



ZAMBIA NATIONAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSTITUTE



**JULY 2025**  
**NEWSLETTER**

# ZNPHI

*"A Centre of excellence in public health security"*



Surveillance  
and Disease  
Intelligence



Emergency  
Preparedness  
and Response



National  
Public Health  
Laboratory  
Services



Strategic  
Planning  
and Information  
Management



Public Health  
Policy,  
Diplomacy &  
Communication



Field  
Epidemiology  
Program

## ONE HEALTH

### **Public Health Security System Strengthening**

(HR, AMR, Audit, Finance, Procurement, Leadership & Governance, Infrastructure & Equipment)



# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S CORNER



**Prof. Roma Chilengi**  
**Director General**

This July, the Zambia National Public Health Institute marked a defining moment in our journey toward strengthening health security and innovation with the successful hosting of the Genomic Surveillance Symposium. Bringing together experts from across sectors and disciplines, the symposium showcased how genomic technologies are transforming disease detection, outbreak response, and epidemic preparedness in Zambia.

A key milestone during this event was the official launch of the National Public Health Research Agenda a scientific manual that will guide evidence based research and policy development in Zambia. This agenda reflects our commitment to aligning scientific excellence with practical, multisectoral solutions under the National One Health Strategic Plan.

These achievements exemplify the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and dedication that will drive Zambia's health system resilience in the years ahead. I commend all ZNPHI staff and partners who made this possible and call upon us all to continue working together to protect the health of our people, animals, and environment.

# EDITOR IN CHIEF'S CORNER



**Dr. Doreen Mainza Shempela**  
**Director Public Health Policy**  
**Diplomacy & Communications**

## Dear Reader,

Welcome to the July 2025 edition of the Zambia National Public Health Institute newsletter. This month, we highlight a range of key activities that reflect the dynamic and collaborative nature of public health in Zambia.

Among them is the first ever Genomic Surveillance Symposium and the launch of the National Public Health Research Agenda, marking Zambia's growing leadership in health innovation and evidence based action.

From strengthening One Health coordination and advancing community engagement, to graduating new Field Epidemiology trainees and improving laboratory systems, our teams continue working to build resilient, responsive systems nationwide. We also showcase progress in antimicrobial resistance containment and improvements in health data quality, all made possible through partnerships and dedicated effort.

This issue reflects the commitment of ZNPHI and its partners to improving health outcomes through science, policy, and collaboration.

Thank you for joining us in this ongoing journey toward a healthier Zambia.



### Strengthening Community Engagement for Emergency Response

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance Zambia's public health emergency readiness, a five day workshop was held in Siavonga to finalize the National RCCE Multi-Hazard Plan and validate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the National Community Feedback Mechanism.

Organized by the Ministry of Health with support from UNICEF and active technical leadership from ZNPHI, the workshop brought together multisectoral partners from government and civil society. Partici-

pants collaboratively reviewed and refined both documents to ensure alignment with existing emergency frameworks and community engagement systems.

These tools will help institutionalize risk communication practices that are responsive, people centred, and grounded in feedback from affected communities, Strengthening Zambia's ability to respond to emergencies effectively and inclusively.





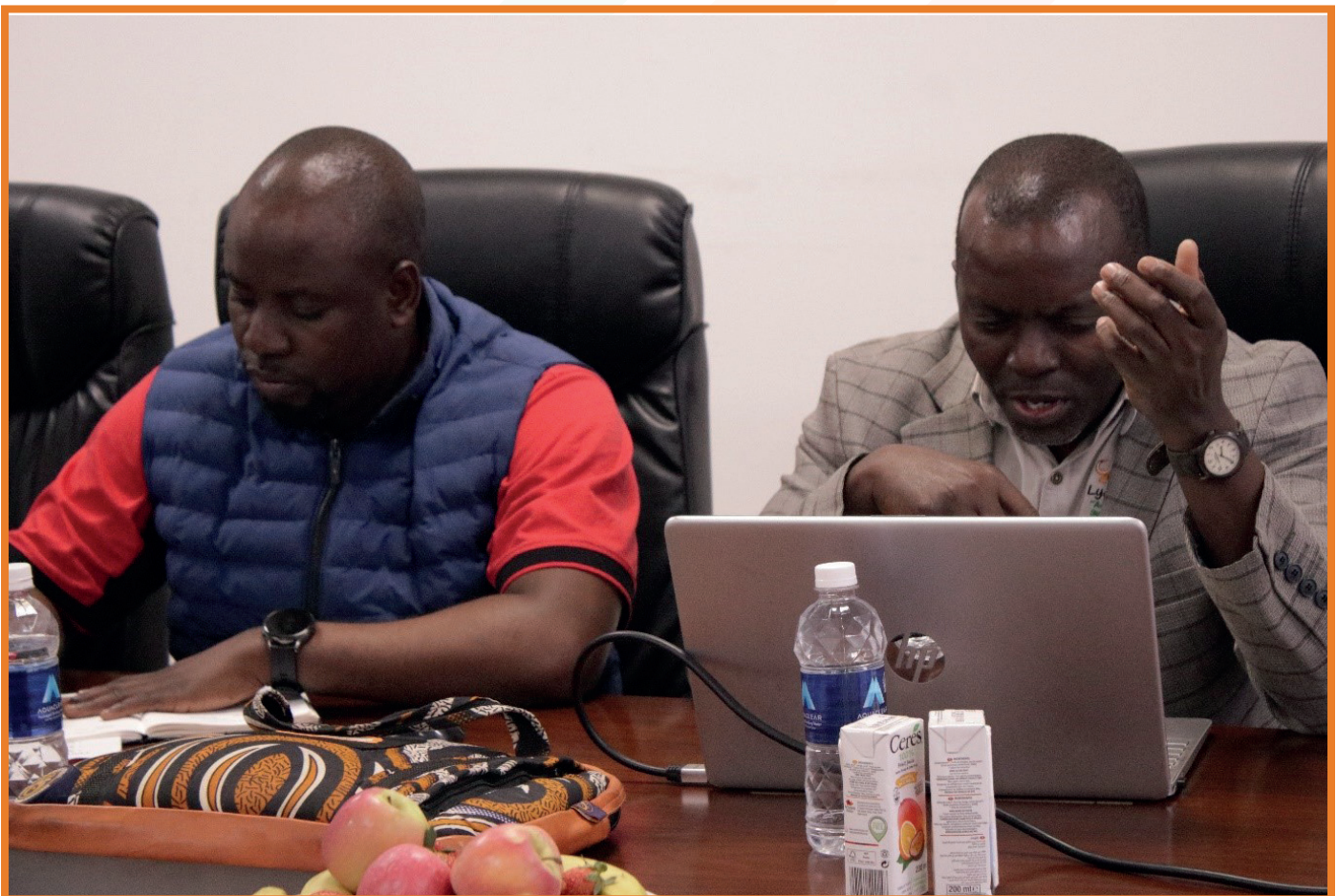
### Harnessing Traditional Influence to Promote One Health and Public Health Security

This month ZNPHI was visited by His Royal Highness Chief Nalubamba of the Mbeza Royal Establishment. The visit underscored the vital partnership between traditional leadership and public health in advancing Zambia's One Health agenda.

