



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ireland in Zambia

2018–2022



ZAMBIA

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Cover Photo: Schoolchildren performing experiments in the science laboratory at St. Patrick's Secondary School, supported by the Embassy of Ireland. Photo credit: © St. Patricks Secondary School.

Ireland in Zambia

Ireland and Zambia have a unique bond forged over decades of close cooperation and through strong people-to-people ties. Ireland's links with Zambia stretch back over a century, when Irish missionaries began to provide health and education services to the people of Zambia. Ireland established diplomatic relations with Zambia in 1965 and provided support to the newly independent state as it emerged from colonial rule. An Irish Embassy opened in Lusaka in 1980 and Ireland has since maintained a strong and consistent commitment to its relationship with Zambia.

Ireland's Ambassador to Zambia is also accredited to Namibia. The Embassy provides consular services to Irish citizens living in or visiting Namibia as well as promoting trade links between Namibia and Ireland. Diplomatic relations were established between Ireland and Namibia in 1994. The Embassy is also accredited to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Secretariat (COMESA).

In 2020, Ireland will mark forty years of its diplomatic presence in Zambia. Over the last four decades, Ireland has worked closely with the Government of Zambia, with civil society and faith-based organisations, and has made significant investments in education, health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, nutrition, social protection, and governance. Ireland's long-running programme in Zambia's Northern Province has contributed to the improvement of rural livelihoods. Ireland works with women in Zambian society to advocate for gender equality, and stands with partners who are committed to ending gender-based violence.

Ireland's Strategy for Zambia (2018–2022) encompasses the broad dimensions of Ireland's foreign policy. We will maintain our important and long-standing focus on reducing poverty and inequality, with a particular focus on ensuring women and girls living in poverty contribute to and benefit from sustainable development. We will strengthen our relationships and pursue our common interests through the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN), the African Union, and through regional organisations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and COMESA.

Looking to the future, there is great potential for Ireland and Zambia to broaden and deepen our relationship. Our bilateral relations have been strengthened through a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of regular political consultations, signed in 2018. The inaugural consultations took place in Zambia in May 2019 and provided an opportunity to reflect on all that the two countries had achieved together and to identify priority areas for future collaboration. This regular forum for dialogue will reinforce a partnership that has always been based on mutual respect and an openness to listen to each other's concerns.

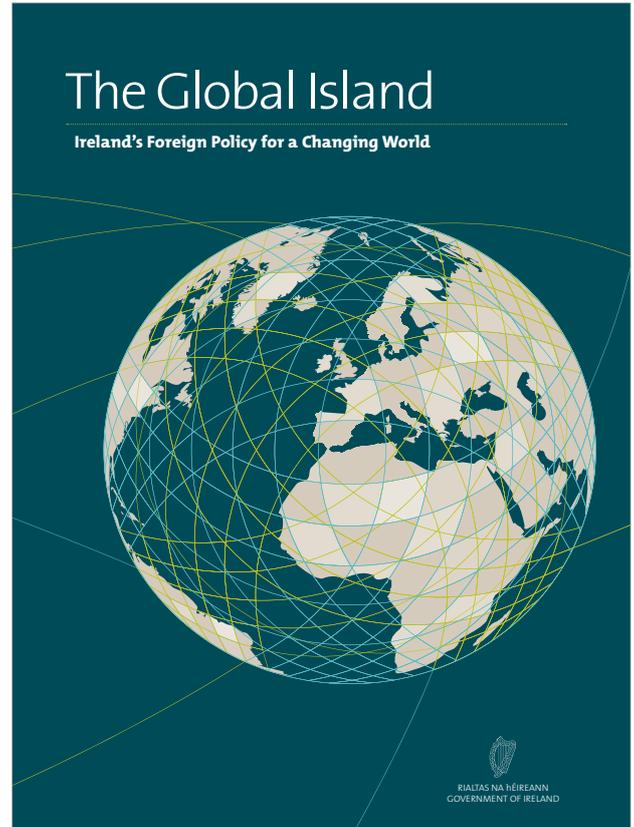


Photo Credit: © Based on OCHA/ReliefWeb

Our Guiding Policies

Ireland's work in Zambia is guided by a number of governmental policies and strategies, as well as Ireland's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Global Ireland: Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025 sets out the ambition to double the impact and scope of Ireland's global footprint by 2025. It affirms Ireland's commitment to work in partnership with the governments and peoples of Africa as the continent continues to develop economically, politically and socially. Increasingly, this commitment is focused on building partnerships beyond the traditional emphasis on development cooperation, to strengthening bilateral and trade relations. Through these broader, more rounded relationships, Ireland will continue to contribute to issues of strategic importance for the European Union in the region. Global Ireland promotes Ireland's values of peace, humanitarianism, equality and justice, including through our campaign for election to the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term.



