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| **Name and contact details of the proposer (phone, email, fax and postal address)** | **Proposal (Sector/policy area of interest)** | **Current Status (Disadvantages, shortcomings, weaknesses or challenges of the current policy or programme, project or situation)** | **Justification**  **(Expected implications or impact of the proposed policies or measures)** |
| The submission is for the Make Way Programme consisting of:   * Forum For African Women Educationalists Of Zambia (Faweza)   Plot 6680, Chiwalamabwe Road Olympia Extension  Lusaka, Zambia  Contact person:Costern Kanchele  Contact No:0977468822   * VSO Zambia   Mass Media, Off Nangwenya Rd, Lusaka, Zambia  Contact Person: Mavis Banda.  Contact No: 0973012284   * Cheshire Homes Society of Zambia   Woodlands, Off Mwinilunga Crescent, Lusaka  Contact Person : Kamima Nguni  +260977461452   * Akina Mama wa Afrika   Contact person:Chipasha Mwansa  Contact No:0979996414   * Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians   Nationalist Road Old UCZ Synod Offices,  Lusaka, Zambia  Contact person: Bridget Nonde Masaiti  Contact No :0763535012  **Youth Panelists**  Kelvin Besa  Contact No :0973892057  Kholina Banda  Contact No. 0970860012  Ngamanya Nkunika  Contact No. 0971924852 | 1. **Health Sector:** Increase Ministry of health (Head Vote 46) allocation to a minimum of 12 percent of the total national budget, with the flexibility to extend up to 15 percent of total national budget as recommended in the Abuja declaration in a positive economic outlook. | The current 2024 budget allocation to the Ministry of Health (Head vote 46) as a share of total national budget is 10.5 percent with the 2024-2026 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) proposing a health allocation of 11.2 percent of the total national budget for the 2025 allocation. These budget allocations not only fall below the commitment of 15 percent as per the Abuja Declaration which Zambia is a signatory to, but also the 12 percent necessary to narrow the funding gap outlined in the National Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026. | The current drought condition significantly impacts the health and well-being of citizens, including adolescents and marginalized youths with compounded vulnerabilities including youths with disabilities, especially in areas where livelihoods depend heavily on agriculture. Investing in health is particularly crucial in 2025 to prepare for the anticipated increase in disease burden. By allocating more financial resources to healthcare, not only can we mitigate the adverse effects of drought-related health challenges, but we can also enhance overall community resilience. It is estimated that if government funding for health increases to 12% of the national budget, the funding gap would decrease to about 2% of the plan's total cost, and if it increased to 15%[[1]](#footnote-1), achieving the Abuja target would result in a 22% surplus for the sector, thereby enabling more comprehensive and efficient health services and initiatives. |
| 1. Health Sector : The increase in the total Ministry of Health budget should prioritize boosting the budget line specifically budget allocation for **Essential Drugs and Medical Supplies**, and **Reproductive Health Commodities.** We propose that the increase in **Essential** **Drugs and Medical supplies** should surpass the 2023 budget allocation. Furthermore, we propose that the allocation for **Reproductive Health Commodities** should be raised to a level exceeding the prevailing annual inflation rate of 13.5 percent.[[2]](#footnote-2) | The **2024 allocation for Budget** line Hospital Services, specifically 11 **Essential Drugs and Medical Supplies** **witnessed a notable 33 percent decrease in the funding**. Such a substantial reduction poses a significant risk to drug availability in health centers nationwide.  Further, the rate of increase for reproductive health commodities from 2023 to 2024 was only 10 percent. This increase does not take into account prevailing inflation rate as this increase likely eroded by inflation. When adjusted for inflation to 2023 allocation, the allocation towards reproductive health commodities only increased by 0.05 percent [[3]](#footnote-3) from 2023 to 2024. | The critical role of essential drugs, medical supplies, and reproductive health commodities cannot be overstated. These resources form the bedrock of a robust healthcare system.  The Presidential Delivery Unit has set a commendable target of doubling the national essential drug availability from 35% to 70% of the population by 2026. By October 2023, the government reported significant strides, achieving an all-time high in drug supply. This milestone was made possible through the procurement of 42,000 health kits for 2023, ensuring a steady flow of essential medications.[[4]](#footnote-4)  However, any reduction in this allocation risks derailing the government's efforts to meet its objective. It's imperative that this allocation be restored to levels exceeding those of 2023, where positive records of drug availability were achieved as not doing will impact availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality drugs and medical supplies for citizens particularly the vulnerable.  Additionally, increasing reproductive health commodities is essential in controlling birth rates and also reducing teen pregnancies. It is essential that reproductive commodities are available in health centers to ensure that citizens, including adolescents including adolescents and marginalized youths with compounded vulnerabilities, can access reproductive health services in all public health facilities. This increased access fosters informed decision-making about sexual and reproductive health, particularly among young people. Greater control over family size will lead to a long-term decrease in dependence on social welfare programs, unplanned pregnancies, and associated government costs like prenatal care and child welfare services |
