



World Health
Organization

Zambia

2ND QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2026

April - June 2026

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World Health
Organization

Zambia

**LEADERSHIP,
COORDINATION, ADVOCACY,
AND PARTNERSHIP**

7th April 2026

World Health Day 2026 | Zambia



WHO Zambia supported national commemoration of World Health Day under the global theme, “Together for Health. Stand with Science,” reflected locally through the theme, “Together for Quality Health: Informed by Science.” The event, held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre, brought together more than 200 government leaders, health professionals, students, WHO staff, partners and community representatives to reaffirm a shared commitment to science-driven and people-centred health systems.

The commemoration created a platform for expert dialogue, One Health perspectives, youth engagement and exhibitions showcasing health innovation. It also marked WHO's 78th birthday, reinforcing the importance of science, solidarity and African innovation in building stronger, safer and more equitable health systems for all.



UNZA Steps Up the Fight Against Cholera

WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening cholera preparedness and prevention through the launch of a four-day oral cholera vaccination campaign at the University of Zambia. The campaign, officially launched by the Honourable Minister of Health, brought together senior health leaders including the Director-General of the Zambia National Public Health Institute, the Permanent Secretary – Technical Services and the WHO Zambia Representative.

Nearly 1,000 students are expected to receive the oral cholera vaccine during the campaign, helping to protect the university community and reduce the risk of outbreaks. Beyond vaccination, the initiative also promoted practical prevention measures through the distribution of free chlorine for drinking water treatment, reinforcing the importance of safe water, hygiene and sanitation in cholera prevention.

With support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO Zambia contributed to improved outbreak readiness, risk reduction and community engagement, working alongside national partners to keep students and surrounding communities safe and healthy.



Chiefs and Communities Unite for a Healthier Zambia

WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening cholera preparedness through a four-day oral cholera vaccination campaign at the University of Zambia, targeting nearly 1,000 students. Launched by the Minister of Health with senior national and WHO leaders in attendance, the campaign combined vaccination with practical prevention measures, including free chlorine distribution for safe drinking water. Supported by Gavi, the initiative helped improve outbreak readiness, reduce cholera risk, and promote community engagement around safe water, hygiene and sanitation.

The final paragraph on the Nalubamba Chiefdom and Ikubi Lya BanaMunyati Ceremony appears to relate to a separate article or section, unless the article is also covering traditional leadership and public health partnerships.



WHO Zambia and Germany Deepen Health Partnership

WHO Zambia strengthened diplomatic and development engagement through a courtesy call by the WHO Representative, Dr Clement Lasuba, on the German Ambassador to Zambia, H.E. Soenke Siemon, at the German Embassy in Lusaka. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss shared priorities, including health workforce strengthening, WASH, nutrition and climate change. It also reaffirmed the continued support of Germany and WHO to the Government of Zambia in advancing health and development outcomes. This engagement highlighted the importance of coordinated partnerships in building stronger, more resilient health systems and opened the way for continued collaboration with Germany as a valued global and regional health partner.



WHO STEPwise approach Survey Data Guides Zambia's Fight Against NCDs

WHO Zambia supported national efforts to strengthen evidence-based action on non-communicable diseases through the STEPS survey. With NCDs accounting for nearly 30% of all deaths in Zambia, the survey provides reliable and up-to-date data to guide policy decisions, improve investment planning, and strengthen prevention and treatment programmes.

Through this national effort, Zambia is better positioned to track NCD trends, identify priority risk factors, and measure progress towards national and global health targets. WHO Zambia commended the Government of Zambia, ZNPFI, health workers and partners for their leadership and collaboration in generating the evidence needed to advance stronger and more effective NCD responses.



Upgraded Virology Lab Strengthens Polio Surveillance

WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening national disease surveillance through the handover of the refurbished National Polio Virology Laboratory at the University Teaching Hospital. The handover took place alongside the launch of the first round of the national polio Supplementary Immunization Activities, following the recent detection of circulating variant poliovirus.

With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and technical collaboration with eHealth Africa, the upgraded laboratory will enhance Zambia's capacity to detect and respond to polio and other viral threats. The facility will support testing of stool samples from acute flaccid paralysis cases and expand environmental surveillance through wastewater monitoring, helping identify silent poliovirus transmission early.

As part of global disease surveillance networks, the laboratory will benefit Zambia and neighbouring countries by improving early detection, accurate reporting and timely public health action. This milestone reflects strong partnership in protecting children, strengthening emergency preparedness and advancing regional health security.



What New Health Data Reveal About Zambia's Future

WHO Zambia supported the official launch of the STEPwise Approach to NCD Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, a nationally representative study aimed at strengthening Zambia's response to non-communicable diseases. Launched by the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Alex Katakwe, the survey will generate vital data to inform evidence-based policies, improve prevention strategies and guide investment in NCD care.

The initiative began with a five-day intensive training for data collectors, supervisors, laboratory technicians, IT and data managers, and national coordinators. These teams were equipped to conduct fieldwork across all 10 provinces, collecting data from approximately 5,762 adults aged 18–69 years using globally standardised WHO tools.



