a healthcare provider.



**IN THE PICTURE:** Christopher Chinyama, a midwife at Milunji Rural Health Center in Mufumbwe District



# Towards ZERO Preventable Maternal Deaths







## SNAPSHOT

### Key UNFPA supported results in 2023

**730**



Maternal deaths were averted due to the use of modern methods of contraception, as well as maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR), and emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC)

**376**



Public health facilities have the full emergency obstetric and neonatal clinical functionality in UNFPA supported provinces

**64**



Women with obstetric fistula underwent successful surgical repair, thus restoring their health and dignity

In 2023, UNFPA remained committed to partnering with the Government of Zambia and stakeholders in the implementation of the National Health Strategic Plan (2022 - 2026), whose goals include the reduction of maternal mortality from the current 252/100,000 live births to less than 100/100,000 live births by 2026.

Through the use of modern methods of contraception, as well as maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR), and emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) supported by UNFPA, a total of 730 maternal deaths were averted during the year.

At policy level, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in the development of Zambia's Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality and Every Newborn Action Plan 2023–2025, outlining priority interventions to accelerate the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality in Zambia, towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Zambia.

Other key interventions for the year included the enrollment of 58 new midwives in in-service training; onsite mentorship of 444 practicing midwives; the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula; undertaking of maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR); and other essential sexual and reproductive health services to ensure no woman dies giving life.



## STORIES FROM THE FIELD



## Amidst Cholera Crisis, Midwives Become Unsung Heroes, Saving Mothers and Newborns

*"It is not easy for anyone to fight cholera, it is worse and more complicated for pregnant women. It's our duty to nurse them back to health and insure the safety of the unborn child."*

These are the words of Cynthia Mandele, a midwife working at the Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital Cholera Center.

Since Zambia declared a cholera outbreak in October 2023, a referral ward dedicated to pre and post-natal women was set up at the Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital Cholera Center. UNFPA has supported the facility with the engagement of 15 midwives, offering round the clock specialized care for pregnant and lactating mothers affected by cholera.

*"The women admitted to the cholera treatment centre often arrive very weak and worried, not only for themselves but also for their pregnancies."*

*During my time at the cholera center, I have helped deliver 4 babies. It gave me great joy to see the smiles on the mothers faces even during this tough condition."* Cynthia says.

The midwives have cared for 90 pregnant and lactating mothers, including undertaking 21 deliveries.

Bastana Mwanza, a 28 year old mother, recounts her experience at the cholera center: *"I was barely conscious when I was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Throughout this time, my biggest worry was for my unborn child. When I gained full consciousness, I realized the ward I was in was full of pregnant women, others even went into labor. The midwives worked very hard to make sure we were well cared for"* Says Bastana.

*"I have now been discharged and have resumed going for my monthly antenatal visit at my community hospital and everything is fine. I'm grateful for the care and support I got from the midwives at the cholera center. They were around to help every woman in need, and constantly checking on me and the baby until I was discharged."* Bastana adds with a smile.



**IN THE PICTURE:** Midwife Cynthia Mandele offering antenatal care to an expectant mother affected by cholera



# Towards ZERO Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices





## SNAPSHOT



## Key UNFPA supported results in 2023


**9,144**

Survivors of GBV accessed an integrated package of essential services in UNFPA supported districts. This includes medical, psychosocial support, shelter, legal, policing and referral to economic empowerment interventions


**300**

Traditional and community leaders who are using various platforms to address, gender-based violence, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy


**365,545**

Adolescent girls affected and at risk of child marriage and teenage pregnancy were reached through life-skills mentorship programmes in target districts, including **13,000** adolescent boys

In 2023, UNFPA sustained its support towards increased multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and provide post GBV support to survivors in all settings, with a focus on promoting zero tolerance to GBV.

Through the Government of Zambia/United Nations (GRZ-UN) Joint Programme on GBV supported by Sweden and Ireland, UNFPA continued to contribute towards the operationalization of the Anti-GBV Act No. 1 of 2011, which provides for the prevention and management of GBV.

A key milestone for the year was the enactment of the Marriage Amendment Act #13 of 2023, to clearly stipulate the minimum age of marriage as 18 years for all marriages, including statutory and customary marriage. The Act thereby crucially removed all ambiguity regarding child marriages from both the judicial and traditional view.

UNFPA also supported the Zambia Police Service in launching a revised medical report form (ZP form 32) aimed at improving the quality of evidence collected in cases of sexual and gender-based violence in Zambia.

During the year, the National Gender Policy (2023) was launched with significant contribution from UNFPA, aimed at accelerating the attainment of gender equity and equality through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of gender programmes across all sectors.

UNFPA further supported the Government of Zambia in finalizing the 9th Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) state party report; as well as actualizing the domestication of the National Action Plan for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.





## Using sports to build positive gender norms among adolescent boys

*"My dream is to be a footballer and play for the Zambia national team. That's why I practice hard every day. But I also love coming here because of the lessons we learn about how to live a good life as young people. I enjoy it because we are completely free to ask any question here. I have learned so much that I had no idea about before I joined," says John Phiri, a member of the boys' safe space club at Petauke Day Secondary School.*

The safe spaces are part of the Gender, Adolescent, Pregnancy, and Social Norms (GAPS) programme implemented by UNFPA through the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), with funding from the Government of Sweden. The programme aims to reduce adolescent pregnancies in six focus districts in Eastern and Southern provinces by addressing gender inequality and harmful social norms, contributing towards a future where young people live empowered and healthy lives.

