



HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

2022 - 2024 MEDIUM TERM BUDGET PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

Human and social development are critical aspects within society and a pre-condition for economic growth. Cardinal to the fulfilment of human, cultural and social rights is the human and social development agenda which encompasses critical issues such as education, health care, nutrition, water and sanitation and social protection among others. In acknowledging the roles these sectors play in the wider development agenda, the Government has set out medium term targets for social sector spending as outlined in the 2022-2024 Budget Plan White Paper.

Although progressive strides have been made within these sectors, securing the fiscal space within which human and social development must thrive are key considerations for success. **Over the years, the Government has experienced a strain on its fiscus due to an unsustainable debt burden, high inflation and an under-performing economy, among others which contributed to the huge financing gaps that have negatively impacted the social sector and in some cases, eroded the progress made¹.** In addition, the recent challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic have heightened vulnerabilities, impacting different sections of society in various ways. Thus, a greater focus on the social sectors remains imperative.

Moreover, securing social sector spending also provided a backdrop for sustainable debt management, thus prompting the Government to seek an IMF bailout with the view of freeing up more resources that could be channelled towards the social sectors². Achieving this will not only provide room for investment needed to grow the productive sectors of the economy but will also offer the necessary conditions to safeguard the country's social aspirations such as reducing developmental inequalities and delivering a people centred growth agenda.

This briefing document will highlight the set targets, successes and challenges in various social sectors as well as policy options for Government to be implemented in 2022-2024.

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1. UNICEF; World Bank. (2021). Zambia - Social Protection and Jobs Public Expenditure Review 2021 (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/443591633674322885/Zambia-Social-Protection-and-Jobs-Public-Expenditure-Review-2021>
 2. IMF (2021) <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/12/06/pr21359-zambia-imf-staff-reaches-staff-level-agreement-on-ecf>

EDUCATION SECTOR

Set Targets

- Expand **access to free education**.
- Improve the quality of education while promoting **equal opportunities for girls, learners with disabilities and the vulnerable**.
- Continue with the construction of schools and teachers' houses.
- Commence the **construction of 120 secondary schools in 2022**.
- **Recruit 30,000 teachers** country wide in 2022
- Provision of **bursaries for learners from vulnerable households** through the Constituency Development Fund.
- Continue to **expand support to the girl child** through the **Keeping Girls in School programme**.
- **Enhance skills development by reforming the legal framework** and implementation of the reviewed **Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) policy**.
- Prioritise the implementation of the Entrepreneurship Development Strategy as well as **enhance the collaboration between TEVET, the Private Sector Industry and other key stakeholders** as the major players in entrepreneurship development.
- **Improve equity in accessing TEVET** by ensuring that female learners are enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as improving on the **access of persons with disabilities in TEVET**.



FREE Education



Equal opportunities for girls and learners with disabilities



Recruiting 30,000 teachers



Provision of **bursaries for learners from vulnerable households**



Enhance skills development by **reforming the legal framework**



Enhance the **collaboration** between TEVET and the Private Sector



Improve equity

CHALLENGES



- Impeded access to **education due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Inadequate access to and provision of ICT learning** platforms among learners
- **High teacher-learner ratio.**
- **Inadequate school infrastructure and furniture** across the country, particularly in rural areas in the wake of the free education policy.
- **Inadequate linkages between skills training and labour** market demands.

SUCCESES



- Continued investment in **infrastructure development in the education sector**
- **Expansion of the Constituency Development Fund** to cater for the needs of the education sector.
- Expansion of **free education for all.**
- Provision of **bursaries for learners from vulnerable households** through the Constituency Development Fund.
- Enhancing access to **education among girls** through the **Keeping Girls in School programme.**
- Prioritisation of STEM through the **expansion of STEM schools across the country**

POLICY OPTIONS

- Increased budgetary allocation to the education as a driver for sustainable and inclusive development.
- Enhancing funding in the education sector through grants or concessional loans from cooperating partners.