Through the STEPS survey, Zambia will collect critical information on behavioural risk factors, physical measurements and biochemical indicators, including tobacco use, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets, blood pressure, body measurements, blood glucose and cholesterol levels.

Led by the Ministry of Health in coordination with the Zambia National Public Health Institute, and with technical support from WHO Zambia and WHO headquarters, the survey strengthens national NCD surveillance and health information systems. This effort will help Zambia better understand NCD risks, track trends and shape healthier futures for communities across the country.



Culture and Youth Voices Drive Health Advocacy Forward



WHO Zambia strengthened partnerships for health advocacy through a courtesy visit by Zambian artist B Flow, an official United Nations in Zambia SDG Supporter. The engagement created an opportunity to explore collaboration in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing.

The discussions focused on how culture, youth engagement and storytelling can be used to raise awareness on key health priorities, including maternal health, mental health, healthy lifestyles, tobacco control and participation in global health moments. By combining WHO's evidence-based guidance with B Flow's voice, creativity and community reach, the engagement laid a foundation for values-aligned, non-commercial advocacy that can inspire dialogue and promote positive health behaviours. This partnership approach is contributing to stronger public engagement and wider amplification of messages that support healthier lives for all.

Solar Power Lights the Way to Better Healthcare Access

WHO Zambia strengthened health service continuity by supporting the installation of solar power systems in eight health facilities across Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt provinces through a partnership with Prudential Zambia. The initiative is helping ensure uninterrupted essential services, including immunisation, maternal care and laboratory diagnostics, in facilities where reliable electricity is critical to patient care.



The solar equipment was officially handed over on 25 April 2026 at Chalimbana Rural Health Centre, during an event graced by the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr Alex Katakwe, and the Minister of Lands and Chongwe Member of Parliament, Hon. Sylvia Masebo.

By leveraging an existing multilateral programme, the initiative demonstrated how private sector co-financing can strengthen health infrastructure efficiently without creating parallel systems. This model offers a practical pathway for sustaining essential health services in resource-constrained settings, especially as development assistance declines.

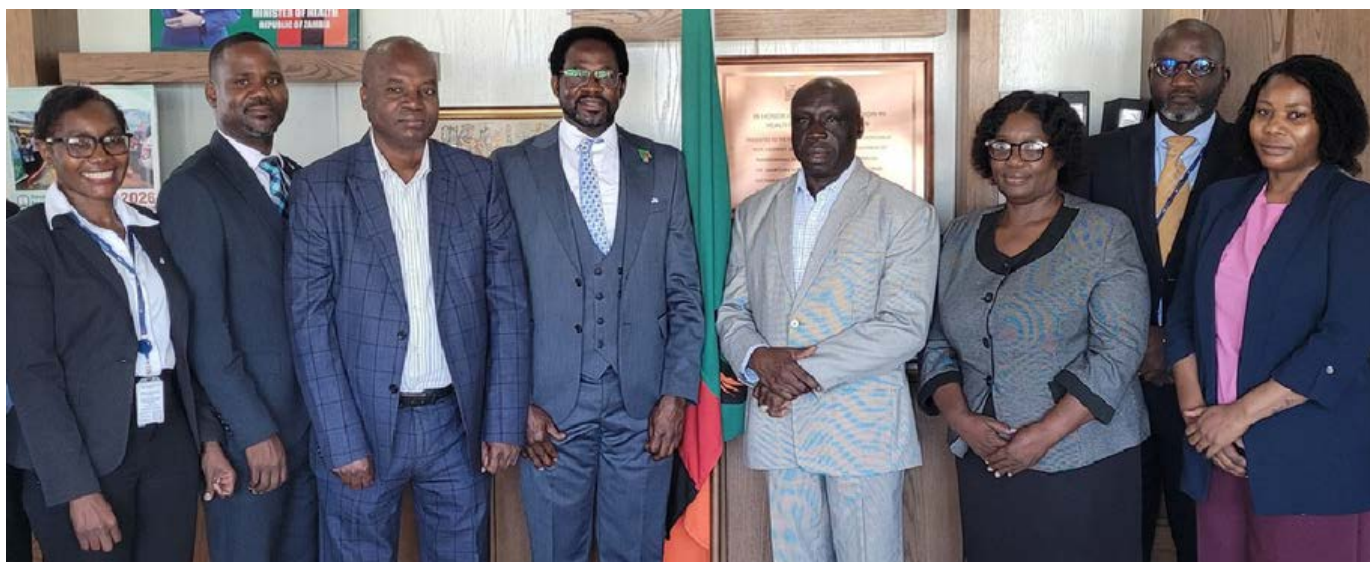


Zambia Shapes Global Health Policy at WHA79

WHO Zambia supported Zambia's effective participation in global health decision-making by briefing the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Alex Katakwe, and the Zambian delegation attending the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Led by the WHO Representative, Dr Clement Lasuba, the briefing formed part of WHO's regular engagement with Member States to strengthen preparation for participation in WHO governing bodies. This support helped ensure that Zambia's delegation was well informed on key agenda items, global health priorities and decision-making processes.

