



UNITED NATIONS
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FOREWORD

BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



Compliments of the Season and welcome to yet another exciting publication highlighting the work of the United Nations System in Zambia covering the period July to December 2023.

We can look back with pride at the 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.

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your ongoing support. Your enthusiasm continues to drive us to push the boundaries and deliver exceptional experiences in support of meeting the various needs in the country based on the priorities of the Government and people of Zambia.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will read about how the UN is working with Youth Digital Influencers to champion advocacy for water and the environment, construction of a medical oxygen production plant in Kitwe District, allocation of US\$200,000 Technical Cooperation Fund to the Plant Pathology Unit and how social protection is a key strategy that can lift people out of poverty.

Deep dive into how the UN is supporting the fight against gender-based violence through village-led stop centres, supporting gender equality and women's participation among refugees, giving youth a voice through the SDGs African Youth Summit among many other interesting stories.

Apart from stories, we also give you a glimpse of Run4SDGs, an initiative to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Happy reading and happy holiday season!

Beatrice Mutali
UN Resident Coordinator



#Run4theSDGs

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Ministry of Health with UNOPS and UNICEF breaks ground to construct a medical oxygen production plant in Kitwe

Pneumonia kills 2,000 children under the age of five each day globally, at least one child every 45 seconds. In Zambia, pneumonia remains the leading cause of under-five deaths," said Dr Penelope Campbell, the UNICEF Representative in Zambia."

"In 2021, as per the global estimates, 20 per cent of total estimated 37,822 under-five deaths in Zambia were due to pneumonia. Oxygen is an essential medicine for treating children who suffer from this disease. Thus, it is a priority for UNICEF to bring oxygen closer to children and other patients who need it. We are certain that this newly established plant will help the Government better plan for and address oxygen needs, especially among those most vulnerable and at risk," she explained.

United Nations agencies have been working together as One-UN, demonstrating the UN principle of supporting governments across the globe through coordinated efforts and efficient approaches. Working in Zambia, a similar example was set forth in May, when UNOPS and UNICEF joined hands to support the Ministry of Health, Government of Zambia, break the ground for the construction of a medical oxygen plant, in Kitwe district of the Copperbelt province.

The launch was officiated by Zambia's

Minister for Health, Honorable Sylvia Masebo, MP, at Kitwe Teaching Hospital (KTH). The plant will not only serve KTH but will also support 42 health centers in the district, in addition to the facilities in five districts of the Copperbelt province – therefore, saving thousands of precious newborn lives.

"COVID-19 taught us that access to oxygen can be the difference between life and death for many," said the Ms Masebo. "Oxygen is also a critical treatment for children with pneumonia, which remains the leading infectious killer of children under five years of age. Thanks to the generous contributions of Sweden and UNICEF, the Government of the Republic of Zambia is now in a better position to respond to the needs of the patients requiring oxygen therapy every day. This will help save many lives," she added.

Estimated at the cost of US\$ 1.6 million, the plant will be procured and constructed by the UNOPS Eastern and Southern Africa with financial support from the Government of Sweden and UNICEF. With the wide coverage area, 16 of the 42 health centers covered by the oxygen plant in Kitwe are for basic emergency obstetric and new-born care services, providing access to quality oxygen at the centres.

Through an inter-agency agreement, UNICEF engaged with UNOPS to undertake the

project of Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) oxygen plant construction. The PSA project includes design and technical services, oxygen plant building, back-up generator (130kVA) and its shed, power correction stabilizers, and a duplex PSA oxygen plant. The duplex PSA plant is expected to produce 100–120 cylinders (50 Liters/Cylinder) of oxygen per day unless closed-down for maintenance.

The project will be implemented over a period of 12 months ending May 2024, with train plant operators trained on basic maintenance and operations of the oxygen plant during the same time. Reaching every last mile, and ensuring there is a roadmap for that, at the same ceremony, the Minister of Health also launched Zambia's first ever five-year (2022-2026) National Medical Oxygen Strategic Plan (ZNMOSP).

