



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	0
International migrants (2019)	170,249
New asylum applications (2019)	7,861

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/africa/zambia>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Criminal prison population	25,000	2017
				17,021	2013
				16,666	2010
				15,000	2008
				14,207	2005
				13,173	2002
				11,999	2000
				14,318	1998
Percentage of foreign prisoners	2.1	2005	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	160	2017
				119	2013
				128	2010
				120	2008
				124	2005
				123	2002
				116	2000
				146	1998

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	18,400,000	2020	International migrants	170,249	2019
	16,212,000	2015		127,900	2015
International migrants as a percentage of the population	0.8	2015	Refugees	57,518	2019
				49,879	2018
				41,269	2017
				29,338	2016
				25,737	2015
				25,578	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	1.76	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	7,861	2019
	1.63	2014		3,934	2016
				2,220	2014
Refugee recognition rate	62.8	2014			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION			
Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date	
	Common law	2017	
	Customary law	2017	
LAWS AND REGULATIONS			
Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Immigration and Deportation Act, No. 18 of 2010	2010	
	Refugees and Control Act 1970	1970	
COVID-19 UPDATES			
Latest Update	Update Status		Observation Date
	<p>Although the number of confirmed Covid-19 infections in Zambia remains low (76 as of 22 April), the rate of infection continues to rise. A land-locked country, Zambia announced in late March that it would not close its borders because of the economic impact this would have. President Edgar Lungu said on 26 March, “Zambia is landlocked; and that means, with a crisis of this magnitude, we shall find ourselves under forced lockdown if all our neighbors close their borders. This situation would make us economically vulnerable and weaker.” By mid-April, however, the country started implementing more stringent measures, including in its prisons, which also confine immigration detainees. On 12 April, the authorities announced that they would release all foreign nationals jailed on misdemeanor and immigration charges, and send them back to their countries of origin. The Ministry of Home Affairs said that the move would help reduce overcrowding in detention facilities - where rates of HIV and tuberculosis are known to be high - and protect prisoners who remain. However, because of restrictions on international travel many returns are not possible, so the country says it will regularise the status of migrants. According to the country’s Home Affairs Minister, “For foreign nationals who have exhausted their days and are unable to travel to their countries due to suspension of flights, (they are) to quickly visit the Immigration offices and regularise their stay in Zambia.” The country also says that it has increased measures in border areas, including introducing tests at border crossings, although its border markets - including the Kasumbalesa Common Market near the border with Congo - are to remain open, and placing people arriving from “high-risk” countries in two-week quarantine. According to one report, the health minister said in late April that those arriving from “a COVID -19 High-risk country will be quarantined at a government designated institution but at their own cost.” Zambia hosts a substantial refugee population, including nearly 50,000 Congolese. Concerns have been raised regarding safeguarding measures. UNHCR reports that it is organising local radio messaging in all refugee-hosting areas and engaging with personalities such as local musicians to produce Covid-19 prevention radio and social media messages. The agency has also provided the Ministry of Health with Refugee Housing Units to set-up at high-risk points such as borders.</p>		2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year	
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	2016	
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1972	
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1984	
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1984	
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1985	
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1998	
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1991	
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2010	
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2011	
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1969	
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	1974	
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2005	
CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2005		
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	13/19		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	ICESCR Article 13	1984	2017
	CRSR Article 22	1969	2017
	CRSSP Article 22	1974	2017
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name	Acceptance Year	
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1984	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	1/8	2017	
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)	
	ACHPR, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights	1984	
	APRW, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)	2006	

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2008	2017
	No	2012	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Zambia is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)