Through this engagement, WHO Zambia contributed to stronger national representation in global health discussions, supporting Zambia's ability to influence priorities, mobilise partnerships and align global commitments with national and regional health needs, including health security, universal health coverage and improved health outcomes across Africa.



WHO and Africa CDC Join Forces for Zambia's Health

WHO Zambia strengthened strategic partnership engagement with Africa CDC through a courtesy visit by Dr Peter Kumpalume, Special Regional Representative of the Director General and Senior Advisor, together with his team. The meeting, led by WHO Zambia Representative Dr Clement Lasuba, provided an opportunity to reaffirm the strong collaboration between WHO and Africa CDC at global, regional and country levels.

The engagement highlighted shared priorities and areas of alignment in advancing public health, particularly in primary health care, immunization and health security. These priorities remain critical to building resilient health systems, improving health outcomes and supporting Zambia's national health agenda. Through this partnership dialogue, WHO Zambia reinforced its commitment to working closely with Africa CDC and national stakeholders to support Zambia's efforts in protecting and promoting the health of all.



Zambia Strengthens Defenses Against Ebola

WHO Zambia strengthened disease surveillance and outbreak response capacity by supporting the rollout of the 3rd Edition Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response training, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners.

Conducted across high-priority provinces, the training equipped frontline health workers with practical skills in early detection, timely reporting, data analysis and effective response to public health threats, in line with the International Health Regulations 2005. Through the five-day programme, participants were trained across the full surveillance cycle, including identifying and reporting priority diseases, investigating outbreaks, conducting risk communication and using electronic systems such as eIDSR and DHIS2 for real-time data management.

This initiative helped close surveillance capacity gaps at health facility level by improving the timeliness, quality and use of data for decision-making. It also strengthened preparedness for epidemic-prone diseases, including viral haemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, as well as cholera, malaria and other emerging public health threats.

With financial support from Irish Aid, WHO Zambia contributed to building a stronger and more resilient health system by empowering frontline health workers with the knowledge, tools and systems needed to detect, report and respond to outbreaks more effectively.



Communities and Partners Unite to End Polio

WHO Zambia strengthened advocacy and community engagement for polio prevention through a joint engagement with UNICEF Zambia and United Nations in Zambia SDG 3 supporters, B Flow and Lulu Haangala-Woods.

The engagement created an opportunity to mobilize influential voices in support of the upcoming second round of the polio vaccination campaign. By working with trusted public figures, WHO Zambia and partners helped expand awareness, encourage community participation and reinforce the importance of protecting every child from polio.

This collaboration contributed to stronger public advocacy for the End Polio campaign and demonstrated the value of partnerships in promoting child health and immunization across Zambia.



Digital Innovation Brings Healthcare Closer to Home



WHO Zambia strengthened engagement on digital health innovation through a courtesy visit by the 73health team, led by its Co-founder and CEO, to introduce a telemedicine solution planned for piloting in 20 health facilities across Zambia.

The engagement highlighted the potential of the technology to expand access to quality healthcare by enabling doctors to conduct real-time remote medical examinations, including assessment of heart and lung sounds, ears, skin and throat, as well as vital signs. The cloud-based platform also supports nurse-assisted consultations and home visits, offering a practical approach to addressing access, infrastructure and workforce challenges in underserved settings.

The discussions also explored the use of an AI-powered decision-support tool designed to help flag possible treatment concerns based on a patient's medical history or current condition. WHO Zambia welcomed the innovation and highlighted its potential contribution to improving quality of care, reducing maternal mortality and supporting responses to the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.

Through this engagement, WHO Zambia reaffirmed its readiness to support responsible, people-centred and context-appropriate digital health solutions that can strengthen service delivery and bring healthcare closer to communities.





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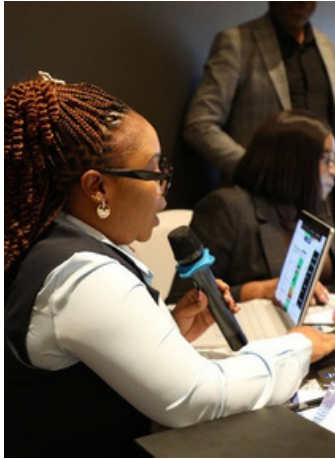
HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

Accelerating Zambia's Digital Health Transformation Through Strategy Review and Technical Support



WHO Zambia supported the Mid-Term Review of Zambia's National Digital Health Strategy 2022–2026 and the technical review of the Digital Health Blueprint, contributing to national efforts to accelerate digital health transformation. The five-day workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Health with financial support from Irish Aid and CIFF, brought together government leaders, technical experts, UN agencies and partners to review progress, validate findings and identify strategic priorities for the next phase of implementation.

