



World Health
Organization

Zambia

1ST QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2026

January - March 2026

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2026 QUARTER ONE RESULTS

THROUGH LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP

 STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA	 KEY ACTIONS DELIVERED (Q1 2026)	 RESULTS & IMPACT ACHIEVED
 IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployed 216 motorbikes and 70 laptops • Invested in workforce capacity, regulation, partnerships, and multisectoral coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved last mile service delivery and logistics ✓ Strengthened surveillance and emergency response ✓ Enhanced system resilience, accountability, and government leadership across GPW outcomes
 UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE & IMMUNISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened health financing and essential medicines access • Reinforced immunisation systems and outbreak response campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Achieved 99.9% cholera vaccination coverage in Monze District ✓ High measles campaign coverage ✓ Improved equitable access and protection for vulnerable populations
 NATIONAL POLIO LABORATORY UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed new laboratory wing • Upgraded critical infrastructure at University Teaching Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhanced poliovirus surveillance and diagnostic capacity ✓ Full compliance with global eradication standards ✓ Strengthened Zambia's contribution to polio elimination
 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE SYSTEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented EMT initiative • Conducted AVoCH SURGE scoping mission • Developed policies, surge strategies, and operational plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened governance and accountability ✓ Established a coherent, policy driven emergency response framework aligned to national risks and global standards
 BUSINESS CONTINUITY & ESSENTIAL SERVICES PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed Ministry of Health Business Continuity Plan • Aligned emergency frameworks with regional and global standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved capacity to sustain essential health services during emergencies ✓ Reduced service disruptions ✓ Enhanced health system stability and resilience
 POPULATION HEALTH, QUALITY OF CARE & POLICY REFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted evidence based policy dialogue • Scaled up Labour Care Guide • Expanded adolescent friendly SRH services • Formalised Community Health Worker programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened national ownership ✓ Improved maternal and adolescent health outcomes ✓ Reinforced prevention and quality of care across the life course



KEY MESSAGE



WHO Zambia continues to strengthen national leadership, resilient systems, and equitable health outcomes through coordinated partnerships and evidence-driven action.



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LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, ADVOCACY, & PARTNERSHIP

Presentation of the 6 Months Priority Plan to the Ministry of Health



23rd February 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia presented its six-month priority plan to the Ministry of Health Zambia, led by the PS-TS Dr Lishimpi, strengthening alignment on national health priorities.

As a result, WHO Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Zambia in health systems strengthening, emergency preparedness and response, and disease prevention and control.

Policy Review Meeting Hosted by the Ministry of Health

31st March 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia supported a high-level quarterly policy review meeting convened by the Ministry of Health Zambia, bringing together government leaders, cooperating partners, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen health sector performance and accountability.

This engagement enhanced multi-stakeholder coordination, aligned national and provincial performance reviews, and reinforced collective commitment to improving service delivery, advancing national health priorities, and ensuring inclusive, people-centered health systems.







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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING



Strengthening Local Manufacturing & Regulation

9th February 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia engaged with the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority to strengthen support to the National Regulatory Authority (NRA).

Discussions focused on improving regulatory frameworks for local manufacturing and advancing a structured roadmap toward achieving Maturity Level 3, enhancing the NRA's capacity to effectively safeguard public health.



Policy Dialogue on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights



25th March 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia advanced national momentum on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) by supporting a high-level dissemination and policy dialogue in Lusaka.

Bringing together key actors such as the Ministry of Health Zambia, National Health Research Authority, Population Council, and Zambia Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians. The engagement created a platform to share findings and align priorities.

Consequently, it strengthened evidence-informed decision-making, deepened multi-sector coordination, and accelerated commitments to expand equitable access to quality SRH services, contributing to improved health outcomes and progress toward universal health coverage.





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DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Strengthening Health Sector Coordination to Aligning Priorities for 2026



9th January 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, in collaboration with UNFPA Zambia and other Health Cooperating Partners, engaged the Ministry of Health Zambia to align on national health priorities and strengthen coordinated support.