His Royal Highness commended efforts to protect Zambians' health and highlighted the role traditional leaders' play in safeguarding communities through the One Health approach, which links human, animal, and

environmental health. He emphasized the potential of traditional ceremonies as platforms to share health messages in culturally relevant ways and invited collaboration during these events.

Director General Professor Roma Chilengi welcomed the engagement, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to working hand in hand with traditional authorities to deliver equitable, multisectoral health interventions cross the country.



His Royal Highness Chief Nalubamba of the Mbeza Royal Establishment



### ZNPHI Showcases Innovation and Resilience at the 59<sup>th</sup> Zambia International Trade Fair

From 2nd to 8th July 2025, through our Public Health Policy, Diplomacy and Communication (PHPDC), we participated in the 59th Zambia International Trade Fair under the national theme “Unlocking Economic Potential through Collaboration, Innovation and Technology.” ZNPHI’s exhibit highlighted how innovation and strategic partnerships are driving stronger public health systems and emergency preparedness across the country.

The exhibition featured ZNPHI’s cutting edge Mobile Laboratory Unit, an essential tool for real time disease detection and rapid response during public health emergencies. Visitors also learned about ZNPHI’s role in coordinating national surveillance systems, strengthening laboratory networks, and leading multisectoral efforts in disease prevention and control.

The Trade Fair provided a platform for meaningful engagement with members of the public, students, and



professionals from various sectors. Through interactive sessions and displays, ZNPHI staff shared insights into ongoing work in antimicrobial resistance (AMR), genomic surveillance, public health emergency operations, and One Health collaborations.



ZNPHI Showcases Innovation and Resilience at the 59th Zambia International Trade Fair



### Zambia Hosts Genomic Surveillance Symposium to Advance One Health and Innovation



**Zambia Hosts Genomic Surveillance Symposium to Advance One Health and Innovation**

This month, through the Laboratory Systems and Networks hosted the Genomic Surveillance Symposium under the theme “Genomics for Zambia: Building a Foundation for One Health and Innovation.” The two day event brought together national and international experts in genomics, epidemiology, public health, veterinary and environmental sciences, and data systems to explore how genomic tools can enhance disease detection, outbreak response, and epidemic preparedness in Zambia.

In his opening remarks, the Director General Roma Chilengi highlighted the transformative role of genom-

ics in strengthening public health systems. He called for accelerated investment in infrastructure and human resource capacity to ensure Zambia can fully leverage genomic technologies for health security. The symposium builds on the work of the Zambia Genomic Sequencing Consortium, established in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to track virus variants and now broadened to monitor diverse public health threats.

Participants engaged in panel discussions, keynote sessions, and technical workshops on pressing issues such as antimicrobial resistance, ethical data use, and integrated data systems. The event also emphasized the im-





portance of a One Health approach, linking human, animal, and environmental health data for faster and more informed decision making.

Supported by the Ministry of Health, WHO, FAO, Illumina, JICA, Separations, and The Pandemic Fund,

the symposium aimed to foster cross-sector collaboration and guide the development of a sustainable national genomic surveillance network. Outcomes from the event are expected to inform future policy and strengthen Zambia's capacity to prevent and respond to emerging health threats.



**Zambia Hosts Genomic Surveillance Symposium to Advance One Health and Innovation**



### Bioinformatics Training - Mastering Linux and Bash Scripting

Complementing the symposium's goals, ZNPHRL staff participated in a targeted bioinformatics training in Kigali, Rwanda, hosted by Africa CDC.

This Bioinformatics Training focused on Linux operating systems and Bash scripting essential tools for data

analysis in genomics. Participants gained skills in command line navigation, file management, and automation, enabling them to build and manage bioinformatics pipelines critical for genomic surveillance.