The review created a platform for focused dialogue on governance, interoperability, digital solutions, data use, workforce capacity and sustainability. Through these discussions, stakeholders worked towards a clearer, more coordinated and actionable roadmap for strengthening digital health systems, particularly at primary health care level.



Through the Global Initiative on Digital Health, WHO Zambia provided technical support to help ensure that digital health investments are country-led, standards-based, interoperable and impactful. This support is contributing to a stronger foundation for equitable, efficient and resilient health services powered by digital innovation.

Enhancing Mental Health and Neurological Care Through Evidence-Based Health System Assessment



WHO Zambia supported preparations for a national survey on health system performance and access to essential medicines for neurological and mental health conditions. The mission, conducted with support from WHO headquarters and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, helped lay the groundwork for generating evidence to strengthen mental health and neurological care in Zambia.

As part of the preparatory work, the team visited key health facilities, including the University Teaching Hospital, Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital and Chainama Hills College Hospital. These visits focused on assessing the availability of critical mental health medicines and engaging health workers to better understand system-level challenges, service gaps and opportunities for improvement.

The upcoming survey will provide vital evidence to inform policy, improve access to essential medicines and support Zambia's progress towards universal health coverage, stronger health system performance and improved care for people living with mental health and neurological conditions.

Strengthening Zambia's Health Workforce Through Evidence-Based Policy Dialogue

WHO Zambia supported national efforts to strengthen Zambia's path towards a sustainable, resilient and equitable health workforce through the National Health Workforce Policy Dialogue and the official launch of the Zambia Health Labour Market Analysis Report.

The dialogue brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, professional councils and cooperating partners to reflect on the country's health workforce needs, priorities and financing requirements. The event, officiated by the Permanent Secretary for Administration on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Health, reaffirmed the central role of the health workforce in achieving Universal Health Coverage and national development goals.





With support from the WHO Regional Office for Africa and funding from the Global Fund, the Health Labour Market Analysis Report generated timely evidence on Zambia's health workforce supply, demand, financing and future needs. The report highlighted key progress, including the recruitment of nearly 20,000 health workers into the public sector, while also identifying persistent challenges such as workforce shortages, a 51% vacancy rate, rural–urban inequities and the need for sustainable health workforce financing.

Through the two-day dialogue, WHO Zambia contributed to evidence-based discussions on aligning health worker education with population health needs, improving recruitment and retention, expanding fiscal space, strengthening the community health workforce and improving human resources for health data systems. This milestone provides a strong foundation for translating evidence into policy action as Zambia prepares for the 9th National Development Plan, the 2027–2031 National Health Strategic Plan and the next Human Resources for Health Strategy.

20th May 2026

Exploring Partnerships to Strengthen Health Supply Chains in Zambia

WHO Zambia strengthened partnership engagement on resilient and digitized medicines supply chains through a meeting with the Country Director for Rocinantes Zambia and his team. The engagement explored opportunities for collaboration in improving the availability, efficiency and responsiveness of health commodities for emergency and essential health services.

Discussions focused on how innovation, digital solutions and strategic partnerships can support stronger medicines supply chains across the country. This collaboration aligns with efforts to build reliable, responsive and people-centred health systems that ensure essential health commodities reach communities when and where they are needed.

Through this engagement, WHO Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to working with partners to support the Government of Zambia in strengthening health systems, improving supply chain resilience and advancing equitable access to quality health services.



Advancing Primary Health Care Investment Through the Health Impact Investment Platform



WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health in launching the Health Impact Investment Platform country process through a two-day inception meeting in Lusaka, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Africa and key partners.

The meeting brought together government, development partners, UN agencies and stakeholders to align on a country-led approach for strengthening Primary Health Care through coordinated and sustainable investments. Under the “One Country, One Plan” approach, participants worked towards a shared roadmap for PHC investment planning, governance and coordination mechanisms, sector roles and responsibilities, resource mapping and financing priorities.



This engagement came at a critical time as Zambia continues to address health system challenges, including workforce gaps, infrastructure needs, disease outbreaks and climate-related shocks. Through its technical support, WHO Zambia contributed to stronger partner alignment, country leadership and investment planning for resilient health systems.

The inception meeting laid the foundation for governance structures, coordination frameworks and a joint workplan to guide implementation, helping ensure that health investments translate into tangible improvements in services and outcomes for communities across Zambia.

Partnering to Improve Health Supply Chain Systems in Zambia



WHO Zambia supported Northern Province in strengthening maternal and perinatal death surveillance through a five-day training on the Digital Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Reporting Tool in Kasama.

Led by the Ministry of Health through the Department of Public Health Policy and Planning, the training brought together Health Information Officers, Maternal and Child Health Coordinators and Nursing Officers from district health offices and hospitals across the province. The initiative equipped participants with practical knowledge and skills to improve the quality, completeness and accuracy of maternal and perinatal death data.