As a result, priority areas were identified that included supply chain management, procurement, and human resources for health and a renewed commitment was secured to support the Government of Zambia's health agenda for 2026.

Alcohol Control for NCD Prevention

15th January 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, in collaboration with UNICEF Zambia and UNDP Zambia, and with support from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office under the Health4Life project, has supported the Government of Zambia to make significant progress in addressing key risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly alcohol misuse.

Key results achieved include the revision of the Liquor Licensing Act of 2011 and the National Alcohol Policy to strengthen the regulation of alcohol production and consumption. In addition, targeted behavior change models for adolescents and youth have been developed and implemented to address harmful practices such as alcohol misuse. These efforts have been complemented by the rollout of comprehensive public awareness campaigns aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption.

EARLY DRINKING

IS LINKED TO

**Lower
academic
achievement**

Lifelong risks

Poor mental health



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Strengthening Collaboration on HIV, Malaria & TB Control



26th February 2026

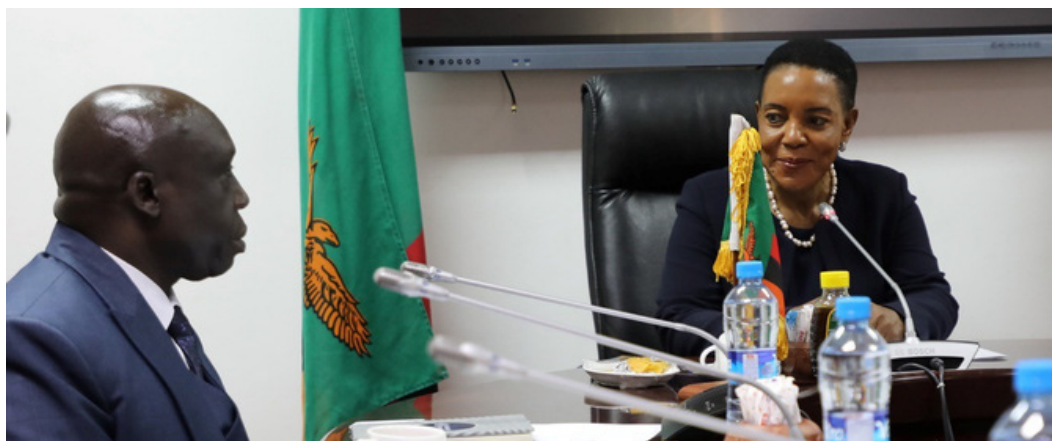
Engaged with the Global Fund Senior Portfolio Manager for Zambia to strengthen collaboration in supporting the Ministry of Health Zambia.

This engagement reinforced coordinated efforts to prevent and control HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis, advancing integrated support towards improved public health outcomes in Zambia.

WHO–Parliament Engagement for Health Priorities

23rd February 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, led by Dr. Lasuba, engaged with Nelly Mutti to strengthen collaboration between WHO and Parliament. This high-level engagement reinforced multisectoral partnerships on priority areas including tobacco control and Universal Health Coverage, advancing a coordinated approach toward a healthier Zambia.



Strengthening Tobacco Control Policy

24th February 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia advanced national tobacco control efforts by providing technical advocacy to the Parliamentary Health Committee on the Tobacco Control Bill 2025.

This engagement highlighted the significant health and economic burden of tobacco use in Zambia and reinforced the need to align national legislation with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. As a result, WHO called for the passage of a strengthened Bill that upholds global best practices, protects children and future generations from nicotine addiction, and accelerates progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.





