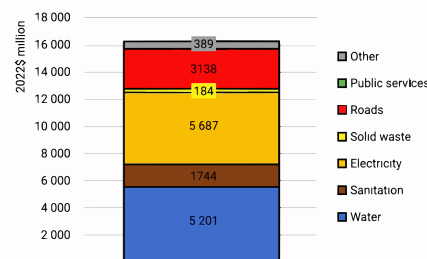


Infrastructure Investment Framework and Long-Term Financial Plans in Zambia



The African Development Bank's (AfDB) programme for strengthening capacity for subnational infrastructure services delivery and financing has recognised that technical plans and strategies related to the provision of infrastructure services are often not converted into financial plans. This study aimed to address this by developing an Infrastructure Investment Framework for Zambia and Long-Term Financial Plans for twelve subnational entities (six water and sanitation utilities and six local authorities). These plans quantified the amount of investment required to achieve universal access to basic services in Zambia by 2030, in line with the Zambia Vision 2030, and to sustain these access levels up to 2042. The plans also quantified the extent to which the entities responsible for the delivery of this infrastructure are able to fund the infrastructure.

PDG conducted extensive stakeholder engagements in November 2024 with national ministries, utilities, road agencies, local authorities, and water service companies to understand long-term service delivery priorities and initiate detailed data collection. Data from national statistics, audited financial statements, sector plans, and local authority and utility records were analysed using an Excel-based modelling tool to estimate service demand, capital investment needs, operating and cash flow impacts, and resulting funding gaps over a 20-year horizon. The tool was developed by PDG for the study as an iteration of similar tools developed over several decades and handed over the AfDB. The modelling results, developed across water and sanitation, electricity, roads, and



Data source: tool projections

Total infrastructure investment need from 2023 to 2042 for all sectors

local government sectors, were refined through verification with stakeholders at a set of workshops in May 2025.

The study found that of the \$16.4 billion capital investment need, only 52% (\$8.5 billion) can be funded through existing sources, meaning that \$7.9 billion in additional funding will need to be sourced. The study noted that the Government of Zambia has set ambitious targets for achieving universal access to basic services. Delivering on these targets will require delivering a basic level of access and keeping the costs as low as possible, otherwise the funding need will increase even further.

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