The digital platform introduces mandatory fields and validation checks, helping to address longstanding challenges in data collection, reporting and management. By improving data systems, the training contributed to stronger programme performance, better decision-making and more effective responses aimed at reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

This support marked an important step in advancing digital innovation for maternal and newborn health in Northern Province, strengthening surveillance systems and helping health teams use reliable data to save lives.

Promoting Access to Life-Saving Childhood Cancer Medicines in Zambia

WHO Zambia strengthened access to life-saving treatment for children with cancer by convening a multi-stakeholder team to conduct the 2027 forecasting and quantification of childhood cancer medicines under the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines.

The process brought together the Ministry of Health, ZAMMSA, Cancer Diseases Hospital, UNICEF Zambia and other partners to improve coordinated planning and ensure a reliable supply of quality-assured childhood cancer medicines. Supported by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the initiative is helping Zambia strengthen medicine availability, reduce the risk of shortages and wastage, and improve equitable access to treatment nationwide.

Through the use of real-world data and robust forecasting models, WHO Zambia contributed to ensuring that the right medicines reach the right patients at the right time. More than 300 children in Zambia are already benefiting from this initiative through improved continuity of care and better treatment outcomes.



Bolstering Primary Health Care Investment Planning Through HIIP in Zambia

WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening Primary Health Care investment planning through a five-day Health Impact Investment Platform Desk Review and Planning workshop, convened in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Africa and partners.

The workshop brought together technical teams from Government, WHO and partners to review national health policies and strategies, identify priority Primary Health Care challenges, assess system gaps and define strategic investment priorities. Through interactive working sessions and data-driven discussions, participants conducted detailed gap analysis across key operational areas, including digital health, climate resilience and emergency preparedness.

This process contributed to the development of a roadmap towards a costed, evidence-based Primary Health Care investment plan aligned with Zambia's participation in the Global Health Impact Investment Platform and the Lusaka Agenda's "One Country, One Plan" vision.

Through its role as technical lead and coordination secretariat, WHO Zambia helped strengthen partner alignment, investment prioritization and planning for sustainable, high-impact health investments. The initiative supports Zambia's efforts to build a resilient and equitable health system, strengthen Primary Health Care as the foundation of service delivery and accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goal 3.





**World Health
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DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

2nd April 2026

WHO Polio Vaccination Campaign

WHO Zambia supported national preparedness for the upcoming polio vaccination campaign across six provinces, scheduled for launch on 20 April. As part of the readiness efforts, the WHO Zambia Representative, Dr Lasuba, visited the National Polio Emergency Operations Centre at the Ministry of Health's Child Health and Nutrition Unit. The visit included a guided review of the emergency operations setup and inspection of the cold chain equipment where nOPV2 vaccines are being safely stored, strengthening confidence in vaccine readiness and campaign coordination.



Improving Access to Specialised NCD Care Through PEN-Plus Clinics

WHO Zambia supported the documentation and visibility of progress in expanding specialised care for severe non-communicable diseases through the PEN-Plus initiative. In collaboration with CIDRZ and with support from the WHO Regional Office for Africa, photo documentation was conducted at PEN-Plus clinics in Mwachisompola and Matero First Level Hospital, two of Zambia's five implementation sites.

This work highlighted how the PEN-Plus approach is bringing essential services for chronic and severe conditions such as type 1 diabetes, sickle cell disease, and rheumatic heart disease closer to communities. Through strengthened first-level hospital services, patients are gaining improved access to specialised, patient-centred treatment, follow-up care, and essential NCD services, particularly in underserved areas.



Enhancing Zambia's Polio Response Through Data and Action



WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health and GPEI partners in reviewing the performance of the Round 1 novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 Supplementary Immunization Activity, following the April 2026 polio vaccination campaign. The national review meeting brought together national and provincial health leaders, programme managers and partners to assess implementation progress, identify operational gaps and strengthen strategies for upcoming campaign rounds.

Through technical and operational support, WHO Zambia contributed to outbreak response guidance, campaign quality improvement, microplanning, training, field implementation, surveillance strengthening, laboratory systems, data management, monitoring and partner coordination. The review emphasized the importance of high-quality data analysis in identifying missed children, understanding implementation challenges and improving the effectiveness of subsequent vaccination rounds.

This effort strengthened Zambia's polio eradication response by promoting evidence-based planning, coordinated action and improved campaign readiness. Working with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and GPEI partners, WHO Zambia continues to support efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission, strengthen immunization systems and protect every child from polio.

Building and Strengthening Strategic Partnerships to Advance Health Priorities in Zambia

WHO Zambia strengthened partnership engagement with PATH through a productive meeting focused on advancing collaboration in support of Zambia's national health priorities. The engagement provided an opportunity for PATH to share an overview of its ongoing programmes and projects in Zambia, including work in health systems strengthening, innovation and service delivery.

The discussions identified priority areas for enhanced collaboration, including immunization, primary health care, innovation, digital health and broader health system strengthening. These areas align with the Government of Zambia's priorities and contribute to advancing Universal Health Coverage through quality, equitable and people-centred health services.