As part of its interventions, the programme uses sports as a teaching aid for adolescents and young people to access information and adolescent health and gender equality.

John is one of 9,322 boys who were reached through the programme in 2023.

*"The boys here feel empowered through improved confidence and self-esteem. And they learn that they do not have to prove their manhood through violence, disrespect, or negative sexual behavior. I did not know anything about teenage pregnancy and STIs before I joined the safe spaces. Now I know how to protect myself and help prevent teenage pregnancy should I have a girlfriend in future. I also understand the consequences of being a father at a young age. My focus is to finish school and work hard to achieve my dreams." says John.*

Matthew Malinde, the GAPS programme District Coordinator adds: "We cannot talk about reducing teenage pregnancies while leaving the boy child behind. It is vital that boys equally learn not only how to prevent pregnancies and STIs but also learn positive masculinity. Respect and Gender-Based Violence are some of the key topics they learn here," says Mathew.

**IN THE PICTURE:** Hansel illustrating how negative cultural norms can impact women and girls health and wellbeing, during a community dialogue session.





# Strategic Focus Areas





## Taking Bold Initiatives to Reach Young People

To ensure young peoples' potential is fulfilled, as they transition from childhood to adulthood, UNFPA sustained its partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Art, young people and civil society organizations to deliver comprehensive policies and programmes that protect the health, rights and well-being of young people.

### Key Results

2023



**14,204**

Adolescents accessed a comprehensive package of adolescent friendly services at health facilities in target districts.



**189,088**

Adolescents were reached with sexual and reproductive health information through community dialogues, outreach and multimedia campaigns.



As part of key actions to move from funding to financing, UNFPA and Tiko successfully piloted a total marketing approach ideation to reducing adolescent pregnancy, towards the creation of a Development Impact Bond (DIB) in 2024.



# Harnessing Data for Development

In 2023, UNFPA Zambia sustained its support towards strengthening national capacity to generate and utilize statistical data and evidence critical for development planning, implementation and monitoring. Specific milestones for the year included the following:

## Key Results

2023



UNFPA supported the generation of critical evidence, including (1) final datasets National Summary Report of the 2022 Census; (2) the 2023 Voluntary National Review Report; (3) the 2023 State of the Youth Report; (4) Maternal and Perinatal Deaths Surveillance Review (MPDSR) (2018-2022) National Report.



UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in the development of the data collection tools and in launching the 2023 Demographic and Health Survey.





# Humanitarian Action

To ensure continuity of sexual and reproductive health services amid crisis and in humanitarian settings, UNFPA continued to leverage partnerships to establish and conduct emergency preparedness processes and activities to help mitigate risks in the event of an onset of a crisis.

## Key Results

2023

**620**



Vulnerable women and girls in Southern and Eastern Provinces were reached with essential relief supplies as part of UNFPA's support to humanitarian emergencies occasioned by severe flooding.

**127**



Health workers and multi-disciplinary teams had their skills enhanced in Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian settings.

**400**



Youth volunteers were supported to enhance risk communication messaging during the cholera outbreak; and **15** midwives were engaged to ensure maternal and newborn health services at the cholera treatment center.







## Africa's renewed commitment to advance the ICPD

In preparation for the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD30) and the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the African Union, with the support of UNFPA and UNECA, proudly hosted the 10-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+10) in November 2023.

The continental review affirmed the message that Africa celebrates key achievements towards the ICPD Programme of Action; acknowledges emerging challenges and opportunities for acceleration; and affirms the centrality of population dynamics in accelerating efforts towards achieving the SDGs and Africa Agenda 2063.

### Summary Recommendations from the AADPD+10

The continental review underscored that demographic shifts, technological advancements, climate change, and globalization present both challenges and opportunities for achieving the declaration's objectives.

Adapting strategic priorities, embracing technology, and fostering international cooperation will be essential in ensuring the ICPD and AADPD's effectiveness in addressing the complex issues of population and development in the twenty-first century. By actively responding to these megatrends, the declaration can lead the way in addressing Africa's pressing and dynamic concerns.



UNFPA Zambia extends sincere appreciation to the international development partners that are contributing to the overall resource envelope for UNFPA's 9th Country Programme with the Government of the Republic of Zambia (2023-2027)

#### SWEDEN



##### AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Gender norms and gender-based violence
- Sexual and reproductive health and HIV linkages (SRH-HIV linkages)

#### IRELAND



##### AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Gender-based violence

#### SWITZERLAND



##### AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Youth empowerment

#### NETHERLANDS



##### AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Youth empowerment

##### MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH THEMATIC FUND (MHTF)



- Supported by Governments of Germany, Luxembourg, Poland and Sweden; and the University of Geneva, Johnson & Johnson, Takeda, Laerdal Global Health, and Friends of UNFPA

##### UNFPA-UNICEF GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END CHILD MARRIAGE



- Supported by Governments of Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, United Kingdom; as well as the European Union, Norad and ZONTA International

##### UNFPA SUPPLIES



- Supported by Governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom; as well as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Regione Lombardia, Treehouse Investments, and Winslow Foundation

##### UNIFIED BUDGET, RESULTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK on HIV and AIDS (UBRAF)



- Co-sponsored by UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank

##### TOP 20 CONTRIBUTORS TO UNFPA CORE RESOURCES (2022 GLOBAL)



- Australia, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA





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