HEALTH SECTOR

Set Targets

- Provide **equitable access to preventive, curative and quality health care** services at all levels of service delivery.
- Reduce **patient health personnel ratio** through the recruitment of 11,200 health personnel in 2022.
- Enhance and **improve procurement and supply management systems of medicines** and medical supplies by Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency in accordance with the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency Act No.9 of 2019.
- **Prioritise equipping and re-equipping of health facilities** with modern and relevant medical equipment.
- Enhance the **use of ICT in health service delivery** through partnerships between public and private health care providers.
- Increased allocation towards the Constituency Development Fund aimed at **improving the health infrastructure in communities especially for maternal and new born services**.
- **Increase access to quality and affordable healthcare** through the continued construction and completion of health infrastructure throughout the country.
- **Extend the coverage of social health insurance**, which is currently in the formal sector to include the informal sector.



Access to preventive, curative and quality health care services.



Reduce patient health personnel ratio.



ICT in health service delivery through partnerships.



Improving the health infrastructure in communities especially for maternal and new born services.



Increase access to quality and affordable healthcare.



Extend the coverage of social health insurance.

CHALLENGES



- **Inadequate specialised care** across the country.
- **Inadequate investment in modern infrastructure and technology** to transform the health sector.
- The **evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **Inadequate supply of essential medicines** across the country.
- **Inadequate health personnel** to effectively administer quality health care services.

SUCCESSES



- Implementation of the **social health insurance scheme**.
- **Strengthening rural health services through the construction of health posts** and mini hospitals across the country.
- **Continued expansion and rehabilitation of health facilities** across the country.
- **Continued investment in specialised health care services** such as the **Cancer Disease Hospital, Maina Soko and Lusaka Specialist Hospital**.

POLICY OPTIONS

- Strengthen collaboration with cooperating partners in order to increase funding in the health sector in line with attaining the targets set in the Abuja Declaration.
- Continue to explore public-private partnerships investment in developing health infrastructure particularly, for diagnostic and specialist healthcare provision across the country.

WATER AND SANITATION

Set Targets

- Promote and ensure that there is **adequate access to clean and safe water**.
- Embark on and continue with water and sanitation infrastructure projects to **improve access to clean and safe drinking water and to provide sanitation services**.
- **Prioritize improved water resources management and optimal** harnessing of water resources for productive usage.
- Increased allocation towards the Constituency Development Funds will help **improve water supply and sanitation conditions at constituency level**.
- **Construction of piped water schemes** in schools, health centres and peri-urban areas.
- **Construction of waterborne sanitation infrastructure** with hand washing facilities.
- **Maintenance of water and sanitation facilities** for schools, health centres and peri-urban areas.
- **Upgrading and rehabilitation of boreholes to piped water schemes** in schools, health centres and peri-urban areas.
- **Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of small dams** for water supply in schools and health centres.
- **Review the legal and regulatory framework in the water sector** such as the 2010 National Water Policy; the Water Supply and Sanitation Act No. 28 of 1997, and the Water Resource Management Act No. 21 of 2011.



Adequate **access to clean and safe water**



Improve access to clean and safe drinking water and to provide **sanitation services**.



Construction of piped water schemes in schools health centers and peri-urban areas.



Upgrading and rehabilitation of boreholes to piped water schemes.



Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of small dams for water supply in schools and health centres.

CHALLENGES

- **Pollution, inadequate information for decision making**, inefficient use of the resource, inadequate financing and limited stakeholder awareness and participation.
- Gross mismanagement and unsustainable exploitation of water resources.
- **Unplanned growth of urban centres and expanding populations** leading to inadequate water and sanitation.
- **Increased water demand for food production and industrialization**, which are putting pressure on water resources as well as impeding effective water management.
- **Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources** which could heighten the effects of climate change.
- **Climate change** related risks and hazards such as drought, floods, etc. lead to competition over poorly allocated resources.
- **Limited investment in water infrastructure** and its maintenance thereof.