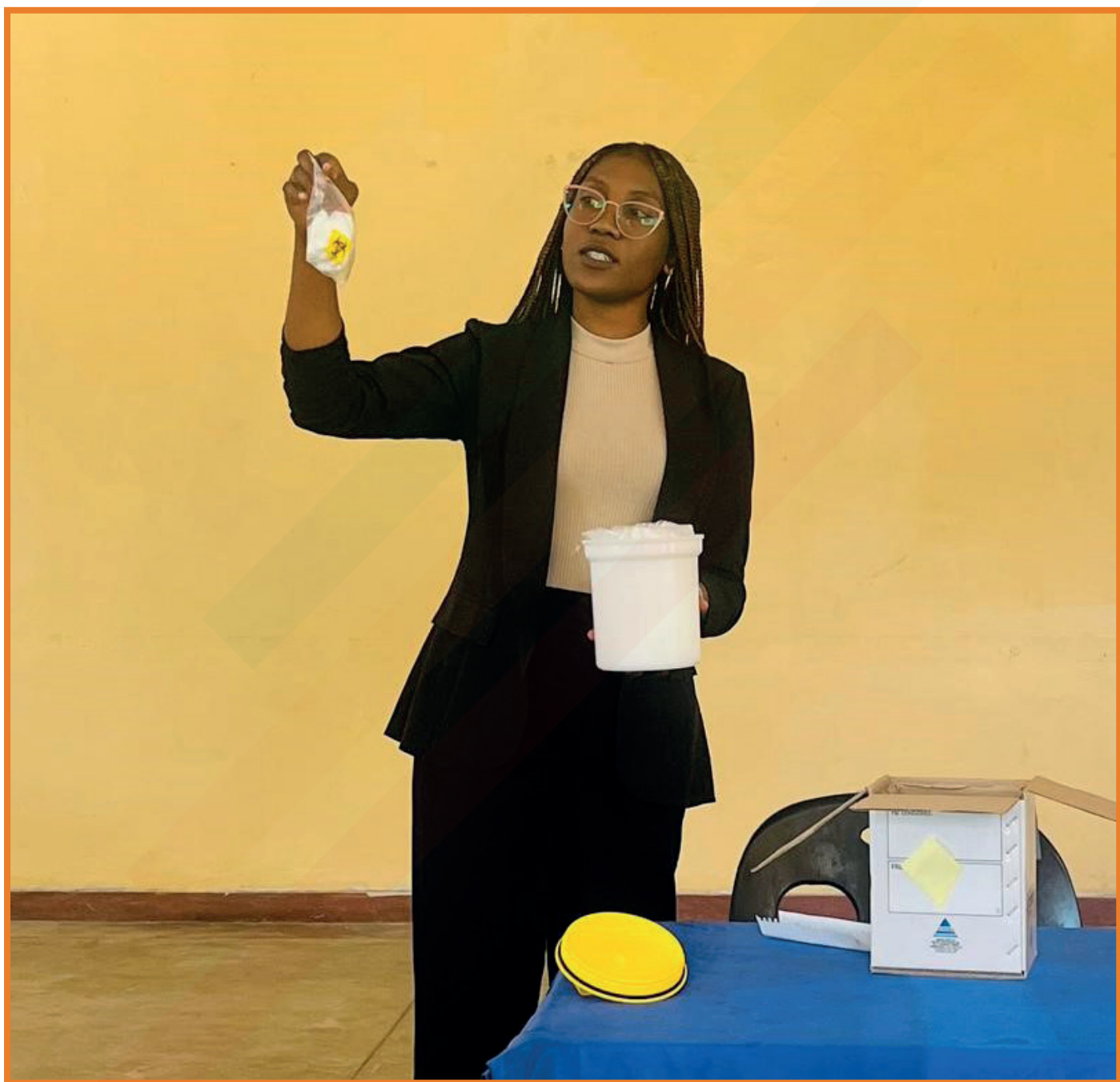
### Advanced Molecular Diagnostics - Capacity Building in Toyama, Japan

Further contributing to capacity building, a ZNPHI laboratory staff member took part in a high-level training at JICA's Toyama Campus in Japan. The Advanced Molecular Diagnostics programme focused on infectious disease diagnostics, including practical sessions on

next-generation sequencing (NGS) library preparation. This initiative supports regional efforts to enhance outbreak readiness and expand molecular diagnostic capabilities.



### Sample Management -Technical Supportive Supervision (TSS)



Improving specimen handling across the country remained a priority. The department conducted Technical Supportive Supervision to strengthen sample collection, packaging, transportation, and documentation practices in the provinces. By promoting effective use

of the national courier system and reinforcing proper chain of custody procedures, this intervention aims to reduce sample rejection rates and improve the reliability of laboratory results.



### Environmental Surveillance Placement at CVRI



In a push to strengthen environmental surveillance, ZNPHRL personnel undertook a practical Placement at the Centre for Vaccine Research and Implementation (CVRI). The training focused on wastewater and

surface water monitoring for pathogens and antimicrobial resistance genes, equipping staff with advanced tools to support early detection of public health threats through environmental signals.



### Biosafety and Biosecurity Stakeholders Engagement



#### Biosafety and Biosecurity Stakeholders Engagement

To ensure a safe and enabling research environment, ZNPHI convened a national Biosafety and Biosecurity Stakeholders Engagement workshop. The event brought together key players to review Zambia's Biosafety Act and develop harmonized frameworks for

biotechnology governance, laboratory safety standards, and biosecurity protocols. This collaboration reinforces responsible scientific practice while protecting public health.



### Public Health Leadership Workshop



Leadership development also took centre stage with ZNPHI's participation in a Public Health Leadership Workshop co-hosted by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Africa CDC. Held in Lusaka, the training equipped senior laboratory personnel with skills in strategic management and emergency co-ordination critical competencies for leading public health laboratories during crises.





### Wastewater Surveillance Data Training - Kampala, Uganda

ZNPHRL staff enhanced their data analysis skills through a Wastewater Surveillance Data Training held in Kampala, Uganda. Hosted by Uganda's Central Public Health Laboratories (CPHL) and supported by

Africa CDC, the workshop focused on transforming wastewater data into actionable insights for disease prevention and control an increasingly important capability in public health.





### Guideline Development on Laboratory Decentralization -Yaoundé, Cameroon



#### Guideline Development on Laboratory Decentralization - Yaoundé, Cameroon

As part of efforts to strengthen laboratory systems across the continent, ZNPHRL contributed to a regional Guideline Development Workshop on Laboratory Decentralization held from 14–18 July in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The workshop brought together public health stakeholders from various African countries to

co-develop a practical guideline tailored to expanding laboratory capacity at sub national levels. The resulting framework aligns international best practices with African realities and aims to support countries in building more equitable and responsive laboratory networks for timely disease detection and response.

### Zambia Develops the One Health AMR Research Agenda (2025-2030)

In a major step toward evidence informed policymaking and cross sectoral collaboration, Zambia has developed the Zambia Multisectoral Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance (2025–2030). This strategic document sets out to guide AMR related research across human, animal, and environmental health sectors under a unified One Health approach.

The agenda identifies five thematic research priorities: AMR surveillance and monitoring, Antimicrobial use

and stewardship, Infection prevention and control, Public awareness and behavior change, Governance, policy, and economics.

Its overarching goal is to coordinate and generate high quality, policy relevant research that directly informs national and regional AMR strategies. Developed through an inclusive and consultative process, the agenda reflects Zambia's commitment to equitable, relevant, and globally aligned research efforts.





### Strengthening Surveillance through National Point Prevalence Survey on AMU and AMR

To better understand national antimicrobial use (AMU) and resistance trends, Zambia conducted a Point Prevalence Survey (PPS) across eight sentinel hospitals: University Teaching Hospital (UTH), Levy Mwanawasa UTH, Ndola Teaching Hospital (NTH), Chilonga Mission Hospital, Mansa General Hospital, Solwezi General Hospital, Lewanika General Hospital, Chipata Central Hospital





### Scaling Up Antimicrobial Stewardship in Northern and North-Western Provinces

ZNPHI, through the AMRCC, scaled up antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) activities by training multidisciplinary teams in Northern and North-Western Provinces. Participants included clinicians, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, and infection prevention officers from selected hospitals.