With a commitment to support the government achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) 3, 9, and 17, UNICEF and UNOPS as working hand in hand in various countries across the region. A similar project was implemented earlier by UNOPS in Kenya and Nigeria in partnership with UNICEF and the Ministries of Health. This partnership demonstrates that no child must be left behind, and no life is lost, before it even begins. For every Child, A Chance at Life.



Swedish Ambassador Visits Mantapala Settlement in Nchelenge District, Meets Refugees and Humanitarian Staff



The United Nations (UN) attaches great importance to the support donors and other cooperating partners play to fulfil its mandate in various sectors.

On Friday 28 July 2023, Swedish Ambassador to Zambia, Mr. Johan Hallenborg, visited Congolese refugees at Mantapala Settlement in Nchelenge District, Luapula Province.

The Swedish Ambassador, accompanied by UNHCR Representative in Zambia, Ms. Preeta Law, visited several projects, had the opportunity to hear from Congolese refugees in the settlement on several matters affecting them and planted nursery trees in the area to signify the importance of issues related to the environment.

The refugees shared their opinions and

experiences with the Swedish Ambassador and his delegation.

Staff from the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and other UNHCR partners, such as World Food Programme (WFP), briefed the Ambassador on their operations in the settlement.

Mantapala is home to nearly 8,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who fled their country in 2018.

"I admire the refugees for their resilience and hope and commend the UNHCR and its partners for their hard work and dedication to refugees despite the many challenges. Sweden has for a long-time supported refugees by contributing to

UNHCR's global budget, and Sweden is UNHCR's largest provider of multi-year unearmarked funding," said Ambassador Hallenborg.

The UNHCR Representative described the Ambassador's visit as a demonstration of Sweden's commitment to supporting refugees and other forcibly displaced people. Sweden is one of UNHCR's top donors globally, whose flexible funding provides protection and life-saving support to millions of refugees around the world.

Zambia currently hosts 89,109 refugees and other persons of concern living in three refugee settlements and in urban areas.



UNICEF Zambia is working with Youth Digital Influencers to Champion Advocacy for Water and the Environment



"Having attended the water and environment workshop has changed my perception on water and environment action," says Sandra (20). "I now see that we have a lot to do before 2030 and I pledge to pass on the information starting with my siblings at home."



"As social media keeps growing, it presents us with an opportunity to enhance meaningful engagement through online platforms," says Dominic (26).

Water is essential for life and plays a key role in maintaining body functions including flushing the waste, regulating body temperature, transportation of nutrients and digestion. As per Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Water and the Environment are a dealmaker for the health and prosperity of people and the planet. However, current progress on water and environmental action related goals is alarmingly off track, risking the entire SDGs agenda for 2030.

To support progress in achieving the SDGs 6, 13, 14, and 15, UNICEF Zambia conducted a one-day workshop with adolescents and youth champions, selected from across the country, to meaningfully participate and engage in creating advocacy content around water and environment issues that affect them and their communities.

The workshop was led by UNICEF Zambia's Youth and Adolescents team together with the section Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), was aligned with the United Nations Water Conference, that was held from 22 – 24 March 2023. Key elements of the workshop included fact finding, advocacy mapping, and content creation to train and equip the youth champions with skills on advocacy and digital storytelling skills.

The Water and Environment Champions advocacy workshop is a part of the larger Changemakers capacity building initiative that was started by UNICEF Zambia in 2022. It was developed as a platform to empower adolescents and youth through capacity building to support advocacy goals and contribute to the achievement of programme results.

The Changemakers initiative of UNICEF Zambia uses participatory methods to equip children and young people with advocacy and digital storytelling skills, while creating platforms for dialogue between young people and key stakeholders. UNICEF empowers and strengthens their voices and builds their knowledge and understanding on how to advocate, through digital means and in person, for issues that affect them.



