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UNITED NATIONS
ZAMBIA

NEWS LETTER



FOREWORD

by the Resident Coordinator



Compliments of the Season and welcome to yet another exciting publication of the UN Zambia Newsletter covering the period October to December 2022.

We can look back with pride at many results we have accomplished as we worked together in the past year in support of Zambia's development and humanitarian priorities, Delivering as One.

In this issue, we share highlights of some of our work in helping improve lives in Zambia. A key highlight is the launch of the Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework which will define our support to Zambia from 2023 to 2027.

Read about how we commemorated the 77th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Zambia's milestone of reaching 70 percent national vaccination coverage against COVID-19, and the World Children's Day commemoration, in Lusaka, at which the presidents of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Vice President of Namibia were in attendance. We also highlight efforts to stop violence against women, observance of the Palestine Solidarity Day and our work to increase participation in the digital economy.

Apart from stories on training Smallholder Farmers trained to fight crop loss and the work of UN Volunteers, we also give you a glimpse of UN help on interventions in response to HIV and AIDS and achieving gender equality and women's participation. These and other stories await you.

Happy reading and happy holiday season!

Beatrice Mutali
UN Resident Coordinator



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Zambia-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Launched



Her Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, Mrs. W.K. Mutale Nalumango, on 4 November 2022 launched the Government of Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, that defines United Nations support to Zambia's development for the period 2023-2027. The Cooperation Framework is aimed at supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and delivering the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner, as well as to support the country's development priorities as outlined in the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP).

The Cooperation Framework was co-signed by Her Honour the Vice President on behalf of the Zambian Government and by Ms Mutali on behalf of the United Nations System in Zambia.

The German Ambassador to Zambia H.E. Anne Wagner-Mitchell represented the Cooperating Partners Group, and emphasized the importance of this historic ceremony, as well as the UN Reform. Speaking at the ceremony, that was witnessed by over 300 guests that included Government officials, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Heads of UN Agencies and staff, Civil Society, and the media, the Vice President noted continued commitment by the United Nations in the improvement of the lives of the Zambian

people and the value of the Cooperation Framework in the country's development.

"The Zambian people value the support and partnership of the United Nations towards Zambia's development agenda. This new Cooperation Framework is welcome because it will complement Zambia's development agenda as contained in the recently launched Eight National Development Plan," said Mrs Nalumango.

The Vice President also called on both the Zambian Government and the United Nations to ensure successful implementation of the Cooperation Framework.

For her part, Ms Mutali underscored the importance of ownership and partnership to ensure the success of the Cooperation Framework.

"The Cooperation Framework does not belong to the United Nations. It is a joint commitment by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the United Nations to work in close partnership, with the support of cooperating partners and other key stakeholders, including civil society, to contribute to ensuring better lives for the people of Zambia," she said.

Through the work of 23 UN agencies in Zambia, the new Cooperation Framework will provide interventions across four pillars,

namely Prosperity, People, Peace, and Planet which align to the four strategic Priority Areas of the 8NDP. It will be implemented based on the core principles on the United Nations which are Leaving no One Behind, Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's empowerment, sustainability and Resilience and Accountability.

The Cooperation Framework was formulated through a consultative process with the involvement of UN agencies, Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Development Partners, Academia, Trade Unions, and Regional Bodies, among other stakeholders.

In the spirit of Leaving No One Behind, several groups were also extensively consulted which included the youth, women, refugees, former refugees, immediate host communities, migrants, Persons with Disabilities, People Living with HIV/AIDS and key populations, among others.

Implemented following UN General Assembly resolution 72/279, the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is a strategic, medium-term results framework that describes the collective vision in support of national development priorities and results.





Zambia commemorates World AIDS Day- Equalize, closing the gaps

On the eve of the World AIDS Day commemoration, UNAIDS released its 2022 report themed "Dangerous Inequalities" which revealed that inequalities are obstructing the end of AIDS and that if no action is taken the agreed targets will not be met. The report states that there is a need to tackle these inequalities to get the AIDS response back on track. A sobering reminder in the report also illustrates how harmful gender norms are holding back the end of the AIDS pandemic.

The UN family in Zambia joined the rest of the world in commemorating this year's World Aids Day under the theme "Equalize, closing the gaps".

"It is a right of every Zambian and every person living with HIV to have access to high-quality HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services, when and where they need it regardless of geographical location, social status, ethnicity, or religious background," said Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema in a speech read on his behalf by Minister of Education, Douglas Syakalima.

The president called for the need to close the inequality gaps that have continued to fuel new HIV infections and cause premature

deaths.

He said that the government remained resolute in achieving national, regional, and global goals of ending AIDS by 2030. He called for concerted efforts to tackle social and economic challenges that were feeding and driving the HIV epidemic and noted that the country had recorded an increase in new HIV infections, especially among young people. He further called for need to enhance tailor-made services such as testing and treatment strategies targeting vulnerable populations.

Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo said inequalities were holding back the progress made in ending HIV and AIDS. The minister, who announced the results of the Zambia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (ZAMPHIA), said the country has made progress against the HIV epidemic despite disparities among populations.

According to the survey results, the HIV prevalence among people aged 15 and above stands at 11 per cent and expressed concern that there are disparities across gender with women representing 14 per cent and men eight per cent.

"These results have shown that the government, through the Ministry of Health, has been working towards the attainment of eliminating HIV as a public health problem by the year 2030," for this to be achieved there should be a shift in attitude, behaviour, and leadership she said.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali said it was unfortunate that the global inequalities in fighting HIV and AIDS were still growing and complicated by harmful gender practices in communities.