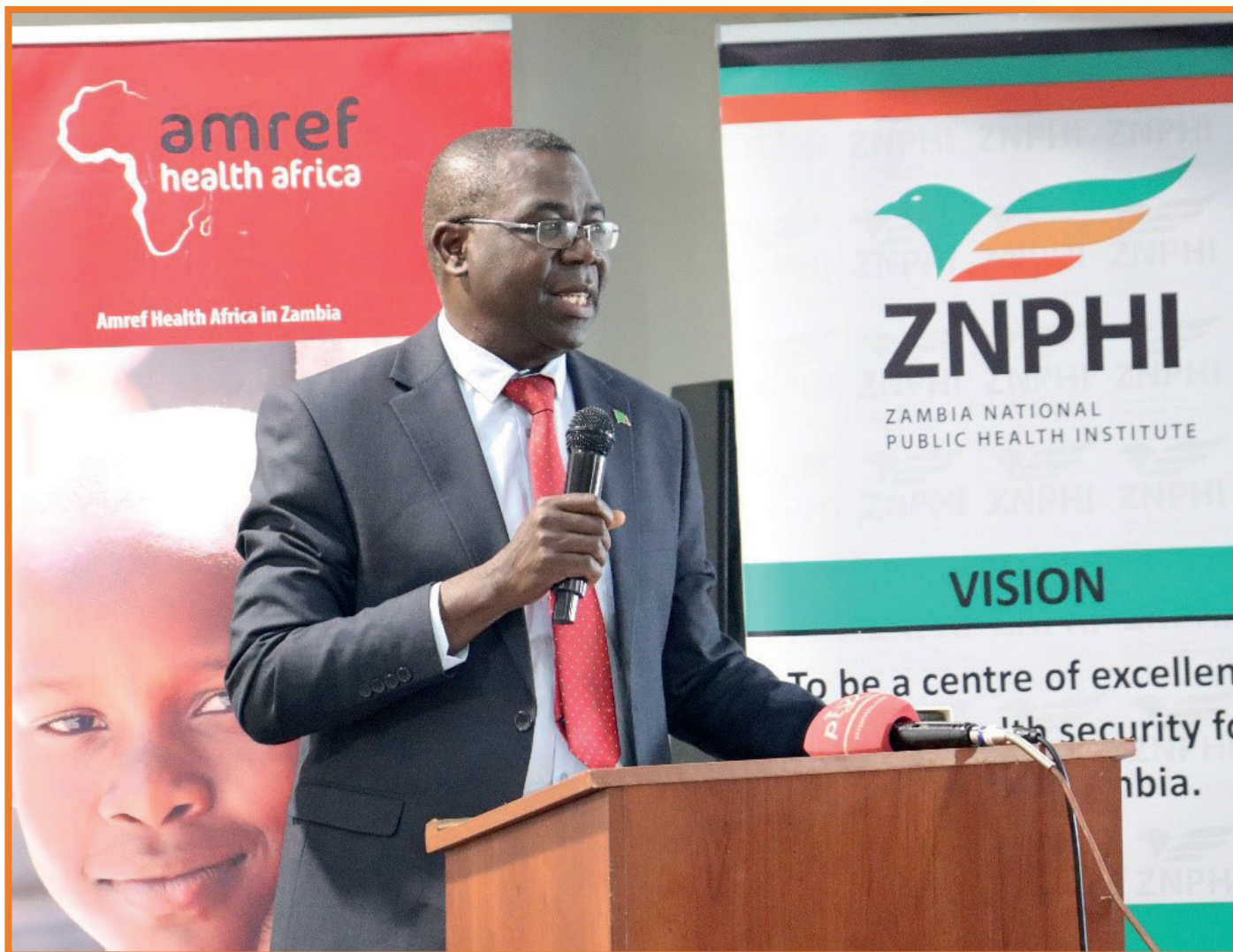
The training focused on promoting rational antibiotic use, adherence to treatment guidelines, and enhanced monitoring of antimicrobial consumption. Early outcomes include improved prescribing practices, stronger infection prevention measures, and increased collaboration among healthcare teams all contributing to reduced misuse of antimicrobials and improved patient outcomes.



North Western Team in Kalumbila



### AMS Training Module Validation Workshop



ZNPHI participated in the AMS Training Module Validation Workshop hosted by AMREF Health Africa in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The workshop focused on finalizing a key training module for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

The event was officially opened by Professor Roma Chilengi, Director General of ZNPHI and Chairperson of AMRCC. In his remarks, he stressed the need for collaborative, cross sectoral action to address AMR

and urged participants to ensure the training content is relevant, impactful, and aligned with One Health priorities.

Once finalized, the module will support capacity building in the veterinary sector by promoting responsible and evidence based antimicrobial use a critical step in preserving the effectiveness of lifesaving medicines and protecting both animal and human health.



### Hospital Associated Infection Surveillance Training

To strengthen infection prevention and control (IPC) systems, ZNPHI rolled out Hospital Associated Infection (HAI) Surveillance Training for healthcare workers across various levels of care. The training aims to equip participants with the skills to monitor, detect, and respond to infections acquired within healthcare settings. By enhancing the capacity of frontline workers to pre-

vent and manage healthcare associated infections, this initiative contributes to patient safety and supports broader AMR containment efforts. It reflects ZNPHI's commitment to building a resilient, high quality health system that protects lives and ensures better outcomes for all.



### e-IDSR Data Quality Audit



A comprehensive audit of the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (e-IDSR) system was carried out to strengthen the quality and reliability of surveillance data. The exercise focused on verifying accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of reports submitted through the system.

Conducted in collaboration with provincial and district health teams, the audit included site visits, data review sessions, and mentorship for facility based staff. Key findings revealed both strengths and gaps such as transcription errors and inconsistent reporting prompting targeted recommendations to enhance data practices across the country's surveillance framework.



Data Audit at Dungulungu HP Chama District, Eastern



### Supporting Provincial Mid-Term Planning and Budgeting

To support the national agenda of building resilient health systems, the Institute took part in provincial planning and budgeting launches across all ten provinces. Presentations focused on past achievements, including resource support in the areas of infrastructure, staffing, equipment, and systems strengthening.

These engagements allowed for meaningful dialogue with provincial leaders, aligning sub-national priorities with the broader public health security goals outlined in the 2026-2028 strategic framework.