FAO allocates US\$200,000 Technical Cooperation Fund to the Plant Pathology Unit

Supporting country interventions to mitigate the spread of Cassava Brown Streak and Mosaic Diseases in Northern and Luapula Provinces

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through a Technical Cooperation Programme has allocated US\$200,000 to the Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Pathology Unit to support interventions for Mitigating Cassava Brown Streak and Mosaic Diseases in Zambia. To this effect, the Plant Pathology Unit is carrying out a country-wide monitoring survey to establish the status of the distribution of the Cassava Brown Streak and Mosaic Diseases in Zambia, undertake country field evaluation experimental trials and train 1,000 cassava growers 10 extension staff in Chiengi and Kaputa on cassava production and disease and pest identification and management.

The Plant Pathology Unit has so far distributed disease-free cassava planting materials to small-holder farmers in Chiengi and Kaputa and also undertaking community awareness activities. FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture through Plant Pathology Unit will monitor the targeted areas to collect information on the number of farmers that received and planted the distributed cassava cuttings, size of fields planted and adherence by farmers to training practices received.

The Plant Pathology unit will monitor the performance of the distributed and planted cassava in order to ensure their integrity and freedom from the diseases and providing backstopping measures to the current cassava seed system implementation. This monitoring activity will again be undertaken at 12 and 18 months after planting to assess the yield and growth performance of the distributed materials.

The proposed interventions seek to reduce the exchange of infected cassava planting material among cassava farmers, by providing an alternative source of quality, disease-free planting material in Cassava Brown Streak and Mosaic Diseases affected areas.





Social protection is a key strategy that can lift people out of poverty

The Fifth Edition of the Zambia Social Protection Week (ZSPW) was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and Ministry of Labour and Social Security in collaboration with the United Nations and Cooperating Partners. The event took place from Monday 19th to 23rd June 2023 under the theme **“Adaptive, Shock Responsive and Inclusive Social Protection”**.

The ZSPW was a hybrid open, public event that sought to bring together a range of stakeholders including Government, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Faith Based Organizations, Social Partners, Cooperating Partners, Private Sector, Media and most importantly the general public. The event was utilized as a platform to initiate and shape public debate and gave participants a chance to make their voices heard and contribute to the development of Social Protection in Zambia.

The ZSPW was launched on Sunday 18th June by Hon. Doreen Mwamba, MP Minister of Community Development and Social Services on ZNBC TV1. On Monday 19th June, the event which was graced by Her Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia Mrs. W.K. Mutale Nalumango and jointly launched at Mulungushi Conference Centre by Acting Minister of Community Development and Social Services Hon. Elvis Nkandu, MP, UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Beatrice Mutali, Ambassador of Sweden to Zambia Mr. Johan Hallenborg and then World Bank Country Manager, Mr. Sahr Kpundeh.

During her address, Vice President Nalumango highlighted the government’s commitment to reviewing social protection policies to ensure

they align with the current economic trends. She added that this proactive approach will enable the government to enhance the effectiveness of these programs in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms Beatrice Mutali applauded the Government of Zambia for consistently showing increased commitment to social protection programming by increasing funding to the sector and strengthening governance systems through various interventions. “It is our hope that government will then consider enacting a Social Protection Bill to put social protection on a legal footing and consolidating the country’s rights-based approach further. It will go a long way in making social protection more predictable, transparent, and sustainable”, she encouraged.

The Zambia Social Protection Week was characterised by pre-launch social media campaigns organized on Facebook and on Twitter transmitting key advocacy messages as well as ensuring greater public awareness of the event towards subsequent involvement and participation. During the SP Week, physical meetings, online, radio and television discussions were held on a range of topics informed by the 2023 ZSPW Theme: **‘Adaptive Shock Responsive and Inclusive Social Protection’**.