SUCCESSSES

- Investment in **irrigation infrastructure such as the Mwomboshi dam**.
- Implementation of the National Urban and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programmes such as the **Kafulafuta and Kafue bulk water supplies**.
- Progress in the implementation of the **Rural Water and Sanitation Programme benefiting more than 155,000 people**, drilling of **432** and the rehabilitation of **107 boreholes**.

POLICY OPTIONS

- Promote private sector investments in innovative technology such as information systems which are needed for resource monitoring, decision making, systems analyses and hydro-meteorological forecast and warning.
- Seek opportunities for funding from cooperating partners for enhanced water storage and overall water and sanitation management.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Set Targets

- Ensure sustained and continued **protection of the poor and vulnerable**, especially given the continued negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods.
- **Scaling up of social protection programmes** will be undertaken in 2022 and over the medium term.
- **Expand the number of social cash transfer beneficiaries** (from 880,539 to over 1, 024,000 households in 2022).
- **Increase social cash transfer funds** from K150 to K200 per month and from K300 to K400 per month for households with a severely disabled member.
- **Increase beneficiaries under the Food Security Pack** from 263,700 to 320,066 households in 2022.
- Food Security Pack consists of 2 by 50KG Compound D, 50KG Urea, 10KG cereal seed and 10KG legume seed.
- **Increase beneficiaries on the Keeping Girls in School Support Programme** from 28,964 to 43,520 in 2022.
- The **Home-Grown School Feeding Programme** has **expanded to 59 districts in 2022 from 39 districts**.
- The Government will also **dismantle pension benefit arrears owed to retired public service workers** to improve their livelihoods.
- **Implement pension reforms** to ensure viability of the pension system and enable retirees to access accrued benefits before retirement.



Scaling up of social protection programmes.



Expand the number of social cash transfer beneficiaries.



Increase social cash transfer funds.



Increase beneficiaries on the Keeping Girls in School Support Programme from 28,964 to 43,520 in 2022.



Dismantle pension benefit arrears owed to retired public service workers to improve their livelihoods.

CHALLENGES

- The high cost of living is exerting pressure on many households and pushing poorer households into increased levels of poverty.
- The constrained fiscal space is posing greater challenges for the upscaling of social safety nets to effectively respond to increasing levels of poverty, given the high cost of living.
- The socio-economic impacts exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Food security risks resulting from unfavourable climatic conditions such as floods.

SUCCESSES

- **Scaling up of various social protection programmes** to capture more beneficiary households.
- Efforts to dismantle arrears owed to pensioners.
- Proposed pension reforms have been published for public scrutiny.

POLICY OPTIONS

- Address funding gaps through cooperating partners, grants and concessional loans.
- Link beneficiaries on various social protection programmes to empowerment programmes in order to sustainably uplift the livelihoods of vulnerable households.

CONCLUSION

The critical areas for attaining social and human development are embedded in the people-centric approach adopted by Government in order to improve quality of life. This is evidenced through the expansion of the free education policy, the provision to recruit 30,000 teachers and the continued infrastructure development in the education sector in a bid to improve access and quality of education. Similarly, the recruitment of 11,200 healthcare workers, the expansion of the National Health Insurance Policy to capture the informal sector have the potential to impact the wellbeing of all citizens and steer development. Further, the scaling-up of various social safety net programs will provide the necessary support to the most vulnerable in society in view of the current socio-economic challenges coupled with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which have resulted in increased vulnerability among households. Therefore, enhancing social sector spending is critical to heightening resilience among vulnerable households. However, **in order to achieve the human and social sector targets set by Government, there is need to address high inflation and the cost of living which has the potential to erode the positive strides made in the social sector.**

Furthermore, given the constrained fiscal space Government has to operate in, strengthening collaboration with cooperating partners will help address the funding gaps in the social sector through concessional loans and grants from partners such as World Bank, African Development, UNICEF and World Food Program, among others.



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