Luapula Planning launch, Nchelenge District



ZNPHI presents at the Luapula Planning Launch

### Launch of the National Public Health Research Agenda

During the recent Genomics Research Scientific Symposium, the official launch of Zambia's National Public Health Research Agenda marked a significant step forward for health security and resilience.

The agenda provides a coordinated framework for conducting research that addresses high-priority public health threats. It encourages collaboration among government institutions, academia, and partners to generate actionable evidence for policy and practice. Its success depends on sustained investment and a shared vision to translate findings into impactful solutions.





### Surveillance Innovation through Resolve to Save Lives Partnership

A high level mission from Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) visited to review progress on several joint projects focused on epidemic intelligence and digital innovation. These include the automation of alert systems, epidemiological reporting tools, executive dashboards, and the ongoing development of the Public Health Security Information Management System (PHSIMS).

The discussions explored future areas of collaboration, such as establishing a Delivery Unit within the Office of the Director General to support implementation efficiency. This partnership continues to play a vital role in strengthening Zambia's outbreak detection and response capabilities.



SPIM & RTSL during an engagement meeting



ZNPHI & RTSL pose for a picture

### Training Frontline Health Responders on Climate Responsive Health Systems



cholera, malaria, and respiratory infections.

The training was officially inaugurated by the Director General, Professor. Roma Chilengi, who underscored the critical importance of integrating climate considerations into the national health security agenda. He called for proactive strategies that align health systems with the realities of climate change to safeguard communities.

Key components of the program include integrating climate risk indicators into the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system, strengthening early warning mechanisms through real-time risk mapping, applying WHO's Operational Framework for Climate Resilient Health Systems, and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration between health, meteorological, and environmental agencies. Participants engage in scenario based exercises, analyse historical outbreak trends alongside weather patterns, and develop tailored, context-specific response strategies.

A comprehensive training program was conducted to build capacity among frontline healthcare workers in climate informed disease surveillance, early warning, and risk communication. Participants from multiple provinces deepened their understanding of how extreme weather events affect health outcomes, including

Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, the training strengthened Zambia's ability to anticipate and respond to climate sensitive health threats. This effort aligns with global strategies to build resilient health systems equipped to manage the health impacts of climate change.





### Regional Collaboration Boosts Cross-Border Disease Surveillance at Kazungula Tri-Junction

ZNPHI and the Ministry of Health (MoH) recently took part in a high-level regional workshop held in Livingstone, aimed at strengthening cross-border disease surveillance and advancing the use of digital public health tools. The workshop focused on the Kazungula One Border Stop, a tri-junction connecting Zambia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. It brought together public health stakeholders from the three countries to enhance coordination in disease surveillance and response efforts. The activity was supported by the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (EC-SA-HC), reflecting regional commitment to tackling public health threats through collaborative approaches.

A key component of the workshop was the piloting of a joint surveillance system at the Kazungula Point of Entry (POE). This initiative seeks to enhance early warning and detection of public health events through integrated efforts at the border. Participants were also introduced to a new POE Digital Screening Application, developed to streamline data collection processes and enable real-time reporting by port health and surveillance officers stationed at the border. The practical training sessions ensured that officers

were equipped to begin using the application immediately to support coordinated surveillance activities.

The workshop further focused on strengthening cross-border collaboration by fostering a network of practice among surveillance officers and health authorities from the three countries. As part of this effort, participants jointly developed a priority list of public health hazards relevant to the tri-border area, aligning surveillance efforts on the most pressing threats. This shared list will guide future preparedness, detection, and response strategies, ensuring that national systems work together seamlessly across borders.

To cement the collaborative framework, participants also worked on updating the joint Terms of Reference (ToR) and the accompanying Plan of Action. These documents now clearly outline roles, responsibilities, and procedures for joint surveillance and response, enabling more effective coordination in times of public health emergencies. The workshop demonstrated the value of regional solidarity and joint planning in addressing cross-border health threats, particularly in high-traffic border zones such as Kazungula.



### Distribution of National SOPs to Enhance Measles and Mpox Surveillance

To reinforce disease preparedness and response at the sub national level, standardized national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for measles and mpox were distributed to Public Health Security Officers across all ten provinces. These SOPs provide clear, context specific guidance on surveillance, case management, laboratory protocols, and outbreak response in line with WHO recommendations.

Provincial officers actively participated in sorting and packaging materials, ensuring timely delivery and front-line readiness. This initiative strengthens harmonized practices nationwide, improving detection, reporting, and rapid response to vaccine preventable diseases.



Distribution of National SOPs to Enhance Measles and Mpox Surveillance



### Showcasing AI Innovation During Regional Best Practice Visit

The cluster hosted a high level best practice exchange with the Zimbabwe National Science and Technology Council and Zambia's own National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The visit highlighted pioneering work in artificial intelligence, including a predictive model designed to identify high risk neonates early. Delegates engaged in technical discussions on apply-

ing AI to address critical neonatal health challenges, underscoring the transformative potential of digital innovation in public health. This regional collaboration exemplifies leadership in science, technology, and health innovation aimed at improving outcomes across southern Africa.



Showcasing AI Innovation During Regional Best Practice Visit

### Strengthening One Health Collaboration across Sectors

As part of this month's One Health feature, strategic engagements have been taking place to reinforce collaboration across sectors and ensure health security at the intersection of humans, animals, and the environment. These efforts are aligned with the National One Health Strategic Plan (2022–2026), focusing on integrated, multisectoral actions that drive resilience and sustainability.

### Partnering with the Nature Conservancy Zambia

In a recent engagement, technical teams met with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Zambia to explore opportunities for joint action. TNC's work in environmental conservation, sustainable land management, and climate resilience aligns with national priorities to manage public health threats through an ecosystem based approach.

Key areas of potential collaboration include:

- Conducting joint ecosystem and public health risk assessments
- Integrating nature based solutions into disease prevention and outbreak response

- Promoting community level engagement for health and environmental stewardship
- Strengthening coordination under existing One Health platforms

This collaboration underscores the importance of aligning environmental and health interventions to achieve shared goals in climate smart public health, ecosystem protection, and national resilience.



Nature Conservancy Zambia staff pose for photo with one Health staff after partner meeting



### Advancing One Health through Food Systems Research: ZISSP Dissemination Meeting

As part of this month's One Health feature, a dissemination meeting was held in Lusaka to present key findings from the Zambia–Ireland Sustainable Food Systems Strengthening Programme (ZISSP). The meeting, convened in partnership with CIDRZ and supported by Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI), marked a significant step toward strengthening evidence based approaches in Zambia's One Health response.