“Zambia is also lagging behind in human development, comparing to other countries in Southern Africa, scoring 0.4 on the human capital index, implying

that children born today will only be 50% as productive as they would be if they had health and education attained. Women and girls are particularly impacted,” said Mr. Sahr Kpundeh. “Therefore, women empowerment is very critical to Zambia’s human development and economy growth”, he added.

Ambassador of Sweden to Zambia Mr. Johan Hallenborg highlighted that Cooperating Partners namely Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Sweden have contributed financially and technically towards the Social Protection Sector over the years and delighted to be part of the journey going forward. “By investing in social protection, the government is realising human rights for all”, he added.

“Social protection is a key strategy that can lift people out of poverty and help them adapt to the shocks brought about by social challenges,” stated Vice President Nalumango. She further accentuated the significance of social protection as a crucial tool in promoting social equity and inclusivity.

In closing, Ms. Mutali extended her appreciation to the Government for allowing the United Nations in Zambia to be a partner in the provision of social protection. She further thanked the cooperating partners in Zambia such as the World Bank, the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Development Bank KfW, the Republic of Ireland, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America for the financial support rendered in the expansion of social protection programmes in Zambia.



World Population Day: UN and Partners Rally to End Gender Inequality

The Government of the Republic of Zambia and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) commemorated the World Population Day and launched the State of the World Population Report with a call for more action in addressing gender inequality.

The World Population Day carried the theme "Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities", while the State of the World Population Report is themed "8 Billion Lives, infinite possibilities the case for rights and choices."

The two themes highlight the crucial role of gender equality in achieving sustainable development and empowering women and girls to contribute to their full potential.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Finance and National Planning Hon. Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that citizens live longer, have healthier lives and enjoy more rights and choices than ever before.

"The Government therefore in its pursuit of harnessing the demographic dividend is alive to the fact that advancing gender equality is a crosscutting solution to many population challenges. It goes without saying that women's empowerment through education and family planning can bring enormous benefits by way of human capital and inclusive economic growth." Hon. Musokotwane said.

Launching the report, United Nations Resident

Coordinator in Zambia Ms. Beatrice Mutali reiterated that achieving gender equality is closely interlinked with progress on other SDGs, such as eliminating poverty, ensuring good health and well-being, and promoting quality education.

"Sadly, today the voices of women and girls are largely absent in matters that directly affect them thereby limiting their potential to meaningfully contribute to development. Gender equality is even more crucial now when we are at midpoint before the year 2030 which is our deadline for attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Ms. Mutali said.

Also speaking at the launch, UNFPA Representative Seth Broekman noted that realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all is the foundation for gender equality, dignity and opportunity.

Mr. Broekman said many women around the world cannot exercise their right to make decisions as fundamental as whether or not to have children; how many and the spacing between their pregnancies.

"While progress has been made, it is estimated that in Zambia still approximately 1 in 5 women aged 15-49 want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using a method of

contraception, for a variety of reasons. The Ministry of Health, UNFPA and key partners work hand-in-hand to accelerate the reduction in this unmet need for family planning through for instance mobilizing domestic resources for family planning, strengthening resilient supply chains to improve commodity security and scaling up innovative demand generation for family planning services. Our joint commitment is that the unmet need for family planning is at least reduced from 20 per cent to 15 per cent by 2027." Mr. Broekman said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland in Lusaka Kate O'Donnell called for a strong multisectoral and coordinated approach, with commitment from all actors, and driven with determination.

"Gender inequality here in Zambia, as in many countries globally, is persistent and intergenerational. It is accompanied by high rates of sexual and gender based violence. And it is perpetuated by norms and structures. We know that Gender inequality leads to reduced outcomes for women and girls in terms of health, education and economically. Young girls face multiple obstacles to attain their development potential. And we know that women are underrepresented in political and key decision-making fora. Addressing under-representation at all levels is a key component in ensuring that women's voices can be uplifted and heard, and effect change." Ms. O'Donnell said.