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SILENCE

Silence is not neutrality, it is lost protection. The World Health Organization calls for urgent action: pass the Tobacco Control Bill with recommended safeguards, uphold global best practices, protect children and future generations from nicotine addiction, and fulfil commitments under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

COMMITTEE

[#tobaccocontrol](#) [#quitsmokingtoday](#) [#healthierzambia](#) [#BeatNCDs](#)



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DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL -

Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)

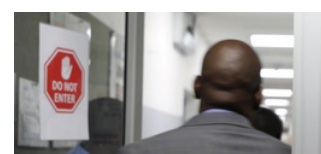
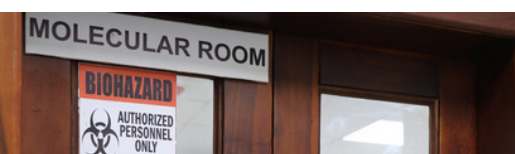
Strengthening Polio Surveillance: Inspection of Upgraded UTH Laboratory



11th February 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, led by Dr. Lasuba, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Zambia, conducted an inspection of the refurbished polio laboratory at the University Teaching Hospital, supported by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa.

The visit confirmed significant progress in strengthening laboratory capacity, enhancing Zambia's ability to conduct poliovirus surveillance and diagnostics, with preparations underway for the official high-level launch.



Dissemination Meeting: Controlled Temperature Chain (CTC) Study for Oral Cholera Vaccination

26th February 2026

WHO Zambia provided strategic leadership in evidence-based health systems strengthening by participating in a high-level national event and delivering key remarks on behalf of the WHO Representative, Dr Chipimo.

This engagement reinforced the importance of translating research into action, while supporting the Ministry of Health Zambia to utilize evidence for informed decision-making, strengthened health systems, and improved prevention and control of future outbreaks.



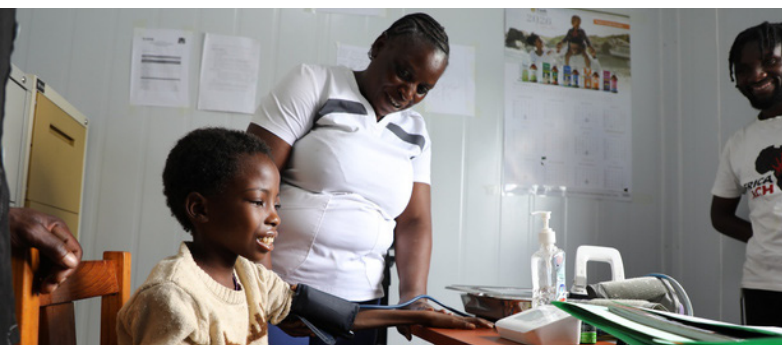


Evidence Generation for PEN-Plus Strategy on People Living with NCD's

23rd March 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, with support from the World Health Organization African Region and in partnership with Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, undertook a documentation mission in Chibombo and Matero to capture the impact of the PEN-Plus strategy on people living with noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

This initiative highlighted how the PEN-Plus approach is strengthening decentralized care by equipping frontline health workers, improving access to essential medicines, and establishing effective referral pathways for severe chronic conditions such as type 1 diabetes, sickle cell disease, and rheumatic heart disease. Importantly, the mission reinforced the role of advocacy, strategic communication, and awareness in driving uptake and sustainability—bringing specialized NCD services closer to rural and underserved populations across Zambia.





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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Strengthening Zambia's Health Emergency Preparedness & Response



17th March 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, supported the Ministry of Health Zambia and the Zambia National Public Health Institute to convene a national technical workshop under the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) scoping mission.

Over four days, nearly 60 multisectoral experts assessed Zambia's preparedness systems, identified key gaps, and co-developed a national roadmap and costed one-year workplan for implementing SURGE, PROSE, and TASS initiatives. The process strengthened coordination across workforce development, response operations, logistics, and risk communication.

The engagement culminated in a consolidated set of priorities and next steps, reinforcing Zambia's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies while advancing progress toward Universal Health Coverage and national health security.

AVoHC SURGE Technical Workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response - Scoping Mission





Strengthening Ireland–WHO Collaboration on Health Systems and Emergency



23rd March 2026

During a high-level engagement, the World Health Organization Zambia Representative, Dr Lasuba, met with Ambassador Fitzpatrick and the Embassy of Ireland Zambia to advance ongoing cooperation on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery (EPR), as well as health surveillance systems.

In addition, the discussions addressed broader public health priorities, including universal health coverage, health workforce strengthening, medical supply chains, and maternal mortality in Zambia. Notably, the engagement reinforced strong bilateral collaboration, with WHO Zambia expressing appreciation for Ireland's continued support toward strengthening health systems and improving population health outcomes.