Officially opened by the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Hon. Eng. Peter C. Kapala, MP, the meeting reaffirmed the role of food safety, animal health, and multisectoral coordination in preventing zoonotic diseases and promoting health and multi sectoral coordination in preventing Zoonotic diseases and promoting health security.



Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Hon. Eng. Peter C. Kapala, MP with Prof. Chilengi during ZISSP Dissemination Meeting



For ZNPHI, the study findings provide timely evidence to guide implementation of the National One Health Strategic Plan (2022–2026) and operationalise its legal mandate under the ZNPHI Act No. 19 of 2020. The research identified key gaps in disease surveillance, veterinary medicine regulation, food safety inspection, and public awareness of zoonotic diseases especially in informal markets.

Director General Professor Roma Chilengi emphasised the urgency of transforming such insights into action. He noted that the baseline study exposes critical weaknesses that, if addressed, can strengthen health security across sectors.

“We must act on this evidence. Gaps in inspection, disease surveillance, and veterinary medicine regulation must be resolved through science led systems that are practical, coordinated and resilient”

The findings will help inform future interventions, policies, and research that align with ZNPHI’s mission to build resilient, collaborative, and science led systems for protecting human, animal, and environmental health.





### Strengthening Zambia's One Health Governance: National Workshop for Provincial TWGs Launches



**Doctor Raymond Hamoonga facilitating a session at the National Workshop for Provincial TWGs**

Director General Professor Roma Chilengi opened the workshop, emphasizing the critical role of subnational structures in advancing One Health:

“Our ability to respond effectively to outbreaks whether anthrax, aflatoxin contamination, or environmental pollution depends on how well we coordinate across sectors, from the national to the community level.”

Recent One Health events, such as anthrax outbreaks in Western and Southern provinces, aflatoxin contamination, mining related chemical spills, and heavy metal poisoning in Serenje, have highlighted the urgent need for collaborative, cross sector action. The workshop agenda includes case studies, provincial roadmap development, and interactive sessions on governance, joint planning, and emergency response.

This initiative is supported by key partners including the FAO, WHO, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

This month, the One Health Unit launched a five day Governance Workshop in Lusaka aimed at boosting multisectoral coordination and emergency response capacity across all ten provinces. The workshop brings together newly elected Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Provincial One Health Technical Working Groups (TWGs) alongside members of the National One Health TWG.



# Zambia Contributes to the Continental Launch of One Health and Climate Strategies

## Advancing One Health Coordination and Zoonotic Disease Prioritization

Zambia proudly took part in the launch of two landmark continental strategies led by Africa CDC and AU-IBAR: the One Health Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control Strategy (2025–2030) and the Strategic Framework on Climate Change and Health (2025–2029).

The event, held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, brought together Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and technical partners to drive forward an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to health security. Zambia was one of only four countries invited to share national experiences in implementing One Health and responding to climate related health threats, an opportunity that underscored the country's growing regional leadership in both areas.

Significant progress has been made in strengthening national One Health coordination. Key structures such as the One Health Steering Committee, Coordination Committee, and Technical Working Group are now operational and expanding to provincial and district levels to ensure more localized and responsive action.

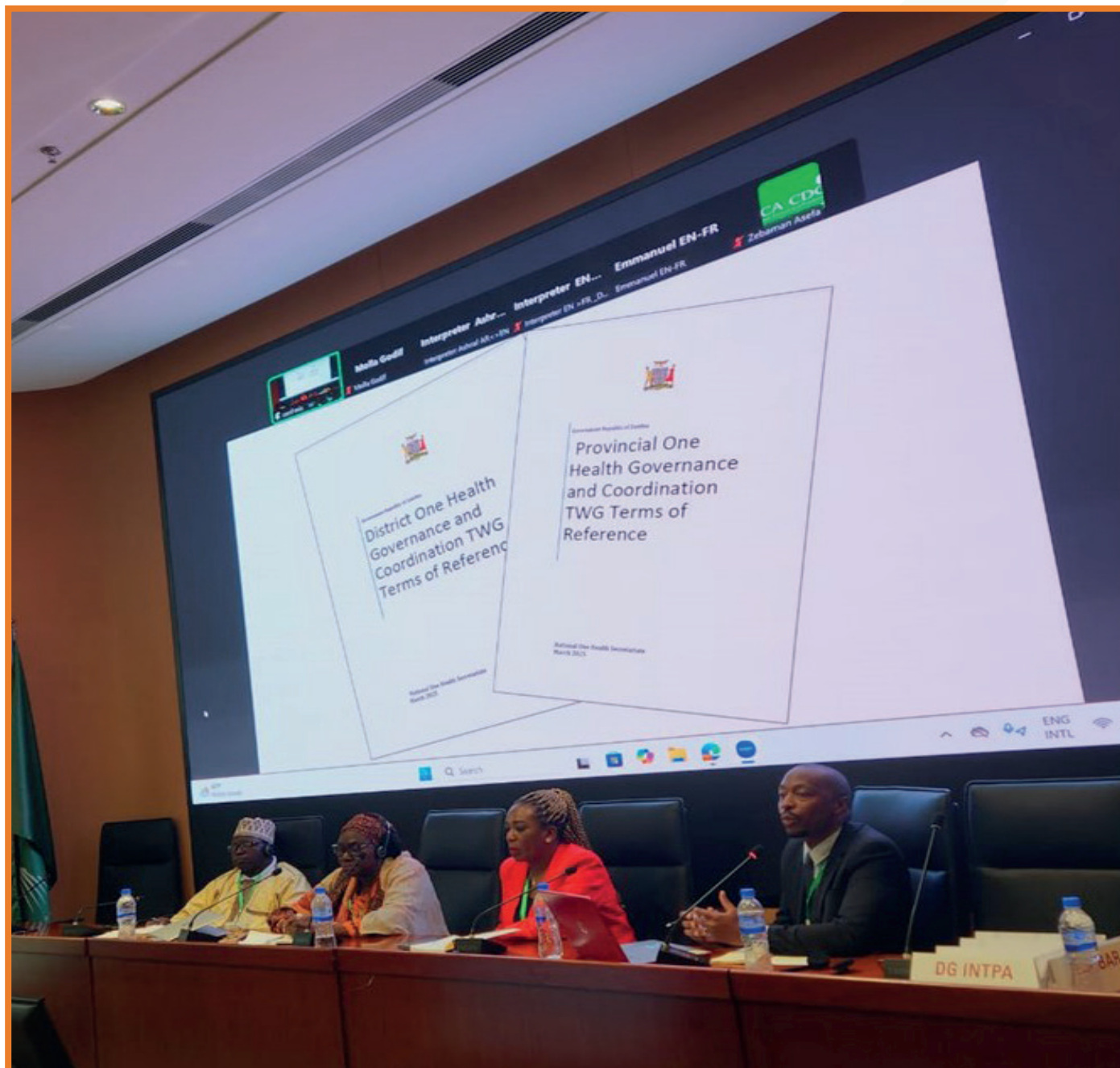
Zambia also recently hosted a One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP) workshop with support from Africa CDC, bringing together experts across multiple ministries to identify high-priority zoonotic diseases including anthrax, brucellosis, rabies, and viral haemorrhagic fevers. These priorities now guide surveillance, preparedness, and risk communication efforts, firmly aligning Zambia with regional strategic goals.



