



# IGC's work in Zambia

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The International Growth Centre (IGC) works with policymakers in developing countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through pathbreaking research.

The IGC is a global research centre with a network of world-leading researchers and a set of country teams across Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East.

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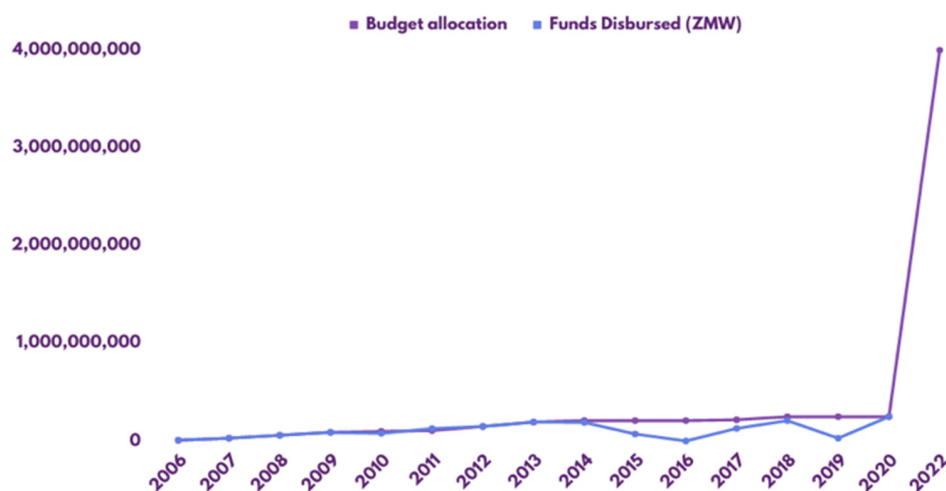


## IGC's ongoing and recently concluded work in Zambia

### Improving the implementation of the Constituency Development Fund

*Researchers: Katherine Casey, Andrés Felipe Rodríguez, Jeremy Bowles, Shahrukh Wani*

The Government of Zambia has long considered decentralisation as a core policy objective to improve public service delivery, outlined in several government policies such as the National Decentralisation Policy. This commitment to decentralisation has been reinforced by the President Hakainde Hichilema, who was elected in November 2021. In his first address to the National Assembly, the President committed to “accelerate the implementation of decentralisation.” In the administration's first budget (for the year 2022), the government expanded the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), that provides grants from central government to local authorities, by 1,600% making it the flagship government program to decentralise spending.



To support the implementation of the CDF, the IGC and the Government of Zambia have established a Learning Partnership with the aim to create rigorous evidence to inform the implementation of the CDF with a commitment to improving public-service delivery. With this aim of co-generating actionable research, the CDF Learning Partnership takes a phased approach to identify research questions with the government and test them through rigorous research methods helping directly inform subsequent government policies and investments. CDF Learning Partnership also acts as a catalyst for bringing together a range of governmental actors, including the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Finance, the Cabinet Office, and the President's Office.

In the Phase I of this partnership a major nationwide survey of local authorities to identify key constraints to CDF's implementation. The Phase II aims on accelerating reform process through rigorous testing interventions that may improve the CDF's effectiveness, allowing the government to scale-up interventions that work.