Through this engagement, WHO Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with partners such as PATH to support the Ministry of Health and relevant national institutions in strengthening health outcomes for all communities across Zambia.





**World Health
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Zambia

**DISEASE PREVENTION AND
CONTROL:
Expanded Programme on
Immunization
(EPI)**

20th April 2026

Protecting Children Through Zambia's National Polio Vaccination Campaign

WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Health in the launch of the first round of the national polio vaccination campaign, a major step towards protecting children and preventing the spread of polio. The campaign, implemented with partners under the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, including UNICEF, local non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders, ran from 20 to 23 April 2026.

The campaign targeted approximately 3.7 million children under the age of five across Lusaka, Central, Eastern, Muchinga, Southern and Western provinces. Health workers and community volunteers were deployed to reach eligible children, including those in hard-to-reach communities, helping to improve vaccination coverage and strengthen child health protection.



Through this effort, WHO Zambia contributed to national polio prevention, community mobilisation and routine immunization awareness. The campaign also reinforced the importance of safe and effective vaccines, parental support and sustained routine immunization services in protecting children from preventable diseases.



Bolstering Zambia's Progress Towards a Polio-Free Future

WHO Zambia supported the successful implementation of the first round of polio Supplementary Immunization Activities across six provinces, contributing to national efforts to protect children and communities from polio.



Through technical supervision and field monitoring, including at sites such as Kanyama in Lusaka, WHO Zambia helped strengthen the quality of vaccination activities and ensure that eligible children were reached with lifesaving polio vaccines.

The campaign reflected the dedication of health workers, partners and communities who worked together to advance Zambia's progress towards a polio-free future.



Advancing Polio Vaccination Advocacy Through Community Engagement

WHO Zambia strengthened polio vaccination advocacy and community engagement through the participation of Lulu Wood, one of the United Nations in Zambia official SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being supporters, during the second round of the polio vaccination campaign.

In collaboration with UNICEF Zambia, the engagement supported house-to-house vaccination activities, where health teams administered polio vaccines, interacted with families and reinforced the importance of ensuring that no child under five is missed. The activity also highlighted how vaccination teams use household markings and tracking systems to monitor coverage and follow up on children who still need to receive the vaccine.

Through this support, WHO Zambia contributed to increased public awareness that polio has no cure but can be prevented through vaccination. The campaign message emphasized the importance of every eligible child receiving all required doses, including the ongoing second round and the upcoming third round. The engagement also recognized the dedication of Community-Based Volunteers and health workers who continue to serve communities through long hours, house-to-house visits and trusted communication. Their work remains central to protecting children, strengthening community confidence and moving Zambia closer to a polio-free future.





**World Health
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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Enhancing Zambia's Health Systems Through Critical Equipment Support