Continental Launch of One Health and Climate Strategies



### Enhancing Climate Health Resilience Across Sectors



#### CDC climate health framework launched in Addis Ababa

In the face of increasing climate variability, including severe droughts and floods, Zambia is taking bold steps to integrate climate risks into public health planning. A National Dialogue on Climate and Health, co-hosted earlier this year by the National Public Health Institute and the Zambia Meteorological Department, facilitated cross sector engagement on emerging climate-relat-

ed health challenges. Participants explored opportunities to strengthen early warning systems, real-time risk mapping, and coordination across health, environment, and meteorology sectors. These actions reinforce national resilience while drawing from the Africa CDC climate health framework launched in Addis Ababa.

### From Strategy to Action - Mobilizing for Implementation

The continental launch emphasized the urgent need to move from strategy to implementation. Speakers from across Africa called for concrete, coordinated efforts to translate frameworks into real impact. In response, Zambia reiterated its commitment to operationalizing national One Health and climate-health strategies through inclusive partnerships, evidence-based plan-

ning, and subnational engagement. The One Health Unit remains dedicated to ensuring collective ownership of this agenda and sustaining momentum through capacity building, integration of environmental data, and alignment with continental public health objectives.





### Building Zambia's Public Health Future: FETP and One Health Integration in Focus

This month, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) marked a series of important milestones reflecting the country's growing investment in data driven, community level public health action. Through graduations, fieldwork dissemination, and the rollout of a revised One Health curriculum, Zambia continues to strengthen its frontline health workforce laying the foundation for stronger outbreak preparedness and response across all levels of the health system.

### Graduation Shines Spotlight on Community Level Public Health in North western Province

In North western Province, the FETP community celebrated the graduation of a new cohort of frontline residents. Hosted in Kalumbila District, the event brought together the Ministry of Health, the Global Fund, and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) to acknowledge the vital role of trained epidemiologists in strengthening surveillance systems and outbreak response.

The graduation highlighted real life investigations carried out by residents during their field placements ranging from data quality assessments and 7-1-7 timeliness reviews to rabies and porcine cysticercosis outbreak responses. These projects are not only building technical skills but also contributing directly to Zambia's ability

to detect, verify, and respond to public health threats at the local level.

Professor Roma Chilengi, Director General of ZNPHI, called for the systematic review and use of project findings to inform health policy and improve response strategies. He also emphasized the critical importance of high-quality, actionable data: "Reliable and representative data are the foundation for effective public health action."

The Global Fund's Paul Simujayangombe, who delivered the keynote remarks, reminded graduates that their work is just beginning: "As you return to your districts, remember that data saves lives when it is timely, accurate, and translated into action."



Front Row (L-R): Mr. Clifford Fwalanga (Resident), Mr. Kadolo Muntanga (Provincial Epidemiologist), Mr. Ernest Kateule (Program Coordinator), Dr. Isonga (District Director), Mr. Paul Simujayangombe (GF Project Coordinator), Dr. Luckson Chidikita (Provincial Health Director), Professor Roma Chilengi (Director General, ZNPHI), Memory Mtayachalo, Mwila Kalumba and Musutu Kachali Kunda (Residents)

### Lusaka Province Graduation Affirms Continued National Commitment



Graduates displays certificates during the graduation with Director General and Mentors

Another group of frontline residents graduated under the Field Epidemiology Training Program in Lusaka Province. The ceremony reinforced Zambia's continued commitment to investing in an agile and skilled public health workforce.

In his address to the graduates, Professor Chilengi encouraged them to view their certificates not as a conclusion, but as a call to serve. "In public health emergencies, settling for 'good enough' is never enough," he said. "You must be prepared to act boldly, lead with vision, and let your footprints be deep enough for others to follow."

Representing the Provincial Health Office, Mr. Oscar Nzila commended national efforts and urged for expanded support to help graduates pursue intermediate and advanced levels of epidemiology training.

Cohort representative Ms. Ethel Nawa echoed this call, adding: "We are prepared. We are committed. We are FETP."

The Lusaka and Kalumbila ceremonies together speak to the growing footprint of FETP in Zambia, as more professionals are empowered to use data and surveillance tools to protect public health in their own communities.



### One Health Curriculum Integration Marks New Era for FETP

To align Zambia's workforce development with global best practices, efforts have begun to integrate the One Health approach into the FETP curriculum. In a national orientation workshop held in Lusaka, mentors, facilitators, and technical staff were introduced to the revised training framework.

The new curriculum is designed to foster cross sectoral collaboration by bringing together human, animal, and environmental health perspectives. The goal is to prepare FETP residents not just to investigate outbreaks, but to understand the complex systems that contribute to them.

Through the workshop, participants explored how One Health principles can be applied in surveillance, re-

sponse, and prevention especially for zoonotic diseases, food safety issues, and environmental health risks.

This curriculum shift represents a strategic step in positioning Zambia as a leader in integrated health security. It also equips mentors and field teams with the tools to better guide the next generation of epidemiologists, ensuring they are not only technically skilled, but also systems-minded and prepared for emerging challenges. As FETP continues to grow in scale and scope, the integration of One Health and the strengthening of field based learning are setting the stage for a more resilient public health system. These developments reflect a shared vision of a health security workforce that is locally rooted, nationally connected, and globally aligned.