She said it was time for Zambia and Africa, in general, to take bold steps to tackle inequalities that were holding back the fight against HIV and AIDS. Further, Ms Mutali reiterated that the United Nations had the mandate and responsibility to uphold the human rights of every person, and would do everything in its power to provide country support to reach those who are marginalized, stigmatized and discriminated against to promote their health and well-being and in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Zambia Reaches 70% COVID-19 Vaccination Target



On 1 November 2022, the United Nations in Zambia joined the Government of the Republic of Zambia in celebrating the Zambia's attainment of 70 percent full vaccination coverage of the eligible population against COVID-19. The event, which was held at State House, was graced by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema.

"It was inevitable for the country to find ways of dealing with the pandemic, thus the relaunch of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in October last year, with a set target of 70 percent fully vaccinated across the country," President Hichilema said.

UN Zambia Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali congratulated Zambia for moving from having less than 3 percent vaccination 12 months ago to being recognised as the fastest country to achieve the needed progress on vaccination coverage from among 34 countries that were identified for concerted support under the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership.

Ms Mutali noted the importance of vaccinations in saving lives.

"We have seen that countries with high vaccination rates are seeing fewer deaths from COVID-19 illness and their societies and economies opening-up. Life has become normal again, something we too are witnessing in Zambia."

She added...



Zambia now has more than eight point two million fully vaccinated people –thus over Eight million people are now protected from future waves of this virus, a reduced chance of infecting others, and a reduced chance of serious infection and death, or the long-term effects of COVID-19.



And British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley said that the United Kingdom government would continue providing support in sectors such as health. He commended Zambia on the progress made including the health sector.

Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo commended President Hichilema for providing leadership in the vaccination campaign.



UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection urges Zambia to issue documentation to refugees recognising their legal identity and enabling them to be self-sufficient



Refugee Forum in December 2023.

During a multi-stakeholder consultative meeting, attended by Chief Mumenya, the UNHCR's Head of International Protection appealed for renewed efforts in finding sustainable solutions for refugees who have been living in Zambia, some for as long as 30 years and who are now at risk of statelessness. She underscored the need for legal documentation such as permits and formal identification to enhance self-reliance, access to social services and the full enjoyment of their rights.

Ms. Triggs thanked the donor community, the private sector, NGOs and the UN family, for supporting the government, refugees, and their host communities. She also commended Zambia for its vision of modernising refugee settlements to improve the socio-economic opportunities for refugees and their hosts. She stressed the importance of ensuring that refugees enjoy freedom of movement and are given the choice to decide where to live in Zambia.

Ms. Triggs reiterated UNHCR's commitment to work with development actors and the private sector to support the government with its modernisation programme. She also stressed the need to ensure the legal underpinnings exist for effective integration.

On 18 November, the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gillian Triggs, wrapped up her five-day visit to Zambia where she held several meetings with different stakeholders and visited a refugee settlement. One of the main reasons for her visit was to engage the government of Zambia to conclude the legal aspects of the local integration of former refugees. During her visit, she held meetings with government officials, including the President, UNHCR staff, UN Country Team, members of the diplomatic corps supporting refugees, a company supporting refugees in artisan work and other humanitarian actors. She was part of a consultative meeting in Lusaka to discuss issues around Local Integration of former refugees.

During her visit to Meheba refugee settlement, Ms Triggs applauded the country's exemplary hospitality towards refugees by making land available and ensuring access to several national services including education and health care. She was accompanied to the refugee settlement by senior government officials, UNHCR Regional Bureau Director Valentin Tapsoba, UN Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali, UNHCR Country Representative Pierrre Aylara, representatives from FAO and UNDSS, Zambia's Representative to the UN Permanent Mission in Geneva, Chief

Mumena and ambassadors from missions that support refugees globally, among other officials.

Following the visit, Ms. Triggs called on the authorities to consider all legal options possible to regularize the status of refugee children born in Zambia. She urged the government to conclude the legal integration of Angolans and Rwandans whose refugee status has ceased, while underscoring the importance of advancing the socio-economic aspects of their integration within the host communities.

"Children born in Zambia, who have lived here all their lives, have gone to schools in Zambia, speak Zambian languages, sing the national anthem and embrace the traditions of Zambian cultures are Zambians," she observed.

During a meeting with the acting Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Ambrose Lufuma, and later with the President of Zambia, Hakainde Hichilema, Ms. Triggs commended Zambia for its generosity in hosting refugees and urged the country to meet its Global Compact on Refugees pledges to advance inclusion of refugees ahead of the next Global





Children and leaders from four countries renewed their commitment for child rights



Leaders from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe meet with about 500 children in Lusaka to mark World Children's Day

World Children's Day (WCD) is a Global Day of Action for children, by children - taking place every year on 20 November, the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This year, celebrations reached new heights when around 500 Southern African children met with the presidents of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Vice President of Namibia in Lusaka. Under the theme of "A Better Future for Every Child" the event presented a unique opportunity to foster dialogue between children and the highest representatives of the four countries involved.

This event comes exactly a year after the same leaders brought together young people to light up in blue the Kazungula Bridge in Kasane, Botswana, to commemorate the 2021 World Children's Day and to celebrate UNICEF's 75th Anniversary. At this event commitment was made to promote and protect children's rights in their countries.

Gathered in Lusaka, children from across neighboring nations reflected on their situations, celebrating progress achieved while also recognizing the challenges they still face. They also had an opportunity to engage their presidents on progress made in four key areas: the regional learning crisis, climate change, disability rights and inclusive environments; and called their leaders to act towards ensuring that the commitments are fulfilled in the respective countries.