Ireland's strategy in Zambia reflects our priorities across the five pillars of the **Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World** – Our People, Our Prosperity, Our Values, Our Place in Europe, and Our Influence - contributing to the overarching goal of promoting Ireland's values and interests in Zambia with an emphasis on the reduction of poverty and inequality. 'Global Island' provides the framework for a broader, more multi-faceted relationship with Zambia which Ireland is working to achieve through its 2018-2022 strategy.

Underlying Ireland's development cooperation work in Zambia is our commitment to contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, to reaching the furthest behind first. On the basis of our strong and constructive partnership with the Government of Zambia, and in collaboration with our EU partners, Ireland will engage in policy dialogue and advocacy to this end. Ireland will work to shape and support EU priorities and development programmes in Zambia. Ireland will also support and align its work with Zambia's ambitious 7th National Development Plan (2017-2021).

Ireland’s new international development policy, **A Better World**, outlines four clear policy priorities to which our work in Zambia will be aligned: gender equality, reducing humanitarian need, climate action, and strengthened governance. A Better World also sets out Ireland’s commitment to intensify work in three clusters of interventions in which Ireland has proven expertise: protection, food, and people. The policy will guide Ireland’s international development programme as it expands in line with our commitment to reach the UN target of allocating 0.7% of GNI to official development assistance (ODA).



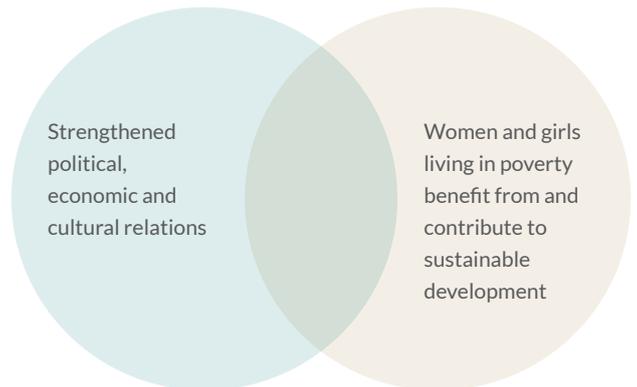
A Better World's approach to reach the "Furthest behind First"

Our Vision for Ireland in Zambia

Zambia is an important partner for Ireland and our 2018–2022 Strategy sets out how Ireland will work to deepen political, economic and people-to-people ties. It adopts a holistic approach to build synergies and coherence across political relations, development cooperation, trade promotion, consular work and cultural promotion.

The Mission has identified four districts (Kabwe, Mazabuka, Mongu and Mumbwa) to support policy coherence at district level and for monitoring the programmes supported. The learning and evidence generated in the selected four districts will feed into the policy dialogue processes in the sectors of interest to Ireland, as well as the political dialogue processes.

The goal of the strategy is to **promote Ireland’s values and interests in Zambia with an emphasis on the reduction of poverty and inequality**. Two interlinked outcomes have been identified that contribute to achieving this goal.



At a glance: Ireland’s priorities in Zambia

OUR PEOPLE 

- » Deliver consistent high quality consular services and support for citizens.
- » Build on the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations to promote increased understanding of Ireland and its culture.
- » Strengthen links with the Irish diaspora.

OUR PROSPERITY 

- » Expand opportunities for education, trade and investment between Ireland and Zambia.
- » Enhance cooperation with other Irish Embassies and State agencies in the region.
- » Increase the number of Zambians pursuing further studies in Ireland under the Irish Aid Fellowship Programme.
- » Advocate on trade policy issues through COMESA.

OUR VALUES 

- » Ensure women and girls living in poverty contribute to and benefit from sustainable development.
- » Strengthen political and bilateral relations around mutual values and interests.
- » Ensure increased availability of locally-produced, diverse, nutritious foods.
- » Ensure increased access to education and relevant skills training by women and youth.

OUR PLACE IN EUROPE 

- » Ensure Ireland’s voice and policy priorities are reflected in EU positions and priorities in Zambia.
- » Work with the EU Delegation and other Member States to deepen the political relationship between the EU and Africa.

OUR INFLUENCE 

- » Ensure a professional, flexible and capable team in Embassy Lusaka is supported.
- » Strengthen the focus on results, delivery and effectiveness.

Our People



The Embassy provides support and assistance to Irish citizens in Zambia, including the vibrant community of Irish residents, and promotes Ireland through its culture.

