

KATT

LEGACY THREE

THE RESILIENCE PARADOX

Contributors: Hansel Maimbolwa Mweetwa (KATT Zambia Youth Country Focal and Junior Fellow), Safiya Ibn Garba DTRF

Editor: Dr. Obrey Michelo



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KATT Legacy Three: The Resilience Paradox

60+

OF ZAMBIA'S POPULATION IS UNDER 25

A young, qualified generation – and a narrow window to convert that potential into shared prosperity before it becomes a policy crisis instead of a dividend.



161

young Zambians surveyed for this Legacy – aged 18–34.



Zambia in Brief

20.6M
population(2023)

~14%
inflation

8
bordering
countries

#2
Africa's Copper
producer

3.8%
real GDP
growth(2025)

70%
of export earnings
from copper

Zambia is Africa's second-largest copper producer, but the same rivers that power its hydro-grid leave it exposed when the rains fail – a fragility this report's youth respondents feel directly, through load-shedding and rising living costs.



KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Zambia

161

PARTICIPANTS

18-34

AGE RANGE

52

SURVEY INDICATORS

Objective

To capture how education, economic opportunity, climate resilience, safety and civic participation are actually experienced by young Zambians – grounding national policy in citizen evidence rather than assumption.

Driving the
Legacy



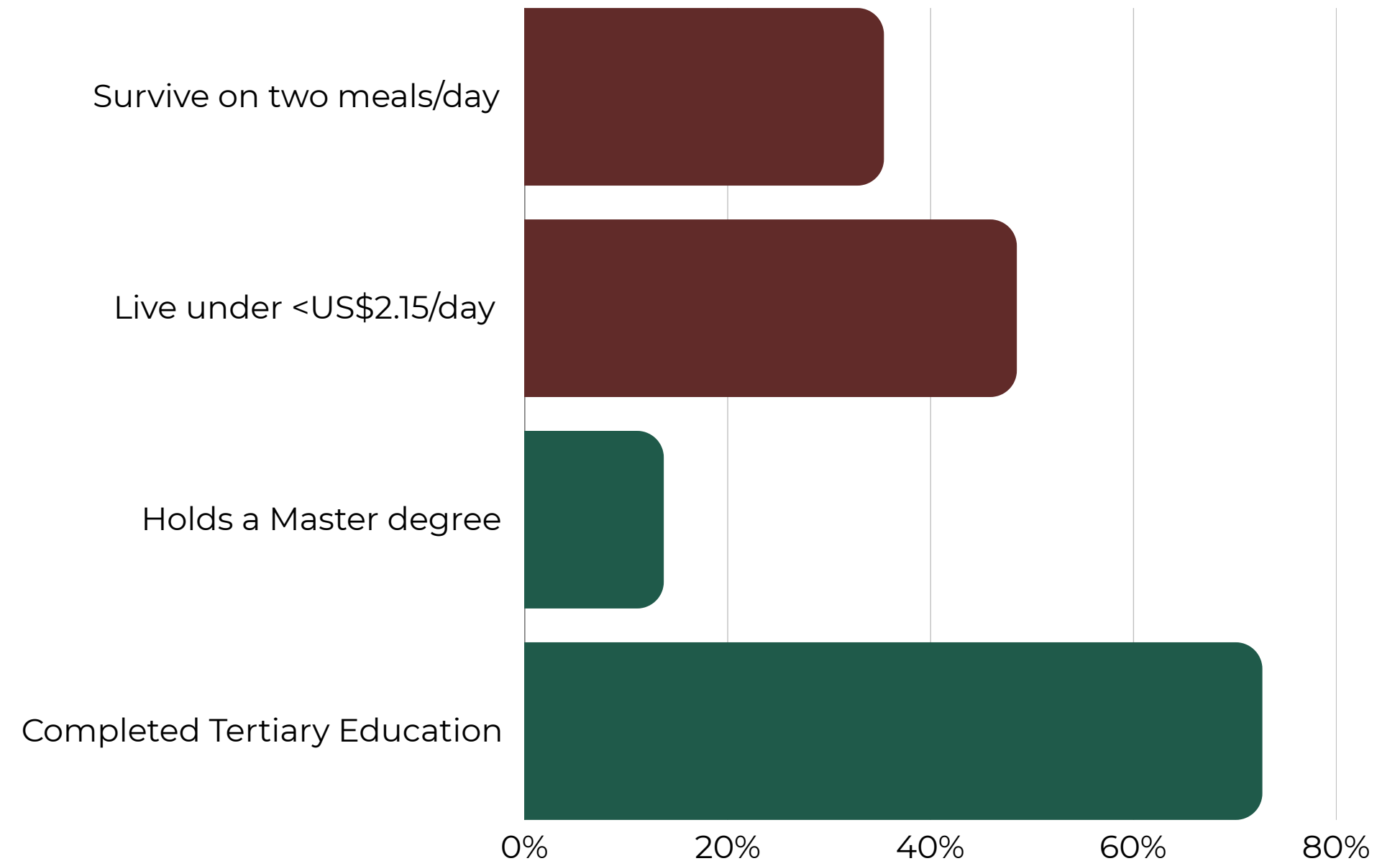


Education and Hardship

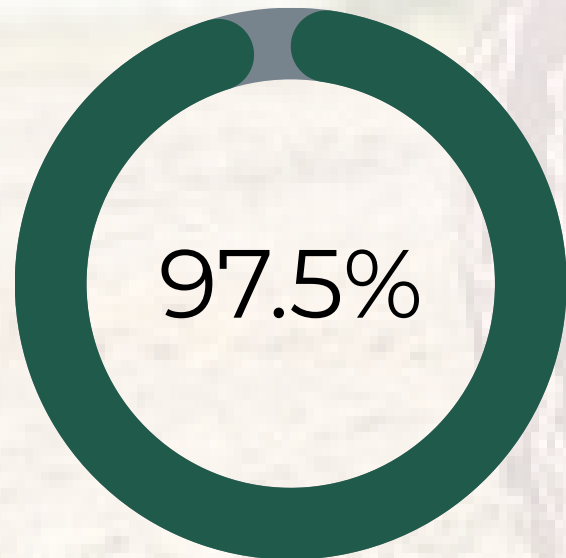
**A generation that is qualified
– yet economically excluded**

14.91%

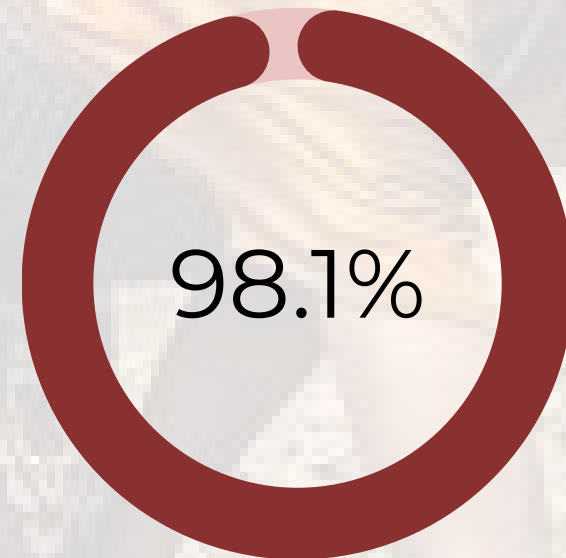
of respondents survive on exactly
US\$2.15/day – the extreme-poverty line
itself