Children expressed themselves through various arts like song, poetry, dances and wrote letters to their leaders on issues that affect children in their communities.

17-year-old Kimberly from Zimbabwe wrote a song called blue/green planet as an appeal to everyone to safeguard the planet earth. "We all are required to protect the planet earth. With the growing effects of climate change, there is need for urgent action," she said.

The growing effects of climate change globally have affected children directly and indirectly,

and deprived children from enjoying their rights. Heavy rainfall leading to floods have prevented children from going to school and from getting medical care. Droughts in several parts of the region have caused crop failure and led to increased numbers of malnutrition in children.

These are some of the reasons why children asked policy makers to take action and protect the rights of children affected by the climate crisis, by providing emergency support, increasing awareness raising and providing options for household cooking. The call to action also covered other issues like inclusive education, urging leaders to build more and better sanitation facilities in schools that are accessible for children with disabilities; provide access to quality learning and means to access learning materials including better connectivity. In addition, children talked about child abuse and exploitation and requested their presidents to enforce existing children's laws to better protect children against sexual harassment; put in place ways to engage community, traditional leaders and parents to protect children against child marriage and make schools safe for children.

"Having a platform where we, children, can actively participate is very important. A day like this presents an opportunity for us to be heard on issues that affect our lives. I have really learned a lot from the rich discussions held here today and I hope that our presidents have not only heard our voices but act on the commitments they have made to promote our rights," stated Blessings Mwamba, 16 years old, from Zambia who was one of the three children that presented the call to action.

Children also had the opportunity to engage with their presidents in a panel discussion where they raised issues affecting their lives and focused on solutions.

Catherine Manstwe, from Botswana, referred to the situation of children with disabilities.

Following this intervention, the President of Botswana agreed for his government to set aside finances that will enable the construction of ramps in all Botswana public schools.

The four leaders acknowledged children demands and renewed their commitment to continue taking forward the child rights agenda.

"Zambia is honoured to host this multi-country commemoration of World Children's Day. A day that we celebrate children for what they embody: the present and the future of this country. It has been inspiring to listen to their perspectives and their call for action for doing more and better, something that this Government is committed to doing. As our efforts continue to increase their access to quality education, and equal opportunities to thrive, we count on them to continue speaking their truth. To hold us accountable, and to inspire us - in creating a brighter present and future for Zambia," stated His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia.

Mohamed Malick Fall, UNICEF's Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, said that this event showcased the essence of World Children's Day: a Global Day of Action for children by children. "We have witnessed children and young people working alongside their Presidents to make a brighter future for every child - advancing the rights of children with disabilities, tackling climate change and spearheading action on the regional learning crisis."

To conclude, children unveiled a mural representing child rights, which they helped paint with the help of local artist, London Kamwendo. In 2023 Namibia will host the World Children's Day with the participation of leaders and children from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.





UN Zambia and Irish Government Join Hands on Gender Equality and Women's Participation

On 9 December, the United Nations in Zambia and the Irish Government, through the Embassy of Ireland, signed the Gender Equality and Women's Participation Initiative aimed at enhancing efforts towards fighting gender inequalities in Zambia.

The initiative includes supporting the Government of Zambia to fully participate and incorporate the global, international mandated platforms and instruments, like the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the African Women Leadership Network (AWLN).

The new Initiative also aims at reinforcing existing coordination mechanisms across government and non-governmental stakeholders, UN Agencies and Development Partners in the gender sector. Grounded on an evidence-based approach, the project aims at helping to overcome the lack of gender disaggregated data and evidence through comprehensive research which identifies the gaps, bottlenecks and barriers in the gender interventions in Zambia.

The Permanent Secretary in charge of

Gender, Ms. Mainga Kabika, was the Guest of Honour at the signing ceremony and underscored governments' commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

"The Gender Division is honoured to be part of the official launch of this important Initiative since it is clearly aligned with our commitment to put gender high in the agenda, empower Zambian women to be active in all spheres of the society and put an end to gender-based violence, child marriage and other harmful practices," said Ms. Kabika.

The agreement was co-signed by UN Zambia Resident Coordinator Ms Beatrice Mutali on behalf of the UN system in Zambia and the Ambassador of Ireland to Zambia, H.E. Bronagh Carr, for the Irish Government.

"This initiative is another step towards contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and also demonstrates Zambia's commitment in the fight for gender equality and women's meaningful participation, in addition to the fight against GBV,

adolescent pregnancy and child marriage," said UN Zambia Resident Coordinator, Ms. Beatrice Mutali.

"It is fitting that we are signing this agreement during the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, where we highlight our shared commitment to stop discrimination against women and girls. In line with our commitment to the UN and UN reform, Ireland is delighted to partner with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia to strengthen coordination and coherence, particularly in relation to gender equality. This initiative will enable the UN to support the Government of Zambia and Civil Society to promote gender equality and increase the participation of women through building stronger data and evidence on the reality of women's lives", said H.E. Bronagh Carr, Ambassador of Ireland to Zambia.

The initiative will be catalytic and expected to play a key role in contributing to the achievement of gender equality and form the foundation of a more elaborate guiding framework that partners can adopt and collectively deliver a comprehensive gender response, under the leadership of the Government's Gender Division.



UN Zambia Staff, Family and Friends Hold Awareness Walk to Celebrate UN Day



The United Nations on 24 October 2022 celebrated 77 years since its founding on 24 October 1945. As part of the 77th UN Day commemoration, UN Zambia Resident Coordinator Ms Beatrice Mutali, with Heads of Agencies, on 29 October led 550 staff, family members and friends on a 3.9 kilometres Awareness Walk in Lusaka to share information about the work of the United Nations. The walk was also meant to promote Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3 of Good Health and Wellbeing.