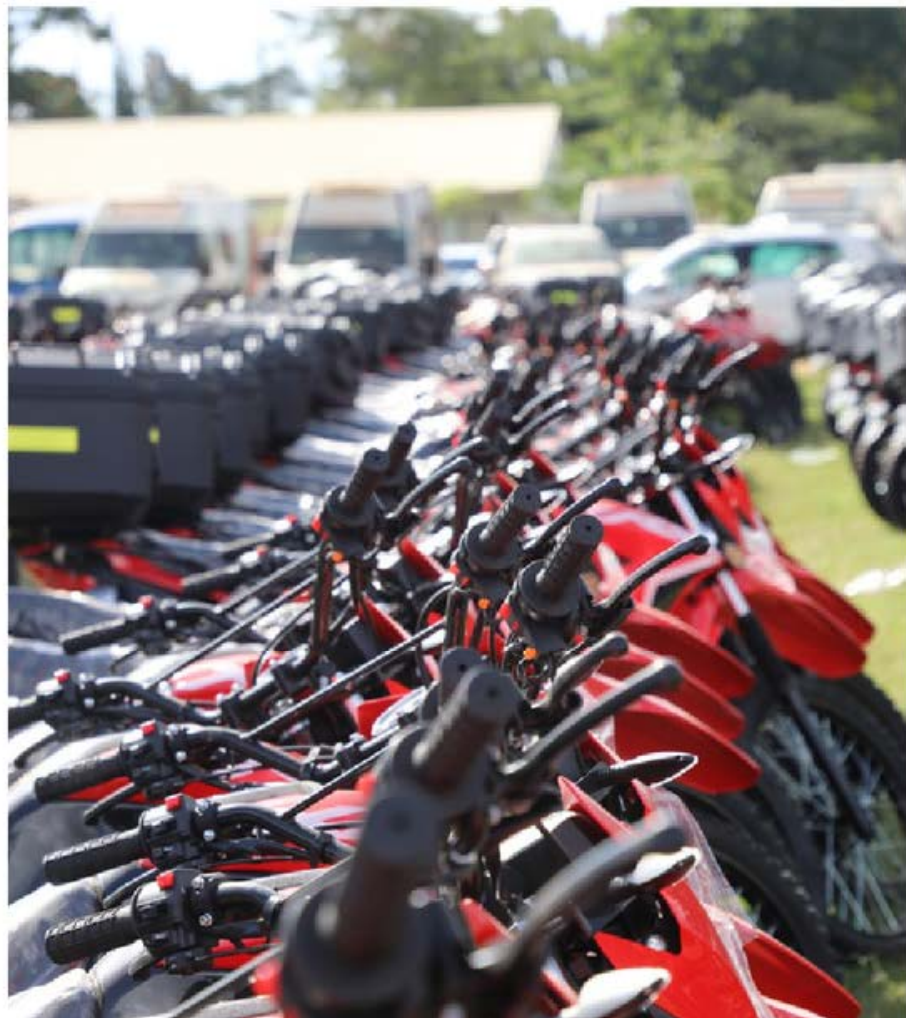


WHO Zambia strengthened Zambia's national health systems through the official handover of critical assets to the Ministry of Health. The handover included 10 vehicles, one truck, 216 motorbikes, 229 laptops and 100 Samsung Galaxy tablets, procured with generous support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Pandemic Fund.

received by the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr Alex Katakwe, MP, on behalf of the Government of Zambia during a ceremony at Ndeke House, the equipment will enhance vaccine delivery, logistics, disease surveillance, early detection and response systems across the country.

This milestone reflects continued investment in stronger, more responsive health systems and improved service delivery for communities across Zambia.





Improving Outbreak Preparedness Through Go.Data Digital Surveillance Training



WHO Zambia strengthened outbreak preparedness and response capacity through the pilot implementation of Go.Data in collaboration with the Zambia National Public Health Institute. The initiative equipped frontline surveillance and response teams with practical skills to use the WHO-developed digital platform for outbreak investigation, contact tracing, real-time data collection, case follow-up and analysis.

The trainings brought together national and sub-national health workers from Lusaka, Copperbelt and Muchinga provinces, improving their ability to apply digital tools in both preparedness and active response settings. This support contributes to stronger national capacity to respond to public health threats such as mpox and viral haemorrhagic fevers by improving the timeliness, quality and completeness of contact tracing data.

Through this initiative, WHO Zambia supported faster outbreak detection, improved coordination and more effective public health response, while strengthening digital surveillance systems for future health emergencies. The training and pilot implementation were made possible with funding support from Irish Aid.

Advancing Zambia's Pandemic Preparedness through Integrated Multisectoral Coordination

WHO Zambia strengthened national pandemic preparedness by supporting a multisectoral training and validation workshop for Zambia's National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from across sectors to enhance Zambia's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to pandemic influenza and other respiratory health threats using a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Building on lessons from COVID-19 and other recent outbreaks, participants reviewed, refined and validated the national plan to ensure alignment with global standards and national health security priorities.

Through this initiative, WHO Zambia contributed to stronger preparedness planning, improved surveillance systems, early detection, rapid response, effective coordination and equitable access to health services during pandemics. The support forms part of Zambia's broader efforts to build resilience against future public health emergencies and safeguard lives through stronger health security systems.

The initiative was made possible with financial support from the Pandemic Fund.



Building Resilient Surveillance and Outbreak Response Systems in Zambia

WHO Zambia strengthened Ebola preparedness through an engagement meeting held on 22 May 2026, reaffirming its continued support to the Government of Zambia in enhancing readiness for public health emergencies.

The engagement provided an opportunity to align preparedness priorities, strengthen coordination and review key actions needed to prevent, detect and respond effectively to potential Ebola and other high-risk disease threats.

Through technical and financial support, WHO Zambia contributed to national efforts to build stronger emergency preparedness systems, improve response capacity and safeguard communities from future public health emergencies.



Advancing Transparency and Accountability in WASH Financing through the WASH Accounts Framework

WHO Zambia supported the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation in advancing the WASH Accounts process, contributing to national efforts to strengthen evidence-based planning, financing and accountability in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

Through the technical committee convened by the Ministry, key stakeholders including UNICEF, ZamStats, the NGO WASH Forum, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, ZNPHI and other partners worked together to define the roadmap and critical steps required to begin data collection.

The engagement helped build momentum for Zambia's broader WASH financing agenda by strengthening coordination, clarifying roles and laying the foundation for improved tracking of WASH investments and resource flows. Technical inputs and facilitation support from partners contributed to a stronger shared understanding of the WASH Accounts process and its importance in informing sustainable sector financing decisions.



The workshop brought together stakeholders from government, cooperating partners and the WASH sector to advance the development of WASH Accounts in Zambia. Through this process, partners worked to consolidate progress, refine the implementation roadmap and strengthen the systems needed to track national expenditure in water, sanitation and hygiene.

The engagement contributed to the finalization of the WASH Accounts implementation plan and costed roadmap, development of governance and coordination structures, establishment of a data collection plan and budget, and stronger collaboration across sectors.

By supporting the operationalization of WASH Accounts, WHO Zambia contributed to improved evidence- based decision-making, stronger accountability and more sustainable investments in WASH services for all Zambians.



