INDEPENDENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

ZAMBIA

EVALUATION PERIOD: 2016-2020

COUNTRY PROFILE

Population living on less than $1.90 per day
57.5%

Projected fiscal deficit (% of GDP)
11.7% (2020)

Confirmed COVID-19 cases
91,722 (4 May 2021)

Women in politics
17% in Parliament (2021)

146 of 189 countries and territories (2019)
Human development ranking

Population dependent on rain-fed agriculture
70% (2013)

PROGRAMME OUTCOME AREAS

Expenditure
2016-2020

Inclusive growth
$63.8 M

Environment and energy
$31.0 M

Governance and gender
$16.9 M

Other
$4.2 M

Total budget: $129.5 M
CONCLUSIONS

1. The programme is on track to deliver most expected project level results and outputs, and while UNDP is strategically positioned, its responsiveness declined particularly in poverty reduction and governance.

2. UNDP is highly trusted and recognized for its support to democratic governance, although there is room to more directly address issues of transparency and accountability.

3. UNDP integrated climate change mitigation and resilience efforts with livelihoods promotion and natural resources management, yet it is not evident if efforts significantly influenced environmentally sustainable economic development.

4. While UNDP’s SGBV support has been responsive to legal and systemic challenges, its overall gender mainstreaming approach mostly focused on gender parity and inclusion rather than addressing gendered barriers and inequalities.

5. UNDP helped strengthen health supply chain management and access, however, interventions impact could increase by strengthening capacity and expanding access for targeted key populations at the local level.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDP

1. Position the next country programme to provide more innovative and accelerated development solutions to recover from COVID-19 impacts and build forward better.

2. Support sustainable economic development through integrating community governance, natural resources management, and livelihoods promotion for more significant and sustainable impact to COVID-19 recovery, poverty reduction and inclusive economic diversification in Zambia.

3. Promote transparent and innovative digital solutions for smart and value-centred good governance and public services.

4. Build on the gender-responsive approaches of its SGBV programming to further integrate multi-dimensional strategies to address structural and root causes of persistent gender-based violence, human rights violations and inequalities in a transformative way.

5. Address long-standing issues to build health systems capacity and transition and concretely remove barriers for rural and marginalized key populations’ access to HIV/AIDS and other services.

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE
By generating evaluative evidence, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) supports UNDP to achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from experience. The IEO enhances UNDP’s development effectiveness through its programmatic and thematic evaluations and contributes to organizational transparency.

ABOUT ICPEs
The IEO of UNDP conducts Independent Country Programme Evaluations (ICPEs) to assess UNDP’s performance at the country level. These evaluations support the formulation of a new UNDP country programme strategy in facilitating and leveraging national efforts to advance inclusive and sustainable development.