The walk, which the Resident Coordinator flagged off from the UN House, terminated at East Park Mall where free public health checks

were provided by a team of UN medical personnel and partner institutions as well as a UN Job Fair by the UN Zambia Human Resource Technical Working Group.

Hundreds of members of the public, including youth, had the opportunity to learn about how to apply for jobs and volunteering opportunities in the UN, both at home and abroad. Human Resource officers from several UN agencies emphasized that the UN is an equal opportunity employer and that it does not charge any fees during the recruitment process.

Members of the public were invited to East Park Mall to have one on one discussions with members of the human resource team on how to apply for jobs in the United Nations.

Other activities organised to commemorate UN Day included radio and TV interviews, a social media campaign and provincial education outreach activities in higher institutions of learning around the country. The United Nations in Zambia remains committed to supporting Zambia's development aspirations, leaving no one behind.





United Nations, Government and Partners Show Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On 29 November, 130 attendees that included members of the diplomatic corps, UN staff, youth and media gathered in Lusaka to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in an event characterized by speeches, cultural performances and cultural exchange through sampling Palestinian food. The event, organised by the United Nations in Zambia and the Embassy of the State of Palestine, was held as part of global events by UN offices and partners to reaffirm support to the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and build a future of peace, justice, security, and dignity for all.

Speaking at the event, UN Zambia Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali, said the commemoration provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the question of Palestine.

"There is need to focus on the fact that the Palestinian people are yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, namely, the right to self-determination, the right to national independence and sovereignty and the right to return," Ms Mutali said.

And quoting the statement by UN Secretary

General, Antonio Guterres, Ms Mutali said that the UN was steadfast in its commitment to realize the vision of two States – Israel and Palestine – living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

"The United Nations' position is clear: peace must advance – the occupation must end," she said.

And the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Zambia, H.E. Walid Hasan called for recognition of the State of Palestine and full membership to the United Nations and decried the ongoing violence including the assassination of a Palestinian journalist by the Israeli forces.

"Our people do not ask for more than what international law has granted other peoples around the world but will not accept any less. The destiny and fate of our people is to live in freedom and dignity on the land of Palestine and there is no power on earth that can deny them from achieving this goal," he said.

Lusaka Province Minister Honourable Sheal S. Mulyata, who was Guest of Honour, expressed Zambia's continuous support to Palestine's right and the Two-State Solution,

which envisions both Palestine and Israel to co-exist in peace and harmony.

For University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice-Chancellor Professor Annie Sikwibele, the commemoration fosters discourse and research on the question of Palestine. In a speech read on her behalf by UNZA Chief Librarian Dr. Charles Banda, Professor Sikwibele called for your involvement in global events.

"It is important for our youth to take interest in global issues and participate in not only discussions but also offer solutions. We believe that youth are vibrant and innovative. The future belongs to the youth. It is, therefore, important that they participate in shaping the future they want," she said.

In 1974, the question of Palestine was re-introduced in the UN General Assembly's agenda. Resolution 3236 (XXIX) reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty, and the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property. In 1975, the Assembly established the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

On 29 November 2012 the General Assembly granted Palestine non-member observer State status in the UN. The relevant issues on the agenda of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs, such as the Human Rights Council include the right of Palestinians to self-determination, their sovereignty over natural resources, assistance, refugees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), human rights, Israeli settlements, peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, and Jerusalem, among others.





UNDP Resident Representative, Lionel Laurens flanked by some of the students from Kaoma Institute of Trades in Western province where he was delivering an outreach programme on SDGs and the contribution the UN is making in developing Zambia. These students won a quiz after the lecture.



UNDP Resident Representative, Lionel Laurens delivering his outreach presentation at Kaoma Institute of Trades in Western province.



UN Senior Human Rights Advisor, Dutima Bhagwandin having an interactive Q&A session with the students from DMI St Eugene University.



Students reading the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



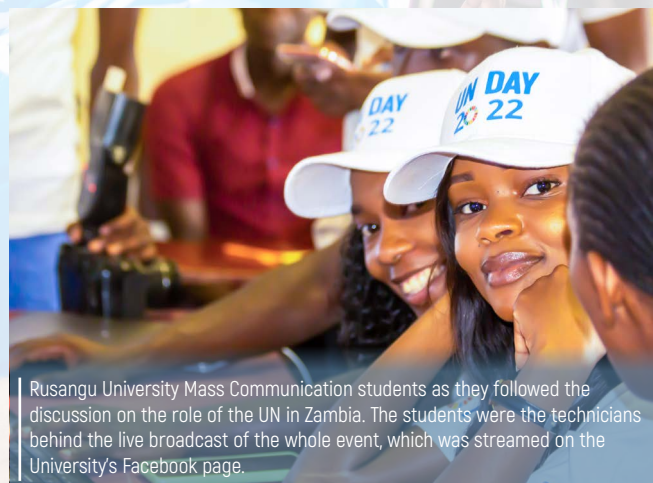
Kasama College of Education students follow proceedings during the 2022 UN Day education outreach programme conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) at their institution.



A Kasama College of Education student participates in the quiz competition during the 2022 UN Day education outreach programme conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) at their institution.



WFP staff Allan Mulando (left) and Patience Kalaso as they interacted with students and lecturers at Rusangu University during the 2022 UN Day Provincial Outreach Activities in Monze, Southern Province.



Rusangu University Mass Communication students as they followed the discussion on the role of the UN in Zambia. The students were the technicians behind the live broadcast of the whole event, which was streamed on the University's Facebook page.