KEY DELIVERABLE

Consistent high quality consular services and support for citizens delivered

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Ensure consistent delivery of high-quality consular services for Irish citizens living and working in Zambia, reviewing and improving the efficiency of the service as required;
- » Strengthen links with the Irish diaspora living in Zambia and with Zambians who have an affinity with Ireland;
- » Provide support for the 'Wild Geese Society' to promote Irish culture and engage with the Irish community;
- » Increase awareness and visibility of Ireland through cultural programmes;
- » Utilise the St. Patrick's Day 'Global Greening', including the greening of Victoria Falls, to promote Irish and Zambian tourism.

In 2018, the Embassy processed 292 visa applications; 71 passport applications and 9 Foreign Birth registrations.



Ireland supports the Rhino Block Making Enterprise, Mongu (l-r: Sr. Cathy Crawford, Cheshire Home; Minister Cannon; Augustine Kakolyo, Rhino Block Making Enterprise; Mundia Makwele, Cheshire Home; Ambassador O'Grady). Credit: © Embassy of Ireland.

Our Prosperity



Ireland has one of the most competitive and open economies in the world. Diversifying our trade partners is a key priority to maintain economic growth and competitiveness.

KEY DELIVERABLE

Expanded opportunities for education, trade and investment between Ireland and Zambia

Since 1992, over 200 Zambians, including 65 women, have completed postgraduate studies in Irish Universities under the Irish Aid Fellowship Programme. The core objective of the Fellowship Programme is building capacity and promoting Ireland as an education destination.

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Identify opportunities for new Irish businesses, especially in the agri-food sector, utilising the African Agrifood Development Programme Fund and the presence of prominent Irish business people living in Zambia;
- » Undertake market analysis and provide market intelligence to interested Irish companies and facilitate inward visits;
- » Advocate for a positive enabling environment for business and the private sector, including via the EU Business Club;
- » Enhance communication and cooperation with other Irish Embassies in the region, Irish State agencies, and the Business Ireland Southern Africa (BISA) network;
- » Increase the number of Zambians pursuing further studies in Ireland in priority areas of relevance to the overall strategy;
- » Showcase and promote Ireland as an education destination;
- » Establish an Irish Alumni Network;
- » Engage in policy advocacy on trade issues through the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), headquartered in Lusaka.



Ambassador O'Grady congratulates successful Irish Aid Fellows (from left to right: Julius Kampamba, Susan Nasilele, Bridget Chola, Sibonelo Jere). Photo credit: © Embassy of Ireland.

Our Values



In line with Ireland’s foreign policy values, we will strengthen political and bilateral relations with Zambia, and ensure through our development cooperation programme that women and girls living in poverty contribute to and benefit from sustainable development.

KEY DELIVERABLE 1

Strengthened political and bilateral relations around mutual values and interests

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Build and strengthen capacity of key democratic and accountability institutions and support data collection essential for national planning, monitoring and evaluation in Zambia;
- » In the run-up to national elections in 2021, advocate for a positive enabling environment for the democratic process in Zambia, both directly with government, through the EU, and through support for civil society, media organisations and the elections process;
- » Work closely with Zambia to deliver on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other human rights treaties, and to the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the region;
- » Contribute to the development of social protection policies in Zambia, including sharing lessons from Ireland’s experience;
- » Support partnerships and exchanges for learning and experience sharing in areas of mutual interest between Irish and Zambian institutions;
- » Seek Zambia’s support for Ireland’s campaign for election to the UN Security Council in 2021–2022;
- » Promote and provide support for inward and outward high-level political visits.



Minister Cannon and Ambassador O’Grady discuss development priorities with Mr. Sibanze Simuchoba, Permanent Secretary of Western Province, Mongu.
Credit: © Embassy of Ireland.

Ireland has been a committed member of the United Nations since it became a member in 1955. Our foreign policy has a strong tradition of principled engagement on development, humanitarian assistance, disarmament, human rights and peacekeeping. Since 1958, not one month has passed without Irish troops participating in UN peacekeeping operations. Our commitment to partnership with the UN and its Member States underpins Ireland’s candidature for election to the UN Security Council for the 2021–2022 term.

Ireland will work closely with smallholder farmers, especially women, to diversify food production and meet the dietary needs of their households. We will also increase support to small and medium-enterprises involved in food processing, linking them to similar businesses in Ireland.

KEY DELIVERABLE 2

Increased availability of locally-produced, diverse, nutritious foods

Musika is a not-for-profit organisation providing support to strengthen agricultural supply chains with a focus on nutritious foods produced by smallholder farmers, especially women. It facilitates linkages between farmers and the private sector, and improves the capacity of food processors and distributors, while ensuring that climate change considerations are taken into account at all stages of the food value chain.