Advancing WHO–Ireland Partnership for Health Systems Strengthening

24th February 2026

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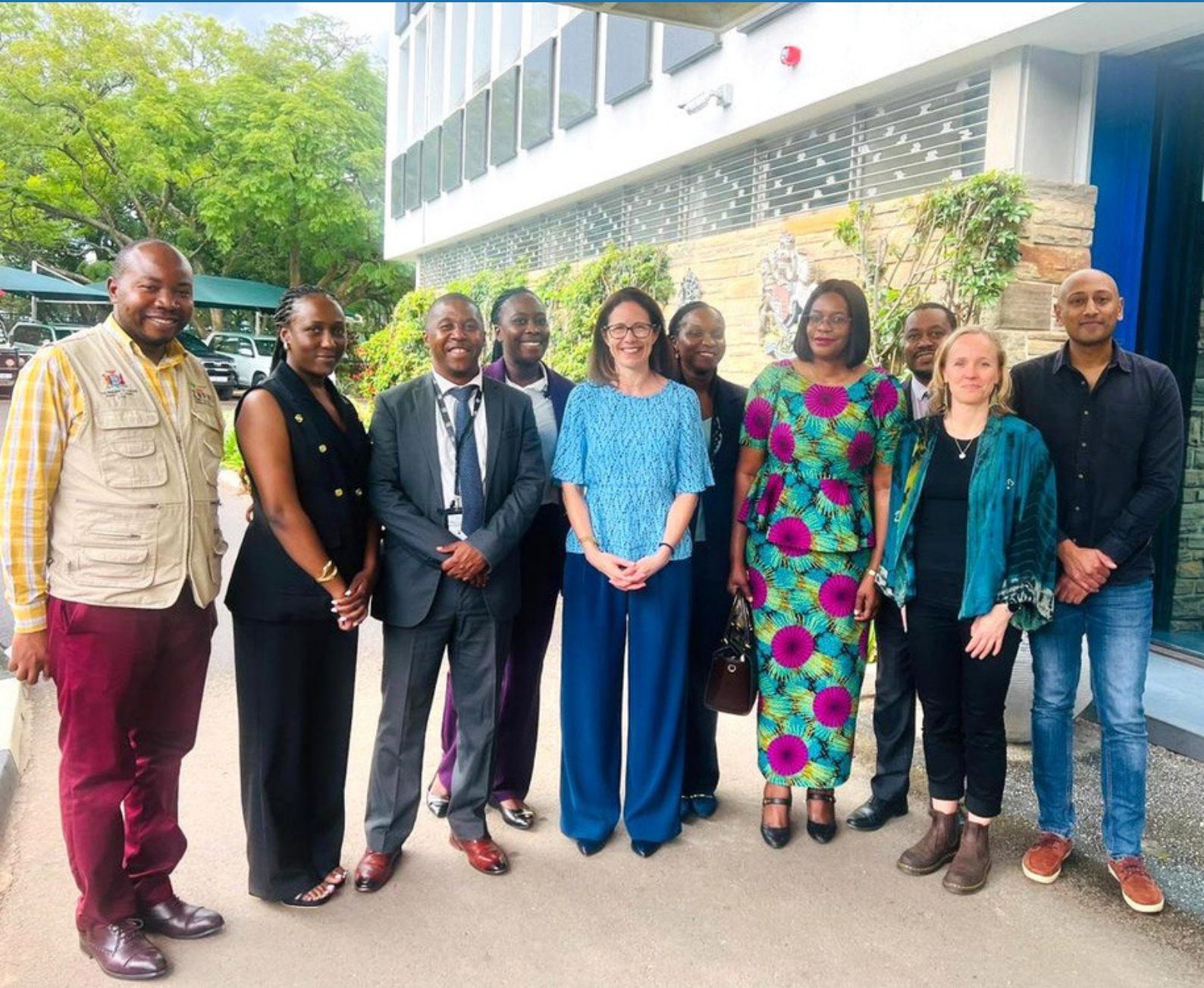
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**World Health Organization Zambia is proud to support
this important initiative.**