PICTURE FOCUS



Zambia's First Lady Launches National HIV Advocacy Campaign



In partnership with UNAIDS, the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia, Mrs. Mutinta Hichilema, on 10 November 2022 launched a National HIV Advocacy Campaign. The First Lady was joined at the event, in Lusaka, by the Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Masebo, the Mayor of Lusaka, her Worship Chilando Chitangala, prominent HIV activist and Member of Parliament, Hon. Princess Kasune Zulu, the Director General of the National AIDS Council Dr. Connie Osborne, US Government representatives, the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali and UN heads of agencies.

The purpose of this event was to have a common understanding of the national and global HIV situation, focusing on HIV prevention amongst young women and ending mother-to-child transmission. As part of the launch, Mrs. Hichilema invited over 60 young HIV+ persons and young mothers living with HIV from across the country to share their stories and have their voices heard.

The First Lady said that the initiative would help strengthen the HIV and AIDS response in the country.

"This initiative will help in bridging the gaps where our country is lagging behind, especially in terms of treatment towards children and women. This campaign will put them at the centre of the activities, and it will bring on board boys and men to join the fight to end toxic masculinity that seriously harm our communities," said Mrs Hichilema.

Speaking at the same function, UN Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali said the United Nations in Zambia is operate using a concept called Leaving No One Behind, which is a commitment to making sure that the UN reaches and supports the most marginalised and vulnerable people. This also means that particular attention will be given to marginalized and vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, people living with HIV, people living in remote and hard-to-reach areas and other vulnerable populations at substantial risk of being left behind.

Ms Mutali said, "The recently launched UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – a 5-year roadmap that is fully aligned with the Government of Zambia's 8th National Development Plan will invest in targeted programming that will reduce the inequalities that drive the HIV/AIDS epidemic and prioritise people who are not yet accessing life-saving HIV services. Targeted programmes include scaling up HIV testing and treatment, addressing issues related to stigma and discrimination, and increase domestic investments and resource mobilisation for HIV and AIDS financing."

To date, there is no cure for HIV – only lifelong treatment. HIV prevention is far more sustainable than HIV treatment, and currently Zambia's HIV response is 90% funded by the donor community. The Government of the Republic of Zambia is a member of the Global HIV

Prevention Coalition (GPC), launched in 2017 to galvanize greater commitment and investment in HIV prevention. To address gaps in the national prevention response, Zambia's Government established a National HIV Prevention Coalition, co-chaired by the Ministers of Health and Finance, with the First Lady as the Matron of the Coalition.

Women and girls in Zambia are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS due to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, violence, and insufficient access to information or decision-making about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Zambian women are twice as likely as males to be living with HIV, and young females between the ages of 15 and 24 account for more than 70 % of all new infections in Zambia. Currently, only 2 out of 3 children are accessing life-saving antiretroviral treatment, whilst this figure is significantly higher amongst adults – where 89% of people know their HIV status, 98% of those who know their status are on antiretroviral treatment, and 96% of those on treatment are virally suppressed.

Inequalities pose a serious threat to ending HIV as a public health threat in Zambia. Inequalities between men and women, between adults and children and harsh stigma and discrimination against marginalised and vulnerable key populations means that access to services, treatment and counselling are unequal.



UN launches Participatory Slum Upgrade Programme



On 29 September 2022, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Zambia together with its partners flagged off the Participatory Slum Upgrade Programme (PSUP III) in Kanyama settlement of Lusaka.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme was initiated as part of a tripartite partnership among the European Commission (EC), the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and UN-Habitat to respond to the global challenges of slum growth and unsustainable urbanization in ACP countries. The programme has been implemented in 5-year cycles with phase I (2008- 2011), Phase 2 (2012 - 2016) and phase 3 (2017 -2022) covering 40 ACP countries.

Speaking at the event, UN-Habitat Acting National Technical Adviser Eng. Moonga Chilanga said Zambia had been engaged in the PSUP since 2008. The outputs of PSUP I and PSUP II in Zambia were the development of urban profiles of Lusaka, Kitwe and the National Urban profile of Zambia; the slum situation analysis; the city-wide slum

upgrading and prevention strategy for Lusaka; the resource mobilization strategy and concept notes for the implementation of transformational projects in the Kanyama settlement in Lusaka.

These outputs set the foundation for the implementation of PSUP III. Under this phase, the expected outputs were:

1. Formulation of the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy with its implementation Framework;
2. Revised Citywide Slum upgrading and Prevention Strategy for the City of Lusaka;
3. Local Area Plan for Kanyama ward and surrounding areas that will guide integrated development in the area;
4. Construction of about 3 kilometers drainage and auxiliary facilities;
5. Erection of two high mast security lights in high crime zones; and
6. Community managed fund to assist community members improve their livelihoods.

Eng. Chilanga commended the Government, particularly the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Lusaka City Council as well as Civil Society Organizations, Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat, Peoples Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia and Habitat for Humanity Zambia for their commitment to the initiative and programme over the years. He also appreciated the Member of Parliament for Kanyama, Hon. Monty Chinkuli for efforts to ensure successful implementation of the project, while also thanking the area councillors and community members of Kanyama whose participation is key for the success of the programme. Eng. Chilanga underscored UN Zambia's commitment to supporting the government in its efforts to improve the lives of the people in informal settlements so that no one and no place is left behind.





Zambia's Migration and Trafficking Management Enhanced

The management and governance of adverse effects of migration in Zambia is expected to be strengthened following the launch of the National Migration Policy and the revised National Policy on Human Trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Jack Mwiimbu said the launch of the two documents is in line with great importance government attaches to the call for responsible and well managed migration policy.