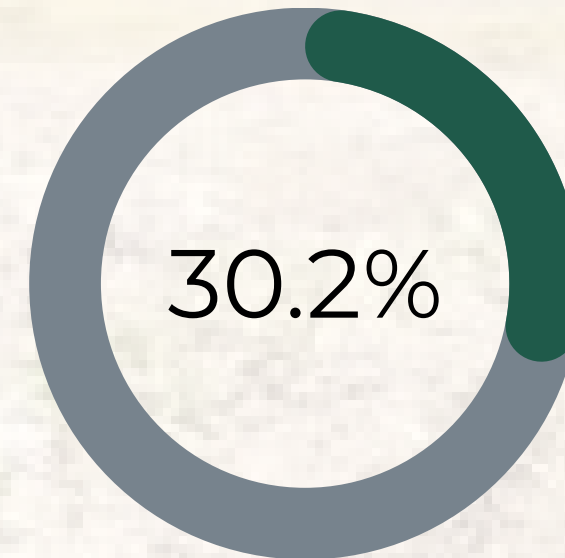
Climate and Energy Crisis



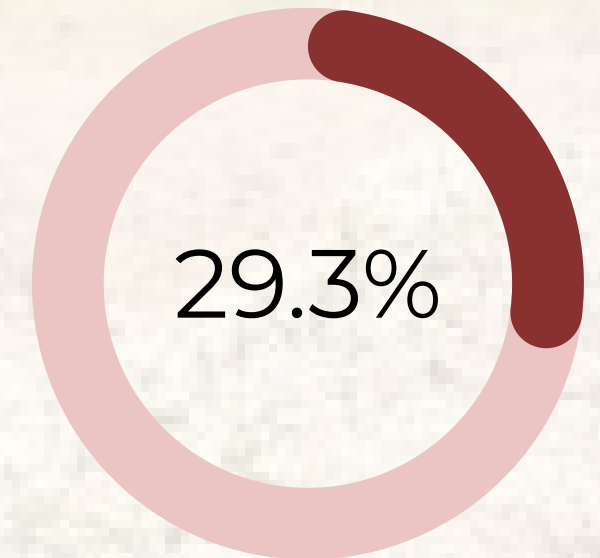
UNDERSTAND GLOBAL WARMING



REPORT ACTIVE NATIONAL DISRUPTION



NOTE LOW CROP YIELDS



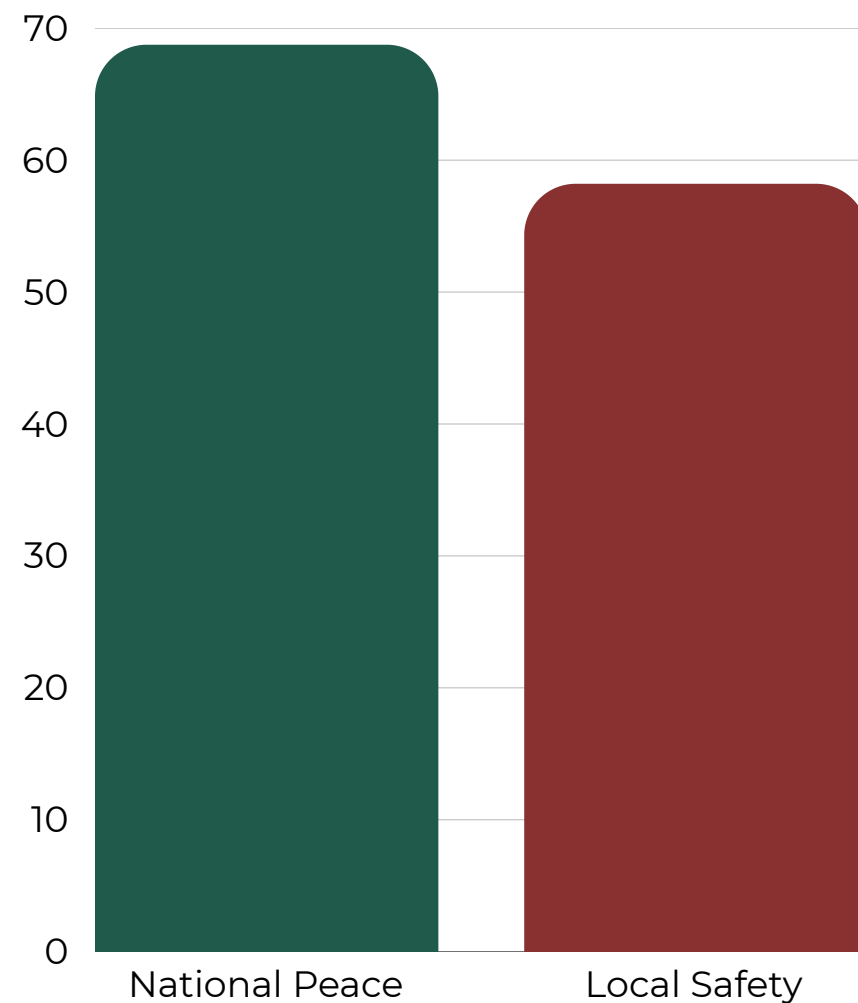
CITE EXTREME DROUGHTS

Drought-driven hydropower “load-shedding” is choking youth-led enterprise and farming livelihoods



Gender Safety and Civic Inclusion

The safety Paradox(score/100)



62.73%

report “few” opportunities to take part in local civic decisions

67.08%

say gender-based violence is “very likely” in their community

59.01%

see no equal opportunity across genders

“Our community feels less safe than the national numbers suggest – we want a real seat at the table when local budgets are decided.”



Mental Wellbeing

95.3%

OF ZAMBIAN YOUTH RATE THEIR MENTAL WELLBEING GOOD OR VERY GOOD

Despite economic exclusion, climate shocks and civic barriers, young Zambians remain active, observant stakeholders – proposing solar energy, local industrial job creation, and rehabilitation paired with law enforcement as practical paths forward.



A generation constrained by conditions – not capacity.

KATT Legacy Three: The Resilience Paradoxacy Three

Voices from the Ground

Composite themes synthesised from open-ended survey responses (n=161)

“

> EDUCATION and OPPORTUNITY

We studied hard and graduated – but there are no jobs waiting for us. Government must connect our qualifications to real industries.

> CLIMATE and ENERGY

The load-shedding is killing our small businesses. If we had solar, we could work and produce without waiting for the grid.

> SAFETY and INCLUSION

We want a real seat at the table when local budgets are decided – not just to be consulted after the fact.

”





For state, non-state and international partners

Five Priority Actions

Jobs and Skills

Formal pathways from education into green tech and digital entrepreneurship.

1

GBV Prevention

Fund local protection, legal enforcement and safe shelters at community level.

3

Youth Voices

Formal youth seats on Ward Development Committees and budget processes.

5

Clean Energy

Decentralised solar and thermal investment to break the load-shedding cycle.

2

Safety + Rehab

Pair local law enforcement with funded substance-abuse and skills rehabilitation.

4

Zambia Youth. Africa's Future



Zambia Youth. Africa's Future

Read the full Legacy:

www.kabilunafriathinktank.net/katt-legacies

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The decisions made today will shape the opportunities available to the next generation. KATT invites state, non-state and international partners to translate this evidence into action.

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