



ZAMBIA

Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Income Category: Lower Middle Income



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by Zambia in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The brief uses the latest available data. It is benchmarked against regional averages and reports progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **22** per 1,000 live births (2023), compared to 24 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Participation rate in organized learning.** In 2018, **60%** of children one year younger than the official primary school entry age participated in an organized learning program. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2024, **91%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 88% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **99%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **6%** (2022). The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **9** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023), compared to 11 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **30%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 33% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **116** (2023), compared to 124 in 2018. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **93%** (2020), compared to 78% in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

ADULTS

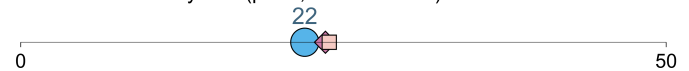
- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **66** years (2023), compared to 62 in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **65%** (2024), compared to 63% in 2019. The indicator is similar to the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **5%** (2024), compared to 4% in 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

HUMAN CAPITAL COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

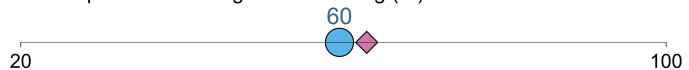
● Latest available data for Zambia (ZMB)
 ■ ZMB approx. 5 years before ◆ Average for Sub-Saharan Africa

EARLY CHILDHOOD

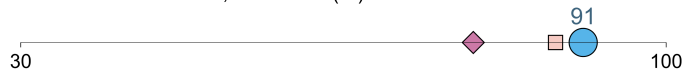
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)



Participation rate in organized learning (%)



DTP vaccination rate, third dose (%)

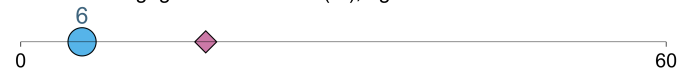


SCHOOL AGE

Learning poverty (%)



Children engaged in child labor (%), ages 5-17

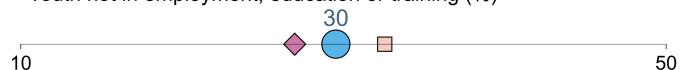


Child mortality rate (per 1,000 children aged 5), ages 5-14

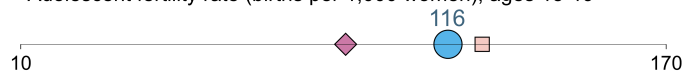


YOUTH

Youth not in employment, education or training (%)



Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women), ages 15-19

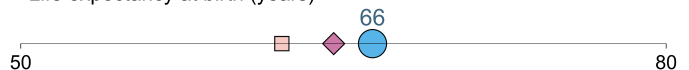


Youth literacy rate (%), ages 15-24

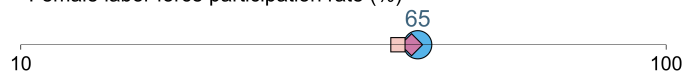


ADULTS

Life expectancy at birth (years)



Female labor force participation rate (%)



Adult unemployment rate (%)



Note: All values use internationally comparable public datasets. Missing symbols indicate unavailable statistics. Full details can be accessed through the QR code.