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Support poor smallholder farmers, especially women, to diversify their food production and meet their full dietary needs while using climate smart sustainable techniques;
- » Support the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Zambia and the Government's priorities around diversifying the Zambian diet;
- » Support food processors including businesswomen to increase the quantity and variety of nutritious food products in the market. In doing this, the Embassy will partner with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network, convened by the World Food Programme (WFP);
- » Stimulate a shift towards nutrition-sensitive agriculture and align rural and urban food consumption patterns to better nutrition outcomes;
- » Support the development of robust and inclusive private sector-driven supply chain models for nutritious food products from agricultural production to processing and marketing functions;
- » Support regular data collection and public dissemination on the availability, accessibility and affordability of nutritious foods in the market in 4 monitoring districts and use the findings to inform dialogue and advocacy.



With support from Irish Aid funded partners, Naomi Shiluwe has invested in improved dairy breeds and access to dairy markets to boost her household income. Photo credit: © MUSIKA/Pamela Hamasaka.

We will continue our deep and longstanding contribution to improving education in Zambia with a new focus on skills development. Improving the quality of education, particularly for girls, is essential to unlocking transformational change and Zambia’s potential.

KEY DELIVERABLE 3

Increased access to education and relevant skills training by women and youth

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Support bursaries for girls’ education and provide financial support for orphans and vulnerable children to access primary and secondary education;
- » Provide financial support for girls supported through bursaries to transition to skills training in specialised fields suited to the job opportunities in their localities;
- » Support an “alumni” of girls who graduate from secondary school to promote empowerment, income generation and voice of other girls in their communities;
- » Invest in skills development and employment programmes, linking technical and vocational Institutions and curricula to the jobs market for disadvantaged young women and youth;
- » Provide a platform for young women and youth to engage in dialogue with the private sector and Government in the area of youth economic empowerment, jobs, skills, and training;
- » Generate evidence on blockages to effective education provision, explore innovative solutions and engage in dialogue with Government and other partners including the EU and Member States to encourage more investment in education;
- » Ensure that girls’ education is prioritised and reflected in the next phase of funding for Zambia’s education system through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE);
- » Commission a study on the skills sector with a focus on industry needs in four selected districts where Ireland’s activities will be clustered, and include participation rates by women and girls and the blockages to their participation;
- » Support programmes for the advancement of gender equity and equality through partnerships with UN Agencies (UNESCO programme on comprehensive sexuality education in schools), NGOs in coordination with the EU and other EU Member States.



Ireland works with NGOs, including CAMFED and ZOCS, to provide education to vulnerable children, particularly girls. Photo credit: © Embassy of Ireland.

Our Place in Europe



As a strong advocate of a more dynamic and cooperative political relationship between the EU and Africa, Ireland will play an active role in deepening the relationship between the European Union and Zambia to meet the inter-connected challenges of our modern world.

KEY DELIVERABLE

Ireland's voice and experience is reflected in EU positions and development priorities in Zambia

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Work closely with the EU Delegation and other Member States to strengthen Ireland's voice in the promotion of good governance, support for democratic processes, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and the promotion of gender equality and in development priorities including nutrition, education and skills;
- » Engage in joint development programming with the EU Delegation and other Member States where possible;
- » Generate evidence to advocate for Ireland's development priorities within EU policies and programme planning in Zambia e.g. quality education and skills, nutrition, gender equality, comprehensive sexuality education and social protection programmes;
- » Actively engage in the EU-Zambia Article VIII dialogue process;
- » Work closely with headquarters to ensure that Ireland's views are reflected in wider EU policy positions;
- » Engage with the EU Business Club to promote an enabling environment for Irish and European businesses.



EU Heads of Mission in Zambia, Europe Day 2019. Credit: © Embassy of Ireland.

Our Influence



We will support the Embassy team to ensure they are adequately resourced and equipped to advance Ireland’s policy priorities and manage our investments in Zambia.

KEY DELIVERABLE

A professional, flexible and capable team in Embassy Lusaka makes optimum use of resources

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Provide leadership for staff and partners in programme delivery;
- » Identify synergies and ensure coherence across Ireland’s multiple funding streams;
- » Invest in the capacity of our workforce to maximise our impact and maintain a vibrant team spirit;
- » Strengthen the focus on results, delivery and effectiveness;
- » Ensure annual business plans are aligned with the priorities in the strategy;
- » Ensure management structures and systems are appropriate for delivering the strategy;
- » Strictly adhere to Departmental Grant Management, Financial and Risk Management Guidelines;
- » Conduct regular monitoring including six monthly and annual reviews with partners.



Team Ireland in Zambia, June 2019. Credit: © Member of staff at Roma Park Retreat Centre, Lusaka



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