Enhancing Zambia's Preparedness for Viral Haemorrhagic Disease Threats

WHO Zambia strengthened Zambia's readiness for viral haemorrhagic disease threats by supporting the Ministry of Health, through the Zambia National Public Health Institute, in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency, to finalize an integrated Ebola preparedness and response training package.

Developed in light of the recent Bundibugyo Virus Disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the package brings together key preparedness and response components, including surveillance, laboratory systems, infection prevention and control, and case management.

The training package will guide integrated preparedness training for provincial health offices and support cascading of knowledge and skills to district teams. Through this support, WHO Zambia contributed to strengthening frontline response capacity, improving multidisciplinary coordination and enhancing Zambia's ability to rapidly detect, investigate and respond to public health threats at borders and within communities.



Bolstering Zambia's Outbreak Preparedness through Ebola Readiness Supplies

WHO Zambia strengthened Zambia's preparedness for public health emergencies through the official handover of critical Ebola preparedness supplies to the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Health.

The supplies included personal protective equipment, infection prevention and control materials, laboratory reagents and specimen transportation supplies. These resources will support early detection and rapid response to Ebola Virus Disease and other viral haemorrhagic fevers, while helping protect frontline health workers and strengthen laboratory readiness.





Although Zambia has not recorded any Ebola cases, ongoing outbreaks in the region highlight the need for proactive preparedness. Through this support, WHO Zambia contributed to stronger surveillance systems, workforce readiness and emergency response capacity, enabling the country to detect, prevent and respond to potential health threats before they escalate.

This milestone reflects WHO Zambia's continued commitment to supporting the Government of Zambia, the Ministry of Health and the Zambia National Public Health Institute in building a resilient health system that is prepared for future public health emergencies.

Promoting Coordinated Action for Cholera Prevention and Outbreak Response in Hotspot Districts

WHO Zambia supported national efforts to strengthen cholera prevention and response through Cholera Control Programme Review Meetings for 20 hotspot districts identified as Priority Areas for Multisectoral Interventions.

Held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Zambia National Public Health Institute and partners, with funding from Irish Aid, the meetings brought together over 100 participants from local authorities, health leaders, water utilities and national stakeholders to assess progress in cholera prevention, preparedness and response in line with the International Health Regulations 2005.

Through peer learning and evidence-based discussions, districts identified practical solutions to accelerate cholera elimination and strengthen multisectoral coordination. Notably, Chililabombwe mobilized over ZMW 1 million from the Constituency Development Fund for sanitation improvements, demonstrating the value of local leadership and coordinated action. With support from WHO Zambia, UNDP Zambia and the International Organization for Migration, the review process contributed to stronger district-level preparedness, improved WASH-focused interventions and more resilient communities.



Empowering Communities for Effective Public Health Emergency Preparedness in Zambia



WHO Zambia strengthened community preparedness for health emergencies by supporting the development and rollout of community emergency preparedness and response flipcharts, with support from the Pandemic Fund. The flipcharts were designed as practical tools to standardize community-level actions for surveillance, risk communication, early detection and referral during public health emergencies. Field testing was conducted in Lusaka and Katete districts to ensure the tools are practical, relevant and responsive to community needs.

Through this initiative, WHO Zambia supported Community-Based Volunteers, who play a critical role as the first line of response in detecting health threats, sharing trusted information and linking communities to care. The next phase will involve training volunteers in high-risk districts in collaboration with the Zambia National Public Health Institute and partners.

This support is contributing to stronger readiness for Ebola and other epidemic-prone diseases, while building more resilient and healthier communities across Zambia.

WHO Supports Zambia's Ebola Readiness Through National Field SIMEX



In response to the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), with technical and operational support from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health, and other partners, conducted a full-scale Ebola Field Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport and the University Teaching Hospital. The exercise tested Zambia's capacity to rapidly detect, isolate, notify, transport, and manage a suspected Ebola case under real-time conditions, while assessing preparedness across port health screening, emergency medical teams, infection prevention and control, laboratory coordination, surveillance, and safe and dignified burial protocols. Through WHO's support in strengthening national preparedness capacities and emergency response coordination, the SIMEX brought together key government institutions and partners to identify operational gaps, enhance multisectoral collaboration, and reinforce Zambia's readiness to prevent, detect, and respond to high-consequence public health threats in line with the International Health Regulations.

Transforming Public Health Intelligence through Collaborative Surveillance Efforts



WHO Zambia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Zambia National Public Health Institute and key partners, supported a five-day scoping mission to strengthen Zambia's public health intelligence systems. The mission brought together national and global experts to explore how surveillance systems, laboratory data, digital health tools and early warning platforms can work better together.

Through engagements in Lusaka and Kabwe, teams discussed practical ways to improve data sharing, strengthen coordination, support faster outbreak detection and guide timely public health decisions.

The mission also explored how innovation, including artificial intelligence and modelling, can support Zambia's ability to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats more effectively.

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