

NEWZA

Nexus Energy and Water Programme for Zambia

Enhancing urban and rural water supply and sanitation service delivery through improved coordination.

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUMMARY

The Nexus Energy and Water Programme for Zambia (NEWZA) is a key initiative under the EU's Global Gateway strategy, designed to improve the energy-water nexus across multiple provinces in Zambia. Funded by the EU, Germany and UNICEF, and implemented by the Water Utilities supported by KfW, GIZ and UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, NWASCO and local ministries and authorities. NEWZA targets sustainable infrastructure development in the water and energy sectors. The programme integrates renewable energy, energy efficiency, digitisation, and technical assistance components to upgrade, expand and digitalise existing water supply systems but also to establish new stand-alone water supply systems for local communities, particularly those living in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth. Improving WASH services, as well as increasing the resilience of local communities to climate change and the capacities and skills of water utilities management, are the four NEWZA intervention areas, using Human rights-based and gender transformative approaches.

NEWZA is a significant initiative under the European Union's Global Gateway strategy. The Global Gateway strategy is the EU's approach to boosting smart, clean, and secure links in digital, energy, and transport sectors and strengthening health, education, and research systems across the world. It aims to offer a sustainable and values-based alternative for infrastructure development on a global scale.

NEWZA embodies a transformative approach through TEAM EUROPE to revolutionise Zambia's water and energy landscape. This comprehensive programme aims to significantly enhance the operational and financial performance of five major water utilities across Zambia - including Eastern, Southern, Central, Copperbelt, Northern, and Muchinga provinces. NEWZA is a commitment to sustainable development, directly supporting the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals related to gender equality, clean water, affordable energy, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, climate action, and justice. The goal is to upgrade and expand existing water systems with cutting-edge digital and renewable energy technologies and establish new, sustainable infrastructures tailored for the most vulnerable communities. By reducing non-revenue water, enhancing service delivery through digitisation, and bolstering the resilience of local communities, NEWZA is setting a new standard for sustainability in water and energy management. With a strong focus on human rights and gender-inclusive strategies, NEWZA is poised to empower local communities, improve access to essential services, and foster a resilient, inclusive future for all Zambians.



CO-FUNDED BY:

- European Union
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- UNICEF



PARTNERS:

- Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS)
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)
- Local Authorities (LAs)
- National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO)
- Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA)
- Commercial Utilities (CUs)

Implementing Partners:

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



TOTAL BUDGET:

€25 Million

EU Allocation: €7.5 Million

Partner Allocation:

€7.5 Million by BMZ
€10 Million by UNICEF



DURATION:

01 May 2024 – 30 April 2027



PROJECT REGION IN ZAMBIA: All

The NEWZA Action shall be carried out in:

- The Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS)
- The National Water and Sanitation Council (NWASCO)

Five Water Utilities:

- Eastern Water and Sanitation Company (Eastern Province)
- Southern Water and Sanitation Company (Southern Province)
- Lukanga Water and Sanitation Company (Central Province)
- Nkana Water and Sanitation Company (Copperbelt Province)
- Chambeshi Water and Sanitation Company (Northern & Muchinga) Provinces

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Energy-Water-Digit-Nexus at Urban level:** Reduced non-revenue water, improved digitisation, and introduced renewable energy and energy efficiency components to create a reliable, cost-effective, and climate-resilient urban water supply.
- 2. Energy-Water-Nexus at Peri-Urban and Rural level:** Increased adequate and resilient access to water supply in low-income peri-urban and rural areas, especially for groups in vulnerable situations including women and girls in all their diversity and persons with disabilities through the introduction of renewable energy components.
- 3. Local-level and Community Involvement in Service Provision:** Increased and resilient access to basic sanitation and hygiene and improvement of institutional WASH in low-income urban, peri-urban, and rural areas in coordination with the water utilities (CUs), especially for groups in vulnerable situations, including women and girls in all their diversity and persons with disabilities.
- 4. Water Utilities and National Level Capacity Building, Knowledge Exchange and Operational Efficiency:** Enhanced organizational, networking, and financial capacities of water utilities (CUs) and national institutions to ensure that urban, peri-urban, and rural water and sanitation services are supplied in a cost-effective, cost-coverage, transparent, and inclusive manner.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1. Infrastructure Improvement:** Water network infrastructure is modernised and rehabilitated using solar power and energy-efficient technologies.
- 2. Operational Efficiency:** Non-revenue water usage is reduced by up to 25 per cent, and energy usage is decreased by 30 per cent.
- 3. Water utilities and national Institution Empowerment:** Enhanced organisational, networking and financial capacities of water utilities and national institutions
- 4. Community Benefits:** Enhanced access to clean water and reliable energy for over 500,000 people in targeted provinces.
- 5. Environmental Impact and Disaster Risk Reduction:** Water resource management, climate resilient operation and maintenance, and significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions with renewable energy production.
- 6. Economic Growth:** Improved utility services contributing to local economies and job creation.
- 7. Educational and Health Enhancements:** Outreach initiatives, behaviour change, and capacity building, including awareness-raising activities on gender issues, woman empowerment, menstrual health and hygiene, phased sanitation approaches, hand hygiene, and water usage in particularly sensible locations.

CONTACT DETAILS

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Zambia & COMESA
 delegation-zambia@eeas.europa.eu, Political, Press and Information Section
 Tel. +260 97 000 7092

Implemented by



Project partners



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