| 1. The Ministry of Health should be given priority over asset recovery resources. Allocating these resources to the Ministry of Health would enable the enhancement of healthcare services and infrastructure, thereby directly benefiting the well-being of the population | The Public Finance Act designates the Secretary to the Treasury with the mandate to manage and dispose of public assets. The Secretary to the Treasury appoints a Committee of Survey. Once forfeited to the State, the Committee of Survey, chaired by the Ministry of Finance, evaluates the assets and makes recommendations on how to distribute them. Adolescent health under the Ministry of Health should be given top priority in the allocation of recovered resources. The recently successful National Prosecution Authority (NPA) recovered US$30,902,855.00 (ZMW 777,751,595.42) in forfeitures from multiple high-profile cases.[[5]](#footnote-5) | Corruption exacts a heavy toll, especially on disadvantaged groups and individuals. Women, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and those living in poverty bear the brunt of its impact due to pre-existing inequalities and intersectional discrimination. Often reliant on public goods and services, they have limited options to seek alternative private services.  Healthcare stands as a critical lifeline accessible to all. Therefore, directing proceeds recovered from criminal activities towards healthcare ensures a reversal of the inequalities bred by financial crimes. It becomes a crucial step towards fostering a fairer and more equitable society. |
| 1. **Health Sector**: In 2025,Government should include provision for construction of youth friendly spaces. In all construction and rehabilitation of district hospitals, it is essential for the government to prioritize the inclusion of youth-friendly spaces that are accessible and equipped with the necessary resources outlined in the Adolescent Health Strategy of 2022-2026. Youth-friendly spaces within district hospitals should be designed to cater for the unique healthcare needs of adolescents and youth with compounded vulnerabilities. These spaces should be created with careful consideration of the physical layout and amenities to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for youth with compounded vulnerabilities such as, youths with disabilities, disadvantaged girls and boys, seeking healthcare services. Youth Friendly spaces should no longer be an afterthought but be part of construction plans. | Over the medium term, the Government projects to spend an average of K20.4 billion or 11.1 percent per annum. This allocation will be directed towards addressing various challenges among issues related to insufficient health infrastructure. Currently, government’s focus on construction and or rehabilitation of hospitals does not include construction of youth friendly spaces. This means government is constructing facilities that do not respond to needs of adolescents and young people who are the majority in Zambia. Due to inaccessible infrastructure of the Youth Friendly Spaces the Youths with Disabilities shun from accessing the SRH services and information. | To ensure long-term fiscal responsibility and a healthier population, integrating youth-friendly spaces into ongoing hospital renovations is a prudent decision. This proactive approach eliminates the need for costly, separate construction projects down the line, aligning perfectly with the government's commitment to efficient use of public funds. Moreover, these spaces empower adolescents to access essential healthcare services, potentially leading to a decrease in teen pregnancy and HIV rates. By prioritizing youth well-being during current renovations, the government fosters a healthier future with a stronger economic foundation. Accessible Youth Friendly Spaces will increase the number of Youths with Disabilities accessing quality SRHR services and information, this will reduce the disease burden. |
| 1. **Decentralization Policy:** Include age, disability and health needs as key factors in the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocation criteria. The 2025 CDF allocation criteria should ring-fence a specific portion to address adolescent health needs. | For the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the Government will allocate the increment over the medium term, using a formula that will take into account variables such as the population size and poverty levels, as means of bringing in equity in the allocation of resources to the constituencies. Adolescents and youth with compounded vulnerabilities often get overlooked in resource allocation despite their unique health needs in areas like mental health, sexual reproductive health, and nutrition. Lack of youth representation on decision-making committees like Ward Development Committees and Constituency Development Fund Committees contribute to this neglect. | Ignoring adolescent health needs leads to higher healthcare costs, reduced future productivity, and social problems. With the country having 24 percent of the population being adolescents[[6]](#footnote-6), investing in adolescent health now leads to a healthier and more productive future for everyone. This investing will support Zambia as it undertakes its economic recovery. |
|  | 1. In the 2025 budget, Government should increase investment in strengthening drug and medical supply management. The government should ensure a thorough needs analysis is conducted in the facilities, prior to drug purchases and implement an effective inventory management system to prevent drug expiration. Government should improve systems to prevent theft of drugs and medical supplies. | The consecutive Auditor General Reports consistently highlight instances of theft or wastage drugs and medical supplies . The latest report shows that Contrary to the Regulation, various drugs and medical supplies costing K2,313,484 received from ZAMMSA were not accounted for at seventeen (17) stations in that there were no disposal details such as stock control cards and supply vouchers. | Without strong management of drugs and medical supplies, government investments in their purchase won't guarantee improved access to healthcare. To ensure essential commodities are available, acceptable, accessible, affordable, and of high quality, governments need to proactively allocate resources for robust drug and medical supply management systems. This will prevent abuse, wastage, and ultimately, ensure these vital resources reach those who need them most. |

1. National Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Zambian Statistics Agency, February 2024 Monthly February, 2024 Volume 251 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Calculation used (Nominal Value of year you want to change / Inflation Index for year you want to change) x Current Year Inflation Index [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Drug Supplies — Presidential Delivery Unit Zambia (pdu.gov.zm)](https://www.pdu.gov.zm/drug-supply) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. National Prosecution Authority, Press release accessed on [FINAL-PRESS-RELEASE-30\_9-million-US-Dollars-.pdf (npa.gov.zm)](https://www.npa.gov.zm/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/FINAL-PRESS-RELEASE-30_9-million-US-Dollars-.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. National Health Strategy for Zambia 2022-2026 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)