#StrongerHealthSystems #EMTs #UKMed

Performance of the Zambia Multisectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project (ZaMPPR) Reviewed

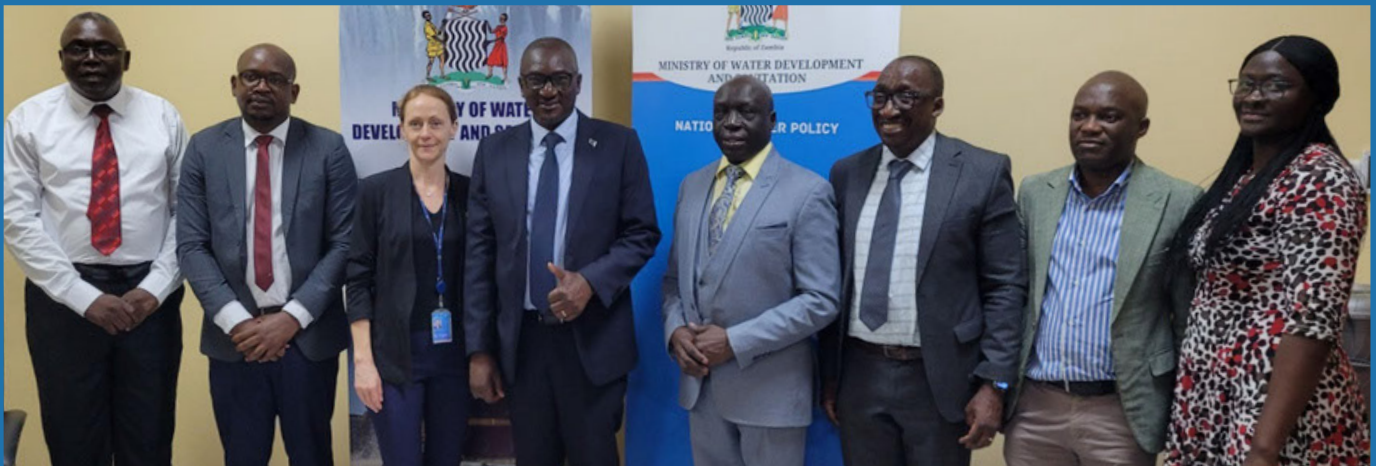
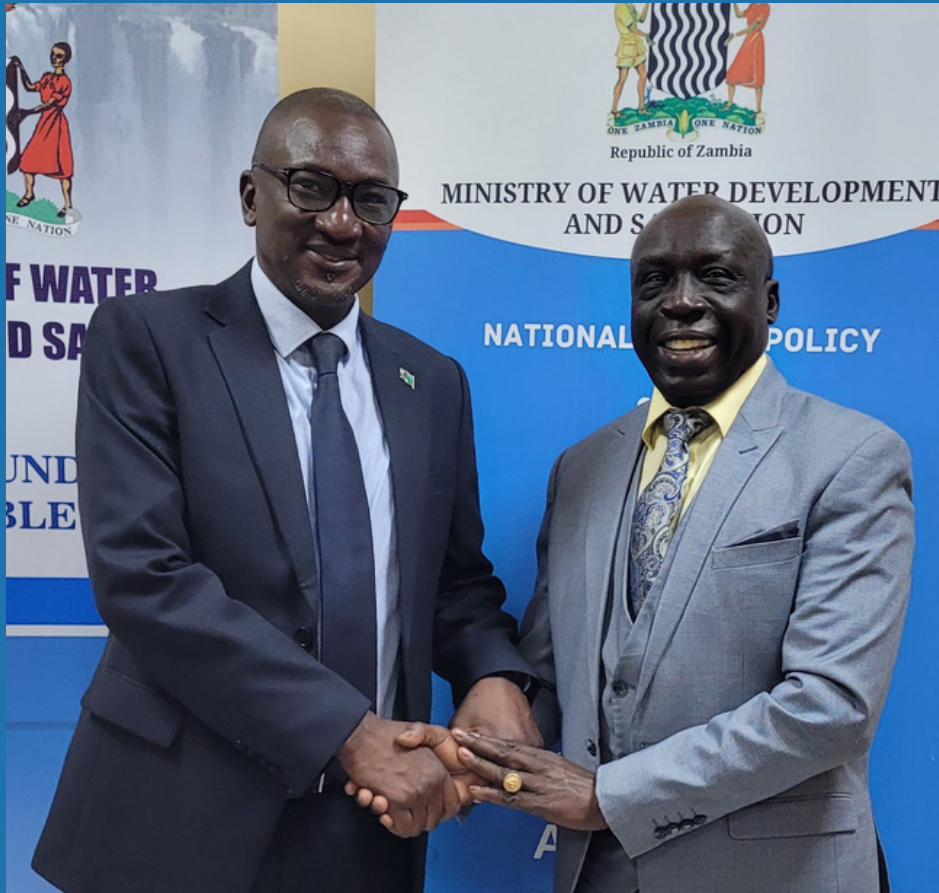


