

ZAMBIA

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa (Global South)

Population (2022): 20 million (62nd)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 65.37 years

Governance System: Presidential representative democratic republic

Capital: Lusaka

Land Area (km²): 743,390 (38th)

Major Languages: English, Nyanja, Bemba

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 106th (29,784 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 154th (Medium)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 132nd (Cat. 8)

Good Country Index: 81st

Human Freedom Index: 102nd

World Happiness Ranking: 128th

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 138th

Gender Social Norms Index: 61st

Women's Power Index: 166th

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 27th

Gender Inequality Index: 138th

Global Gender Gap Index: 85th

Women Peace & Security Index: 116th

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): none

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): none

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 54th

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: CAF

FIFA Ranking: 77

World Cup Appearance: 1st

Best World Cup Performance(s): Debut

Qualification: African Cup of Nations semi-finalist

World Cup Group: C

Last World Cup Appearance: None

ZAMBIA in International (Gender) Affairs

Zambia formerly Northern Rhodesia, was a member of the Central Africa Federation which combined Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Zambia gained interest from Europeans due to its large copper deposits, however in 1956 the copper boom came to an end and Northern Rhodesians became aware of how much “the federal tax system channeled copper profits into Southern Rhodesia”. During this time Africans lost their jobs and were left with the sad realization that the “partnerships” of the Central African Federation had done little to help farming or education.

Following the realization that Zambia was not benefitting from Zambians and others were, Zambia sought to become an independent state. The groundwork for independence began in 1958 with the formation of the United National Independence Party (UNIP). In October 1964 the country became the independent Republic of Zambia within the Commonwealth.



Following independence the economy of Zambia fared well as the price of copper rose as a result of the Vietnam [War](#). During this time there was a significant investment in social services increasing the number of Africans in secondary schools and university graduates. However, another economic crisis and lack of economic diversification was detrimental to Zambia resulting in high unemployment, cuts to social services, which led to food riots. In spite of its rich natural resource and investments from China the lives of most Zambians have not improved “with about two-thirds still living in [poverty](#)”.

Gender Equity

In May 2023 two World Bank reports identified that in order to achieve gender equity Zambia requires assistance in implementing and scaling up evidenced-based policies on gender [equity](#). There are notable differences in access to education, completion of education, and women’s participating in decision making which compound and leave women experiencing high levels of poverty. The World Bank reports identified that “to successfully contribute to Zambia’s development, policies that prioritize and promote gender equality such as participation of women in decision-making positions in government and improving gender parity in education will yield positive [results](#)”.

This upcoming Women’s World Cup will be Zambia’s [debut](#) appearance, however, Zambia’s breakthrough performance is not without controversy. Zambia’s national team coach Bruce Mwape has been investigated over allegations of sexual [misconduct](#), these allegations were reported to FIFA in September 2022. A source revealed that “it’s normal that the coach sleep with the players in our team”. When reached for comment by The Guardian FIFA stated “the independent ethics committee does not comment on whether or not investigations are under way into alleged cases”. At present Mwape will be attending and coaching the Zambians national team at the Women’s World Cup.