Mr Mwiimbu said the launch of the documents is in tandem with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which call for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

"The new dawn administration has attached great importance to the call for responsible and well managed migration policy as espoused in the Sustainable Development Goals. The government recognizes that when migration is well managed the benefits to the country accrue, which includes productive labour migration," he said.

He said productive labour migrants fill in the skills gap in the labour market and help

alleviate poverty and that Government was also alive to the fact that if migration is not well managed, it can contribute to creation of insecurity in the country, human trafficking, social unrest and discrimination.

"It is against this background that government prioritized the involvement of the two policies we are launching today. Migration is a reality that can neither be prevented nor ignored. It happens voluntarily or involuntarily, it is triggered by man-made or natural causes," Mr. Mwiimbu said.

And United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zambia, Ms Beatrice Mutali, commended government for prioritizing the two policies especially that migration had been on the increase. In a speech read on her behalf by World Health Organization (WHO) Representative Dr. Nathan Bakayaita, Ms Mutali said the UN family will support Zambia's quest to implement the two policies.

The United States Embassy in Zambia, through its Deputy Chief of Mission Linnisa Wahid, also pledged its commitment to help government

successfully implement the policies and other areas of development.

In a presentation, Immigration Department Director General Japhet Lishomwa said the migration policy seeks to mitigate migration related risks.

"We have an implementation plan, and we will be aggressive to achieve what is spelt out in the policy," Dr Lishomwa said. National Anti-Human Trafficking Secretariat Coordinator Boris Mulengu said the vision of the National Policy on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants is to have a Zambia free of human trafficking.

The formulation of the National Migration Policy was supported by the Government of the United States of America under the Africa Regional Migration Programme, while the formulation of the National Policy on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Children's Agency (UNICEF) and Save the Children, with funding support from the Government of the United States of America and the European Union.





A young woman collects water for her family's use in Chanda, Lusaka

“With cash, I know who is getting the money,” said 44-year-old housewife in Lusaka province who chose to remain anonymous, “but if I use the phone, I worry that the money will be stolen.”

UNCDF Strengthens Digital Literacy To Increase Participation In The Digital

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) partnered with Zambia's Ministry of Finance and National Planning to digitalize utility payments and drive digital and financial inclusion for Zambia's underserved customers. One aim of this partnership was to increase the availability and usage of utilities for women and youth.

This project will be implemented in Lusaka, Kabwe and Kitwe districts with the aim to reach 30,000 customers, of which 21,000 are women and 9,000 youth. In 2018 and 2019, digital finance providers reported efforts to continue their customer education efforts because low customer education, low customer literacy and low levels of trust in digital financial services negatively impact usage of digital financial services (DFS) (State of the Digital Financial Services Market Reports [2018](#) and [2019](#)). Providers use methods such as direct marketing for customer onboarding to drive the growth of active DFS customers, but the customer activity rate was 39 percent in 2019.

For customers to use these digital services, they must be knowledgeable of the services offered and how to use them for their

energy, water and sanitation payments. To assist customers to know about these services and to use them confidently, UNCDF is collaborating with Viamo, a tech startup and platform company specialised in developing markets. The project centres on awareness and training in digital financial literacy for utility providers and customers.

Viamo will design and launch digital financial literacy campaigns and training for the following innovative digital payment solutions:

- making digital payments via a translated USSD mobile money application in four major Zambian languages of Bemba, Lozi and Tonga for two energy, two water and sanitation service providers and their customers;
- making digital payments for water via water kiosks with automated water dispensing machines for three water service providers and their customers;
- making digital payments for electricity for two energy service providers and their customers.

In addition to direct customer education, Viamo and UNCDF aim to reach customers in their communities and will train booster teams and the utility providers' in-house community outreach teams in customer education to boost their activities and ensure the sustainability of this knowledge. Booster teams will be mobilised in peri-urban and rural areas to inform customers of the new and existing digital payment options and sign up new customers onto mobile money, with their preferred provider.

This will ensure customers in even remote areas have an opportunity to be reached with DFS and are then able to pay for their utilities, and consequently, no-one in Zambia is left behind as the country rapidly begins its digital transformation.

By supporting this project, UNCDF is placing emphasis on customer education as a critical component in building a digital economy and increasing usage of digital tools as Zambia undergoes digital transformation.



From Food Loss To Food Gain

Smallholder farmers trained to tackle post-harvest loss

Beauty Manda, 36, is smallholder farmer living in Lundazi district, eastern Zambia. Married and with four children, she has seen it all with crop losses, losing most of her crop each year due to untimely harvesting, improper drying, shelling and transportation, as well as rotting and pest infestation due to poor storage – all being factors driving food loss and waste in Zambia.

“I used to either leave the crop for far too long in the field, or harvest it way too soon,” she says, adding that she had been experiencing crop losses ever since she started farming over a decade ago.

With crop losses of between 30 to 40 percent in Zambia, and up to 50 percent across Africa, access to adequate food in many smallholder farming households is an unforgiving challenge, and income losses an all-too-familiar tale. This is especially so, as smallholder farmers hardly produce enough surplus, and any loss or waste impacts not only their food security but also their incomes.

Like many smallholder farmers, Beauty also had no access to modern crop storage facilities. Her common habit—also widely shared among other farming households—has been to dry the crops on bare floor and store them in poorly constructed open, wooden barns. The open barns expose the farmers’ harvests to contamination, pest infestations and moulds arising from excess moisture.

WFP response

Thanks to the World Food Programme (WFP), the government and other partners, Beauty and other smallholder farmers can now gaze at a hopeful horizon as the problem of crop losses gets addressed.