16th February 2026

The Government of the Republic of Zambia, with support from the World Bank, is implementing the Zambia Multisectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project (ZaMPPR) to strengthen surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce capacity, and emergency response coordination. A three-day review and planning meeting (12–14 February 2026) in Chongwe District brought together key stakeholders to assess programmatic and financial performance and develop an evidence-based plan for 2026.

Opening the meeting, Paul Zulu of the Zambia National Public Health Institute highlighted progress in strengthening IHR capacities, including improved SPAR scores. Niwael Mtui Malamsha of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations noted achievements in laboratory biosafety and workforce training, while O-Tipo Shikanga, representing the World Health Organization, emphasized that early access to Pandemic Fund resources enabled timely implementation and positioned Zambia for future opportunities. The meeting reaffirmed Zambia's commitment to a coordinated, evidence-driven approach to pandemic preparedness and strengthened national health security.

Strengthening Multisectoral Collaboration on Water and Public Health



19th February 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia strengthened multisectoral collaboration through a high-level engagement with the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, led by Hon. Mike Mposha Nzovu. This engagement identified priority areas for joint action, including capacity building on health risk assessments and provision of technical assistance for coordinated responses to routine and climate-related waterborne diseases, reinforcing national efforts to protect public health.

Mobilizing Partnerships for Emergency Preparedness and Health

20th March 2026

The World Health Organization Zambia, in collaboration with the World Health Organization African Region, strengthened partnerships for emergency preparedness by convening strategic engagements during an EPR Technical Workshop and Scoping Mission.

In coordination with Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Zambia National Public Health Institute, key partners—including IFRC, FAO, IOM, US CDC, UKHSA, JICA, and Irish Aid—aligned priorities with Zambia’s EPR roadmap and supported coordinated investment in SURGE, PROSE, and TASS initiatives.

Consequently, partners committed to strengthening rapid response capacity, logistics and coordination systems, surveillance and early warning, and community engagement, reinforcing support to the Ministry of Health Zambia and contributing to a more resilient health system.



Strengthening Essential Medicine Supply Chains during Outbreak and Pandemics in

23rd March 2026

WHO Zambia, in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and the Zambia National Public Health Institute, supported a joint engagement with the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency to strengthen supply chain systems.

As a result, WHO's technical support enhanced the management and distribution of essential medicines and medical supplies, improving timely access to critical commodities and reinforcing Zambia's resilience to health emergencies.