Orientation Workshop for Technical FETP Staff on the One Health Frontline FETP Curriculum, from 28- 31 July 2025 at Mulungushi International in Lusaka

# Awards

Recognising outstanding contributions to genomics and public health in Zambia.

At the close of the Genomics Scientific Symposium, the following individuals were honoured for their exceptional leadership and impact in advancing genomic research and innovation:

- **Professor Geoffrey Kwenda (Posthumous)** - Former Professor of Molecular Biology, University of Zambia
- **Dr. Walter Muleya** - Head, Department of Biomedical Science, University of Zambia
- **Professor Edgar Simulundu** - Scientific Director, Macha Research Trust
- **Mr. Innocent Mwape** - Technical Lead, Genomic Surveillance, ZNPHI Reference Laboratory
- **Ms. Chibuye Mwewa** - Researcher, Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)

Their contributions continue to shape Zambia's genomic landscape and strengthen national public health systems.





## ADVERTISEMENTS

Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) with support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is implementing the Sample Registration System (SRS) Project. The SRS Project aims to improve the understanding of mortality rates and burden of disease across a representative sample of the population in Zambia. The Zambia National Public Health Institute therefore with support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the SRS Project seeks to recruit a suitably qualified and experienced person to be appointed in the under listed positions:

### 1. Regional Data Manager (02)

**Location:** Provincial Level

**Reports to:** Provincial Sample Registration Coordinator (Provincial Epidemiologist) PSRC

#### Job Purpose

Effectively oversee the management and quality control of SRS data within two province in order to ensure timely quality reporting of SRS data

#### Responsibilities/Principal Accountabilities

- Manage data storage and processing, ensuring the accuracy and completeness of datasets.
- Provide technical support to data collection teams, including troubleshooting issues with electronic data capture.
- Implement data audits and quality checks regularly to maintain data integrity.
- Assess data collection training needs and designs interventions
- Design and implement a comprehensive data management strategy that aligns with the goals of the SRS Project
- Ensure effective collection, processing and analysis of vital statistics.
- Establish protocols for data quality control and validation to ensure accuracy and reliability of data collected from various sources.
- Prepare regular reports and analyses on regional health data trends, providing actionable insights to stakeholders and facilitating evidence-based decision-making.
- Train and support district-level data personnel in data collection methodologies, reporting standards, and best practices in data management.
- Collaborate with local health facilities, community organizations, and other stakeholders to promote the use of data
- Any other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Supervisor

#### Required Qualifications and Experience

- Grade Twelve (12) School Certificate with Five (5) Credits or better including Mathematics and English;
- Bachelor's Degree in Public Health, Statistics, Data Science, or a related field
- Master's Degree in Public Health, Statistics, Data Science, or a related field will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of Five (5) years of experience in data management or analysis within public health or similar sectors.

### Desired Experience

- Experience in using statistical software (e.g., SPSS, R, or Python) and database management systems.
- Experience working in the health sector is desirable
- Experience working with and or on donor funded projects is an advantage
- Familiarity with ZNPHI's role in Health Security in Zambia

### Knowledge and Skills

- Strong analytical skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- team building skills
- Must be computer literate and proficient in MS Office
- Must have high level of confidentiality and Integrity
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision while meeting deadlines.

## 2. Mortality Surveillance Officer (15)

**Location:** Various Stations (Eastern, Western, Copperbelt and Central Province)

**Reports to:** Provincial Sample Registration Coordinator

### Job Purpose

Effectively conduct verbal autopsy interviews on deceased individuals within specified districts, collaborating closely with local health authorities, community leaders, and bereaved families to collect comprehensive data on the circumstances and causes of death through structured interviews and medical history reviews. The Mortality Surveillance Officer will also ensure accurate and detailed information is gathered to contribute to the understanding of mortality patterns and inform public health interventions in the province.

### Responsibilities/Principal Accountabilities

- Conduct verbal autopsy interviews on deaths occurring within selected districts in the province.
- Conduct social autopsy interviews on a subset of deaths occurring within selected districts in the province.
- Collect and record mortality data accurately and efficiently using standardized data collection tools and protocols.
- Ensure the completeness and quality of data collected during verbal social autopsy interviews.
- Assist in data analysis by providing accurate and detailed information from verbal and social autopsy interviews and other sources.
- Collaborate with the Provincial Epidemiologist and Regional Data Manager to ensure data integrity and reliability.
- Engage with the community to educate and inform them about the project's goals and activities.
- Address community concerns, encourage participation in data collection, and promote awareness of the importance of mortality surveillance.



## ADVERTISEMENTS

- Prepare regular reports on mortality data collected, including key findings, trends, and patterns.
- Participate in data quality assessments and provide feedback for improvement.
- Adhere to ethical guidelines and regulations for the protection of human subjects during data collection and reporting.
- Ensure informed consent procedures are followed during verbal autopsy interviews.
- Provide training and support to Community Surveillance Assistants and other field staff involved in mortality surveillance activities.
- Build the capacity of local staff in conducting verbal autopsy interviews and data collection techniques.

### Required Qualifications and Experience

- Full Grade 12 School Certificate with five O level credits including English and Mathematics
- Bachelor of Public Health, Bachelor of Arts (Demography, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology) or any related field
- At least three (3) years' experience in mortality surveillance, public health or related field

### Desired Experience

- Minimum Five (5) years of relevant work experience
- Familiarity with verbal autopsy methodologies is desirable.
- Experience in community health work or disease surveillance is preferred.
- Experience working with and or on donor funded projects
- Familiarity with ZNPHI's role in Health Security in Zambia

### Knowledge and Skills

- Knowledge of mortality data sources, mortality data collection methodologies, and mortality data quality assessment techniques.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Strong problem-solving skills, with the ability to navigate complex social environments.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to present technical information to diverse audiences.

All interested persons meeting the above qualifications and experience should send their written applications to the undersigned with verified copies of academic and professional qualifications, Full Registration with relevant professional bodies and Latest Practicing Licenses where applicable and detailed Curriculum Vitae with at least three references including their contact numbers.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday, 20th August, 2025. All applications must be clearly marked on the envelope indicating the position one is applying for. Kindly note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Interested candidates should address their application letters to:

Director General  
Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI)  
Stand 1186, Corner Addis Ababa Drive & Chaholi Road,  
LUSAKA

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