To tackle post-harvest losses, WFP has been supporting farmers like Beauty to access and use low cost, modern and durable post-harvest management solutions. The aim is to contribute to improved food security, which is already under threat due to the climate crisis characterised by droughts, dry spells, extreme temperatures, and floods each farming season.

Beauty is one of the 200,000 smallholder farmers trained on post-harvest loss management, a venture implemented by WFP in partnership with the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, other UN agencies and cooperating partners. Through this initiative, Beauty and other farmers were trained on when and how to harvest and store crops.

“The trainings in post-harvest loss [management] enabled us to understand that timely harvesting helps to retain the quality and maintain the nutrition value of the grain,” she says.

Beauty recalls that she used to harvest her grain when it was with high moisture content or over-dried, both having adverse effects on the quality of the crop for eating or selling.



Accessing low-cost storage technologies

Beauty was also introduced to low-cost hermetic storage bags, which are air-tight bags for storing grains safely. Once emptied of air, the inside of the bags is unsuitable for insects (like weevils and moths) and moulds to survive. The bags also prevent moisture from getting inside and help retain the quality of the harvest until consumption.

To promote the use of hermetic storage bags, in 2022, Beauty received two bags from WFP and bought eight more using the profits she made from her small business.

And now, she observes her grains are well protected from contamination and pests, as the bags keep both at bay.

“The PICS [hermetic storage] bags have two layers of plastic and a sack outside, which prevent pests including termites and mice to enter inside the bags and damage the grain,” Beauty explains.

She notes that since hermetic bags do not require the use of pesticides to keep pests away, this storage technique is not only good for the environment, but also helps smallholder farmers like herself to cut on the cost of the pesticides.

“Minimising and eliminating post-harvest losses is critical to ensuring smallholder farming households have enough food to last them the whole year and have quality surplus to sell at a good price,” says Stephen Omula, WFP’s Programme Policy Officer - Strategic Programme Innovations and Transformation, adding “WFP’s priority is to support the government to achieve its food and nutrition security targets by sustainably transforming food systems through initiatives that improve food production, postharvest management practices and access to improved storage solutions for farming families.”



Solidarity Through Volunteering: Unveiling the National Volunteer Policy



The rising inequalities throughout the world has not only called for the need to work together to find common solutions to shared challenges but has also inspired an estimated one billion volunteers whose passion, selflessness and commitment contribute to changing and transforming the world.

Volunteerism is undoubtedly now more than ever an important vehicle for shaping and advancing nations and a powerful means for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda.

Speaking during the commemoration of the International Volunteer Day (IVD), observed annually on 5 December, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Beatrice Mutali noted that the collective humanity and invaluable contributions of volunteers to sustainable human development continued to shape the progress of communities throughout Zambia and beyond.

"It is through volunteers that citizen voices are amplified, ensuring that the concerns of the people are at the heart of our work and that of other volunteer-involving organisations in Zambia," she said.

The commemoration also marked the launch of the National Volunteer Policy, which is a landmark achievement in Zambia's journey of strengthening collaboration with the local volunteers' network and enhancing volunteer action across the country. The National Volunteer Policy is a demonstration of the interest by both Government and the UN system to help create a 21st century social contract that is more inclusive and responsive to the needs of communities.

The event, which was graced by the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Ms.

Doreen Sefuke Mwamba, MP brought together a cross-section of volunteers from government, UN agencies, private sector, and civil society organisations.

Ms Mwamba said that the National Volunteer policy would provide the strategic and legal framework required for the effective and efficient management of volunteer activities in Zambia. She said that it would also standardize incentives for all volunteers in Zambia.

The United Nations boasts of over 8,000 volunteers offering support in climate change, healthcare, education and giving marginalized people more opportunities to improve their futures. In Zambia, the UN has over 100 volunteers working across the UN system in partnership with the Government of Zambia. Almost 80 percent of them are national volunteers spread across the 10 provinces.





Men supporting their partners to reduce Mother-to-Child Transmission in Zambia

When Mr. and Mrs. Mwale went for their second child's antenatal booking, they were welcomed by a team of trained Health Care Professionals called mentor mothers. Ngungu Health facility in Kabwe District of Zambia's Central Province has seven trained mentor mothers who, among other roles, offer support to adolescent girls and young mothers living with HIV, aged between 10-24 years, from pregnancy until the child is 2 years old.

The mentor mothers is a programme supported by UNICEF in Chipata District Eastern Province Zambia which aims at providing peer support to pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV. The initiative provides a safe space for moms to make friends and gain support, for themselves and their HIV exposed babies "My wife and I arrived at Ngungu health facility in Kabwe District for antenatal booking of our second child. We received lessons and counselling on HIV. The information was detailed and explained in a way I have never heard people talk about HIV," said Mr. Mwale. "After the informative session, we then went to the screening room to get registered. While in that room, the health workers told us that my wife and I should consider taking HIV tests because it was important for our own health and that of our unborn child. We agreed and had our blood samples taken for testing."

Knowing the HIV status of expecting parents is crucial in Zambia, where 8 in every 100 women attending antenatal care are diagnosed with HIV. When results are positive, early initiation

on HIV treatment is important as it can prevent mother to child transmission of HIV and keeps the parents healthy, setting up a better start in life for their child. In contrast, without treatment, a child with HIV can hardly survive to their second birthday.

"A few minutes after the blood samples were taken for testing, the health worker shared our results. Results came out negative for me, while my wife was found HIV positive. I could see my wife's mood change yet having received the counsel earlier I knew it was my responsibility to be supportive and encourage her especially for our unborn child's sake," Mr. Mwale said.