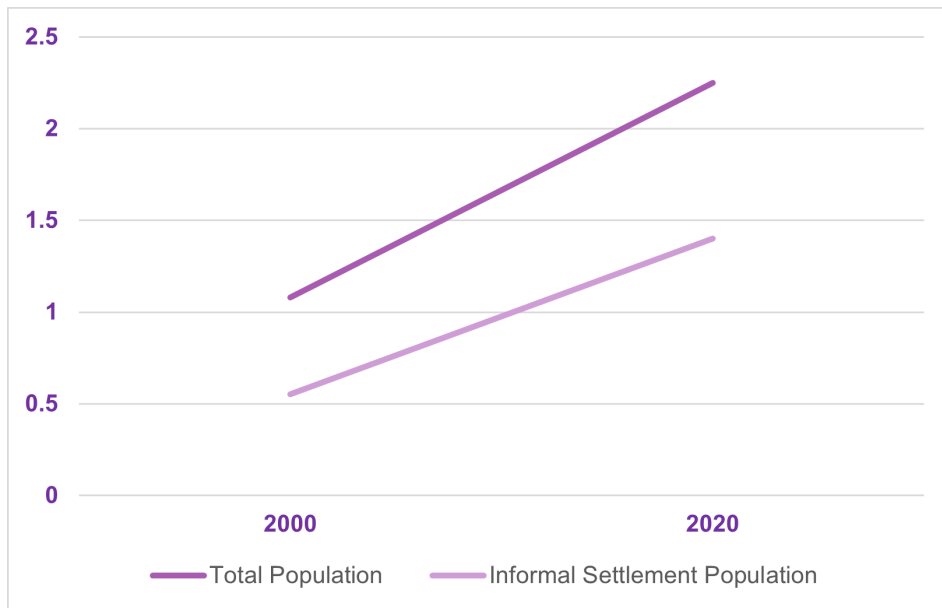
Lusaka: IGC shares results of the CDF Learning Partnership's Phase I, chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet with the Secretary to the Treasury and several senior government officials joining.

## **Understanding the growth and needs of informal settlements in Lusaka**

*Researchers: Dennis Chiwele, Patrick Lamson-Hall, Shahrukh Wani*

Policymakers across the developing world are at a critical juncture. Well-implemented, evidence-based urban policies have the potential to unlock a process of sustainable economic growth that can rapidly lift citizens out of poverty. IGC's support on urbanisation in Zambia aims to transform cities from sites of overcrowding and congestion into engines of national growth and prosperity. For example, this has included support in drafting the under-review National Urbanisation Policy.

IGC is supporting better planning for urban expansion and public service delivery in Zambia through satellite imagery-based analysis of informal settlements in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government. The research fills critical knowledge gaps on the nature and future of informal settlements in Lusaka.



**Over the past two decades, the number of Lusaka's residents living in highly dense informal settlements has nearly tripled to about 1.4 million — which is nearly 62% of Lusaka's current population, IGC research shows.**

This has included a collaboration with Ordnance Survey (OS) and the Commonwealth Association of Architects to create a detailed digital base map of Lusaka, focussing on the identification of informal settlements. The base map provides information regarding: (1) the location of informal settlements, their size, and the number of built structures; (2) how the formal and informal neighbourhoods are served by roads and public spaces; and (3) the density of population based upon the number of buildings.



## **Reducing the gender gap in entrepreneurship in Lusaka**

*Researchers: Nava Ashraf, Alexia Delfino, Ed Glaeser*

In 2017, IGC investigated whether improving enforcement of rule of law benefits female entrepreneurs more than male entrepreneurs, thus serving to reduce the gender gap in entrepreneurship. The experiment's results show women trust their partner less in general compared to men, but introducing legal institutions reduces or eliminates this difference. This increased trust benefits both parties, so men do not lose out.

**IGC research shows that weak rule of law may hinder women disproportionately from engaging in mutually beneficial collaboration with other entrepreneurs in Lusaka.**

## **Mapping the public health facilities across Zambia shows inequity in healthcare access**

*Researcher: Torsten Figueiredo Walter*

In collaboration with the Ministries of Health and General Education, the IGC studied the extent to which the spatial distribution of public health and education services affects the spatial distribution of economic development. The database can be used to inform the development of new facilities, increasing service to existing facilities, monitoring spatial disease patterns, and coordinating health initiatives. One takeaway, for example, is that the median person in Zambia has an access time of approximately 30 minutes to a lab, but for 10% of the population, this time is greater than 2.8 hours.

## **Making the property tax system more efficient, transparent, and fair**

*Researchers: Shahrukh Wani, Twivwe Siwale*

The taxation of land and property is an underutilised source of public finance in Zambia despite rapid urbanisation and a national focus on empowering local authorities.

IGC's conversations with local authorities suggest that they face several challenges in levying taxes on properties including lengthy and ineffective tax design that inadequately captures the real market value of properties. However, there has been little research on understanding these constraints systemically and identifying potential reform priorities. A new partnership with the Ndola City Council aims to fill this gap by understanding the constraints the city faces in collecting taxes on properties and how experimental research can support in alleviating these constraints.

