

Zambia

Combined Agenda 2063 scenario

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The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario consists of the combination of all 11 sectoral scenarios presented above, namely the Stability, Demographic, Health/WaSH, Agriculture, Education, Manufacturing/Transfers, Leapfrogging, Free Trade, Financial Flows, Infrastructure and Governance scenarios. The cumulative impact of better education, health, infrastructure, etc. means that countries get an additional benefit in the integrated IFs forecasting platform, which we refer to as the synergistic effect. Chart 55 presents the contribution of each of these 12 components to GDP per capita in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

On the Current Path, GDP per capita will be at US\$5 467 in 2043, up from US\$4 036 in 2019. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, per capita income will be US\$8 244 in 2043, which is US\$2 776 more than in the Current Path forecast, an improvement of 51%. The Free Trade scenario has the largest impact on per capita income by 2043, followed by the Leapfrogging and Infrastructure scenarios. The Financial Flows scenario has the smallest impact, followed by the Health/WaSH scenario.

Chart 55 presents a stacked area graph on the contribution of each scenario to GDP per capita as well as the additional benefit or synergistic effect, whereas Chart 56 presents only GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

On the Current Path, GDP per capita will be at US\$5 467 in 2043, which is 35% above its level of US\$4 036 in 2019. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, per capita income gets to US\$8 244 – a difference of US\$2 776, or 51%. This shows the potential value of the interventions in the 11 sectoral scenarios for economic growth.

Zambia's Vision 2030 aims 'to reduce national poverty headcount to less than 20 per cent of the population; to reduce income inequalities measured by a Gini coefficient of less than 40; to provide secure access to safe potable water sources and improved sanitation facilities to 100 per cent of the population in both urban and rural areas; to attain education for all; and, to provide equitable access to quality health care to all by 2030'.^[1]

In 2019, poverty levels in Zambia – 74.7% of the population (13.2 million people) – were significantly higher than the average of 50.1% for lower middle-income Africa (using US\$3.20 as threshold). In the Current Path forecast, poverty is set to modestly decrease, to 67.3% (22 million people), by 2043. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, extreme poverty declines to 42.1% (12.6 million people). The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario therefore has the potential to lift an additional 9.4 million Zambians out of extreme poverty by 2043.

See Chart 8 to view the Current Path forecast of the sectoral composition of the economy.

Zambia has a large services sector (much of which is of an informal nature) and the impact of the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario is that it increases by 4.8 percentage points in its contribution to GDP in 2043 (equivalent to US\$44.6 billion) compared with the Current Path forecast. The ICT sector also grows marginally (by 0.7 percentage points) while materials,

energy and manufactures decline in their contribution to GDP. All sectors are larger in 2043 owing to a larger economy under the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

The structure of Zambia's economy likely constrains rapid improvements in GDP per capita given the small size of its primary and secondary sectors. Even when comparing Zambia to the average for lower middle-income countries in Africa in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, the small size of its agriculture and manufacturing sectors remain significantly below averages for its income peers.

In 2019, the size of the Zambian economy was US\$35.4 billion, set to increase to US\$92.8 billion by 2043 in the Current Path forecast. At US\$157.5 billion, Zambia's Combined Agenda 2063 economy is forecast to be 70% larger in 2043. IFs does not forecast significant shifts in the sectoral composition of Zambia's economy, meaning that the services sector dominates, while manufacturing and agriculture contribute less to GDP than in most other lower middle-income African countries. The services sector is particularly large given Zambia's development status. In the Current Path forecast the contribution from the services sector declines to 57.4% of GDP, while, in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, it increases to 62.1%.

In 2019 Zambia emitted 1.31 million tons of carbon into the atmosphere. In the Agenda 2063 scenario, carbon emissions will increase by 140% above the Current Path forecast, resulting in emissions of 6 million tons of carbon. However, carbon emissions in Zambia come from a very low base. This increase reflects an economy that, in 2043, is 70% larger.

Endnotes

1. Republic of Zambia, [Vision 2030](#), December 2006.

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Cite this research

Jakkie Cilliers (2024) Zambia. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/countries/zambia/> [Online Resource] Updated 13 December 2023.

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Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director of the ISS. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the ISS. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

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