"I did not expect that I would be found HIV positive. My husband was and has been incredibly supportive. After the results were disclosed, he asked what the next step was, and the mentor mother available explained that we needed to go to the ART (antiretroviral treatment) clinic for guidance and treatment," Mrs. Mwale.

It was actually the mentor mother who accompanied the couple to the ART clinic and introduced them to one of the counsellors who further advised Mrs. Mwale to start ARV and put Mr Mwale on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis is a combination of ARV medicine given to HIV negative persons who are at great risk of

contracting HIV (such as people whose sexual partners are living with HIV) to prevent them from getting the virus. PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV when taken as prescribed and reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99 per cent.

After giving the medicines to the couple, the mentor mother asked them if they wanted to be registered in the programme to continue getting support throughout the process.

Since they were enrolled in the programme, Jacqueline has been paying home visits regularly and reminding them about appointments. "Our baby is now 3 weeks old and extremely healthy. I am glad to have agreed to be part of this amazing programme and grateful for the support I have received from my husband who has always reminded me to take my medication on time," said Mrs. Mwale.

*Mr. and Mrs. Mwale's names have been changed to protect their privacy.

With support from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), through a UN joint programme termed 2gether 4SRHR, UNICEF and Ministry of Health have been working with mothers2mothers to provide support to pregnant and breastfeeding adolescent girls and young women to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV.





UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and FINCA Zambia launch new partnership

On 8 December 2020, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and FINCA Zambia Limited, a deposit-taking microfinance institution, launched a new partnership to increase access to credit for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

UNCDF, using its capital mandate and financial instruments, will support FINCA Zambia Limited in implementing two portfolio guarantees that aim to strengthen FINCA's capacity to provide loans to qualifying borrowers, who are MSMEs owned and led by women (at least 50% ownership by women), youth (persons aged between 18 and 35 years), small scale cross-border traders and persons with disabilities, within all eligible sectors, established under law of Zambia and are private enterprises. UNCDF is working to improve the capacity of MSMEs in Zambia to operate efficiently, increase MSME access to financing and contribute to job creation.

The Portfolio Guarantee agreement is in the amount of local currency equivalent of US\$ 360,000.



Are You Safe?: 16 Days of Activism Against GBV Unveils the Criticality of Ending Violence Against Women



GBV Survivors/Project Beneficiaries of the GRZ-UN GBV Phase II JP at a Women Empowerment Training in Senanga, Western Province



Launch of the 16 Days Campaign in Lusaka, Lusaka Province

Every 11 minutes somewhere in the world, a woman or girl is killed by an intimate partner or family member – the criticality of this fact has led the world-over to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in a more strategic and concerted approach than ever before.

The Sixteen (16) Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is one such effort that happens each year to address the growing challenge of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). This year, the commemoration was a hive of events staged to raise awareness and make a resolute call for the elimination of all forms of VAWG. The launching pad of this year's commemorative event was marked by a high-level campaign under the theme: "Are you Safe...?" At work, at home, at school?"

The campaign resonated well with this year's theme for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls!". It focused on speaking out against the violence against women and girls that occurs at home, in workplaces and in schools. The theme encouraged all Zambians to unite and look out for their families, friends and colleagues who may be experiencing GBV by ensuring that they know that GBV should not be tolerated and seek support through access to qualified services available throughout the country.

To fight the scourge of GBV, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, through the Honourable Chief Justice, Dr Mumba Malila, SC State Counsel, expressed concern at the

rising number of GBV cases in the country and noted that there was need "to work towards raising the status of our women and girls by facilitating for their social and economic empowerment starting from giving them the most basic tool and right, which is education". He said this during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV.

The President further noted that, "my Government is focusing on empowering vulnerable citizens including women, girls and persons with disabilities through ensuring access to land, ensuring access to business opportunities, provision of meaningful employment and allowing for participation in governance".

According to the President, these interventions will ensure that the fight against GBV is making significant progress and can be won.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms Beatrice Mutali, highlighted that the theme draws attention to the government, civil society and women's rights

organizations, and the whole network of campaigners "to become activists for the prevention of violence against women, to stand in solidarity with women's rights activists and to support feminist movements in Zambia and around the world to resist the rollback on GBV".

The theme is a recognition that despite these worrying trends, there is also more evidence than ever before that VAWG is preventable whilst research has also shown that large scale reductions in VAWG are possible through multi-sectoral coordinated actions of governments and civil society, and intensive advocacy efforts and media campaigns carried out by feminist organisations.

Together, the United Nations witnessed its support to the launch of the "Are You Safe?" campaign, exhibitions on GBV awareness, and the television national address by the Permanent Secretary of the Gender division amidst many other activities organized to raise GBV awareness.

The UN system in Zambia closed out the 16 Days period with the launch of a Joint Project entitled the Gender Equality and Women's Participation Initiative, in partnership with the Gender Division and with the support of the Government of Ireland, as represented by the Irish ambassador to Zambia – Bronaugh Carr. By mainstreaming gender equality measures to stimulate the active participation of women in Zambia's social, economic, and political spheres, the initiative looks beyond the 16 Days of Activism.



Irish Ambassador to Zambia, Brough Carr (L), the Permanent Secretary for the Gender Division, Mainga Kabika (M), and the UN Zambia Resident Coordinator, Beatrice Mutali (R) at the Official Signing of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Participation Initiative in Lusaka



UN TEAM IN ZAMBIA



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UN Resident Coordinator



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OHCHR Regional Representative



Philipp Baumgartner
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WFP Country Director



Dr. Tharcisse Barihuta
UNAIDS Country Director



Dr. Nathan Nsubuga Bakyaite
WHO Representative



George Okutho
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