Public Health Security, Universal Health Coverage & Health Promotion:

Zambia’s Approach and Experiences

Dr. Victor Mukonka  
BSc, MD, DCH, DIH, DTM, MPH, PhD

Director – Zambia National Public Health Institute, Ministry of Health
Interim Coordinator – Africa CDC Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Center
Zambia: Country Profile

• Located in south-central Africa

• Member of SADC & COMESA

• Land-inked country surrounded by 8 neighbours: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe

• Surface area: 752,614 km²

• 10 provinces; 118 districts

• Population: ~17 million

• Capital City: Lusaka
• Three healthcare levels: National, Provincial, District

• 2,922 health facilities (MoH, 2017)

• Four main players: Government, Mines, Faith-based, Private

• Expenditure on health ≈ 8.5% of national budget
## Key Health Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>37.35</td>
<td>38.44</td>
<td>51.83</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 Mortality Rate/1,000 live births</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate/1,000 live births</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Mortality Rate/1,000 live births</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Rate/100,000 live births</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Mortality Rate/1,000 Pop</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS prevalence % (14-49 yrs age group)</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preamble

• The Zambian Government is pursuing a Transformation Agenda **to become a prosperous middle income country by 2030 (Vision 2030)**

• Health has been prioritized as a key economic investment, to guarantee a healthy & productive citizenry that will drive and sustain economic development

• The National Health Strategic Plan 2017-21 is therefore aligned to the 7th National Development Plan and Vision 2030

• Goal of NHSP:
To build a robust and resilient health system through an integrated community and primary health care approach across the continuum of care:

*Promotive*, *Preventive*, Curative, Rehabilitative, Palliative

*Directorate of Health Promotion, Environment and Social Determinants created in MoH to promote wellness and link with multi-sectoral players*
Top on the health agenda is attainment of **Universal Health Coverage** through strengthening core pillars of the health system:

i. Service delivery

ii. Human Resources for Health;

iii. Leadership & Governance;

iv. Health information;

v. Medical products, vaccines, and technologies;

vi. Healthcare Financing

Zambia has included an additional pillar: **Public Health Security**

– Relevance showcased during 2017/18 cholera outbreak & other subsequent threats
Public Health Security

• Key to shielding the population, health system and economy from acute health threats and events

• Policy decision taken by Govt. of Zambia in 2015 to establish the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) as a specialized technical arm of MoH & Public Health Centre of Excellence

• In advanced process of being set as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament

• ZNPHI Mandate:
  – To preserve the country’s health security
  – To efficiently prevent disease transmission, conduct surveillance and be prepared to respond to health threats and outbreaks
  – To build national capacity to detect and respond effectively to disease threats and outbreaks, based on scientific evidence
  – To host Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Center (RCC) for Southern Africa
ZNPHI

• Technical institution dedicated to safeguarding public health security through:
  – Surveillance and disease intelligence
  – Emergency preparedness and response capability
  – Specialised laboratory functions
  – Research and Information management
  – Workforce development

• Core to ensuring UHC, in line with Health Sector transformation agenda
• Consistent with current international best practice for strengthening national and global public health security
• Aligned to African Union aspiration and Africa CDC’s 3-tier operational model
• Provides platform for actualizing the One Health concept
• Serves as national focal point for implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR)
ZNPHI Strategic Pillars

**Surveillance & Disease Intelligence**
- Routine
- Sentinel
- Event-based
- Facility-based
- Community-based
- Cross border
- eIDS

**Emergency Preparedness & Response**
- PHEOC
- Conform to IHR
- Coordinate EPRCs & RRTs
- Outbreak Invx.

**Laboratory Systems & Network**
- NPHL: BSL3+ Lab
  - Capacity building:
    - QMS
    - Microbiology
    - Biosafety & Biosecurity
  - Courier system
- Biobank
- AMR

**Communication, Information & Research**
- Information sharing platform
- *The Health Press*
- Data repository
- Support NHRA
- Platform for dialogue
- Public health research

**Workforce Development**
- FETP
- Training
- Mentorship
- Exercises:
  - Table-top
  - Drills
  - Simulations

**Monitoring & Evaluation**
- Strategic planning
- Forecasting
- Data Audit
- Analytics
- Monitoring
- Evaluation

Finance, Leadership, Partnerships, Innovation
Zambia’s Approach: Key Points

• HP essential to minimise the more costly traditional emphasis on curative approach, thereby freeing resources for wider coverage of services
  – maintaining wellness through healthy behaviors and environments

• UHC & PHS are inseparable; two sides of the same coin

• NPHI role & link to UHC & HP
  – Dedicated technical institution for PHS
  – Shields citizenry, health system & economy from acute health threats
  – Evidence-based (scientific / research) practice
  – Anchors implementation of IHR (2005)
  – Consistent with international best practice

• Unified system approach taken by Zambia to address HP & PHS for attainment of UHC
Thank You