Strengthening EMT Capacity for Emergency Response in Zambia



27th March 2026

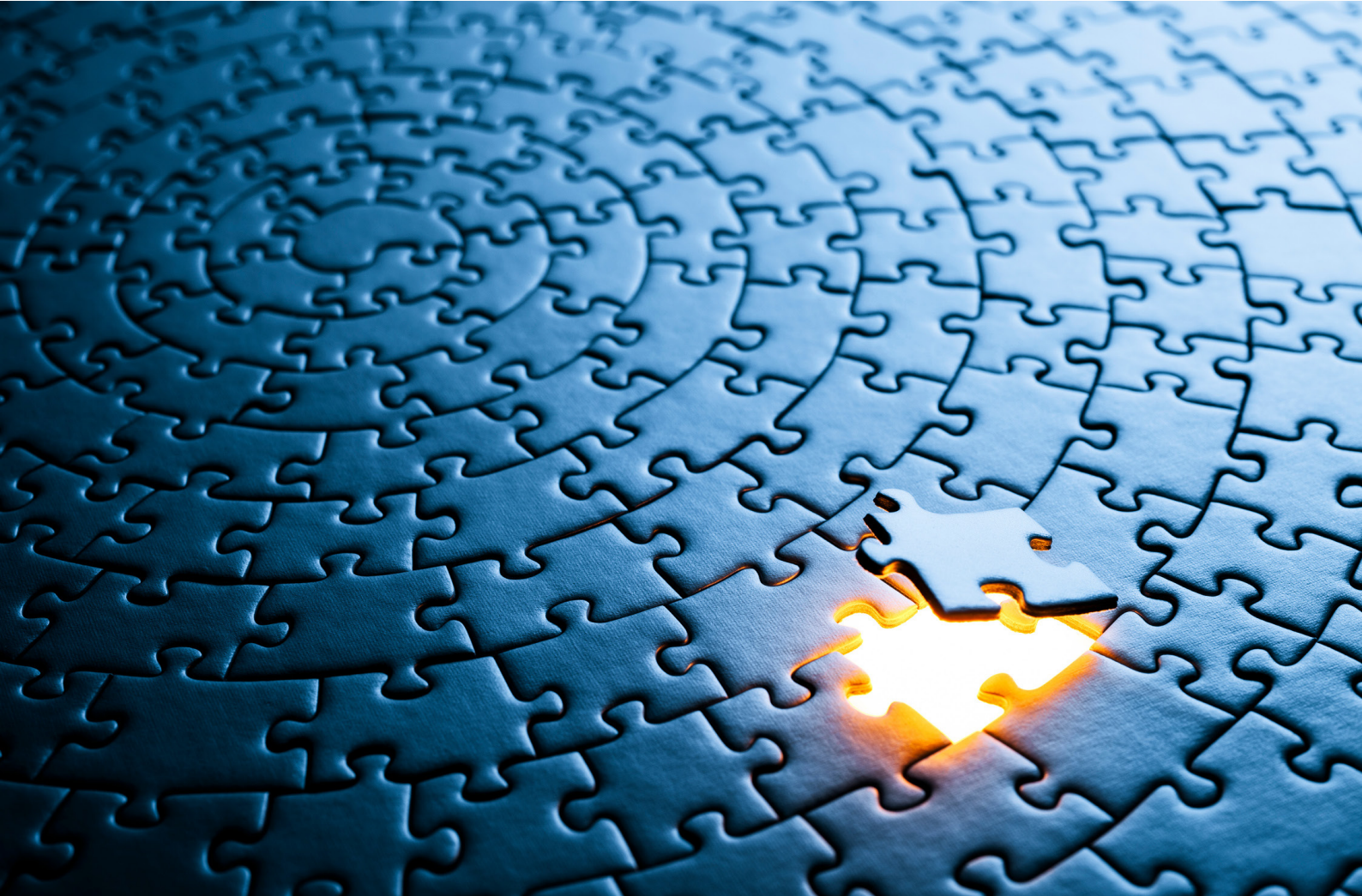
WHO Zambia, alongside the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and the Zambia National Public Health Institute, enhanced Zambia's emergency preparedness by supporting the induction and training of the second cohort of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) through the ZaMPPR project funded by the World Bank Group Pandemic Fund.

This initiative strengthened multidisciplinary response capacity through intensive training and simulation exercises, improving coordination, technical readiness, and the ability to respond effectively to public health emergencies, including flood-related cholera outbreaks.



PARTNERSHIPS

We express our deepest gratitude to the partners who generously contributed financially or through technical cooperation to make our programmes possible in 2026.





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