

PROFILE: ZAMBIA



Zambia, in the centre of southern Africa, has abundant mineral resources and the potential to become a 'prosperous middle-income country, according to the government's Vision 2030 plan. However, Zambia is dependent on international commodity prices, especially for copper.

In 1976, copper prices plummeted as fuel prices rose, forcing Zambia to resort to heavy borrowing. In the 1990s, Zambia adopted Structural Adjustment Programmes in an attempt to turn the economy around, however these tended to exacerbate poverty.

Zambia was governed as a one-party state between independence in 1964 and the emergence of a multi-party democracy in the 1990s. The country is making fair progress towards its Millennium Development Goals, despite high prevalence of HIV, malaria and TB and the fact that an estimated 25 per cent of the population has had no formal education.

The majority of people live in rural areas and are subsistence farmers, yet there is increasing urbanisation. As people have moved to the towns, traditional community life with its safety nets for the poorest families has broken down. Farming is dependent on predictable rains, which are failing more frequently.

TEARFUND'S WORK IN ZAMBIA

Tearfund's campaigning as part of the Jubilee 2000 and Make Poverty History campaigns contributed to greater debt cancellation for Zambia. In 1999 and 2005, Tearfund facilitated a live video conference between then Chancellor Gordon Brown and Zambian subsistence farmer Elinata Kasanga, prior to the Cologne and Gleneagles G8 summits. 'You and your family are one of the reasons why we must take action,' he said. As a result of cancelled debt, Zambia was able to offer free primary education to all children – including Elinata's youngest.

Tearfund's partners in Zambia range from national organisations such as the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia and Scripture Union to a theological college and specialised ministries such as the Prison Fellowship, Jesus Cares Ministries and Jubilee Centre, and church denominations such as Brethren in Christ Church and the Anglican Diocese of Northern Zambia, who support people living with HIV.

Tearfund also focuses on helping farmers to become more resilient to the impact of droughts and floods and on lobbying the government to improve early warning systems. Some partners are taking part in climate change forums to ensure their grass-roots experience feeds in to global work on this issue.

As part of Tearfund's ten-year vision, we hope and plan to work with around 1,740 churches in Zambia to transform the lives of some 142,835 families.

- **Pray for people living in poverty in Zambia.**
- **Please pray for our partners as they seek to help others.**
- **And pray for the country of Zambia, for justice, peace, good health and hope for everyone.**