## **Are electronic fiscal devices effective in raising more tax revenue in Zambia?**

*Researchers: Twivwe Siwale, Brian Dillon, John Mulenga, and Kangwa Musole*

An effective tax system is the bedrock of any modern functioning state. Taxation undergirds the ability of the state to undertake the multiplicities of functions that confer statehood: provision of state security and infrastructure, effective market regulation, and all importantly the provision of public goods and services. In developing countries, these functions take on added dimensions when viewed through the lens of the developmental challenge and need to finance poverty alleviation. The IGC's work on tax in Zambia has looked at compliance, technology, among others.

The IGC, in working with the Zambian revenue Authority, is currently analysing the performance of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) in increasing value-added tax (VAT) revenues in Zambia.

**IGC survey showed that informal workers in Lusaka that have access to services within the markets, such as toilets, clean water, drainage, and garbage collection, they are more likely to pay taxes and fees to the relevant authorities**

The IGC conducted a survey of more than 800 informal traders and service workers located in or near 11 different markets in Lusaka during November 2017.

## **Reforming the mining sector for sustainable economic growth**

*Researchers: Twivwe Siwale, Eric Werker, Paul Collier*

The mining sector is a priority sector for the Government of Zambia. IGC is working to design a workstream that focuses on sustainably increasing mining output, expanding the economic benefits of mining to the wider economy and understanding the environmental costs of mining.

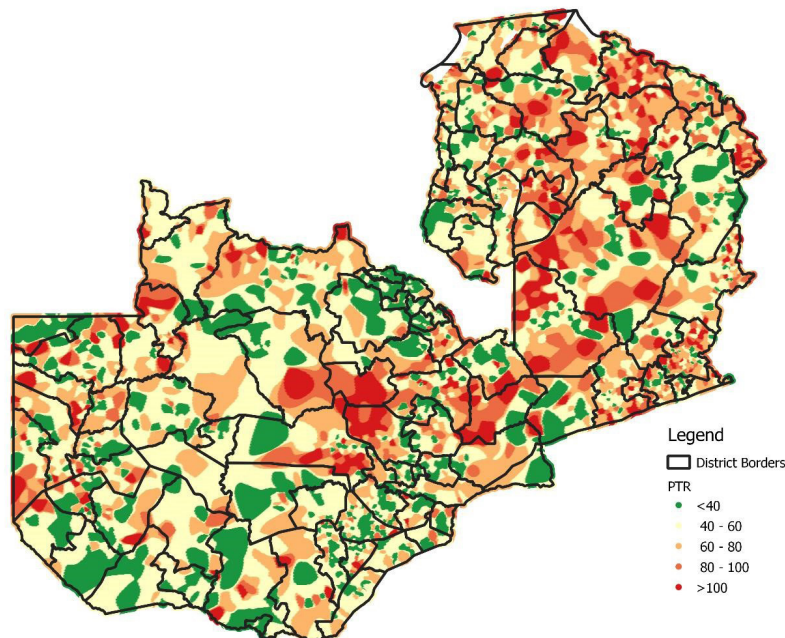
IGC's work in this space, both ongoing and planned will likely focus on the following areas:

1. Unlocking the economic benefits of mining
2. Responsible supply chains
3. Energy and environment requirements for mining
4. The fiscal governance system of mining.

## Helping understand the teacher misallocation problem

*Researcher: Torsten Figueiredo Walter*

IGC research, conducted in collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of General Education in 2019, has shown large staffing inequities across public schools in Zambia. Data shows that pupil-teacher ratios (PTRs) vary from less than 20 to above 100 across public primary schools across Zambia. While 10% of public primary school pupils attend schools with PTRs below 30 pupils per teacher, 16% of pupils – approximately 475,000 children – go to schools with PTRs above 80. The results also show that 61% of teachers do not work at the schools they are recorded at in payroll, implying a monthly loss equivalent to 1,330 basic teacher salaries due to incorrectly paid hardship allowances.



**For further information and engagement,  
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