Fighting Back Against Climate Change: How One Zambian Town Boosted Revenue and Livelihoods



With the help of the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the town of Luangwa, located in eastern Zambia, has implemented an innovative program to increase revenue collections and economic stability in the face of mounting climate change impacts.

According to a detailed report by local officials, Luangwa has been plagued by increased flooding in recent years due to climate change. The floods have led to repeated business closures and economic disruption. This spelled trouble for the Luangwa Town Council, which relies heavily on local revenue sources like markets and shops for its budget.

Overall revenue collection was meeting 92% of estimates, but revenue specifically from local sources languished at just 74% of expectations in 2022. Not only did this impact the council's expenditures and services, but a portion of the tax proceeds had to be spent on tax collection itself.

Faced with this crisis, Luangwa officials developed a multi-pronged strategy focused on long-term financial health, economic

pivoting, and tapping new revenue streams. Central to the plan were core values of participation, transparency, accountability, and equity/inclusion.

Specific initiatives included:

- Frequent audits by the Town Council's audit department decreased the risk of revenue loss by 41%. This provided greater oversight and transparency.
- Construction of an elevated market in a flood-resistant area aimed to directly replace vulnerable revenue sources. The new market has already drawn many new women shopkeepers.
- An 80% increase in women operating shops and stalls at the market. Officials noted the importance of inclusion and participation by this marginalized group.
- A 10% increase in total revenue generation from the new market area. This provided a direct offset to losses from flooding.
- Engagement efforts leading to a 30% increase in community participation in Town Council

meetings. This boosted input on spending priorities.

- A 38% increase in community input on the Town Council's annual budget. Promoting participation and transparency.
- Economic stability during downturns improved by 40% due to diversified revenue sources. This increased overall resilience.
- The town's ability to pivot to market changes increased by 50%. This adaptation promotes long-term viability.
- Total revenue available for investment and growth increased 38% from 2021 to 2022. This supports future sustainability. The comprehensive plan promoted inclusion, transparency, and participation by marginalized groups like women and youth. Officials credited this community engagement with the program's success.

Total locally generated revenue increased 38% year-over-year, indicating improved economic stability despite climate change impacts. Officials say increased revenues will allow expanded services and local development.



Digital Transformation to Improve Governance and Services in Pemba, Zambia



Pemba Town Council in Zambia's Southern Province has embarked on an ambitious project to digitize its information management systems to improve governance and service delivery.

Established in 2013, the council has hitherto relied on paper-based records and manual processes for its operations. This has made access to information cumbersome for citizens, who have to physically visit council offices even for basic inquiries. It has also hampered the council's ability to deliver efficient services. To address these challenges, the council has now initiated a digitization drive with support from the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) and UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

The overarching goal is to provide citizens access to council information and services through digital platforms. Specific objectives include improving internal efficiency of operations, promoting transparency and accountability, enhancing citizen participation and improving service delivery.

The target groups are council employees, local residents, marginalized communities, schools, cooperatives and community organizations. The core values highlighted are participation and transparency.

Council authorities say digitization will be a game-changer, allowing citizens to access details on budgets, projects, tender information, payments, application status and more - all remotely from their phones or computers. This is expected to significantly improve convenience, inclusion and satisfaction.

The council has already developed a web-based portal to manage information and applications for the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

This will allow real-time access to CDF details for citizens as well as oversight bodies. Similar online portals and databases are being developed for other council services.

Key hardware including computers, servers and internet connectivity has been put in place. Council staff are being trained on using technology to improve their productivity and customer service. Digitization of existing paper records is underway.

Pemba Town Council sees this as part of their modernization agenda and wants to be a model for leveraging technology to improve governance. They have engaged stakeholders including council leaders, the CDF committee and marginalized groups to get buy-in.

The project is poised to have far-reaching impact on improving transparency, accountability, participation and trust between the council and citizens. It will also make Pemba an attractive investment destination by providing efficient services. The success here is expected to spur similar initiatives in other Zambian districts.



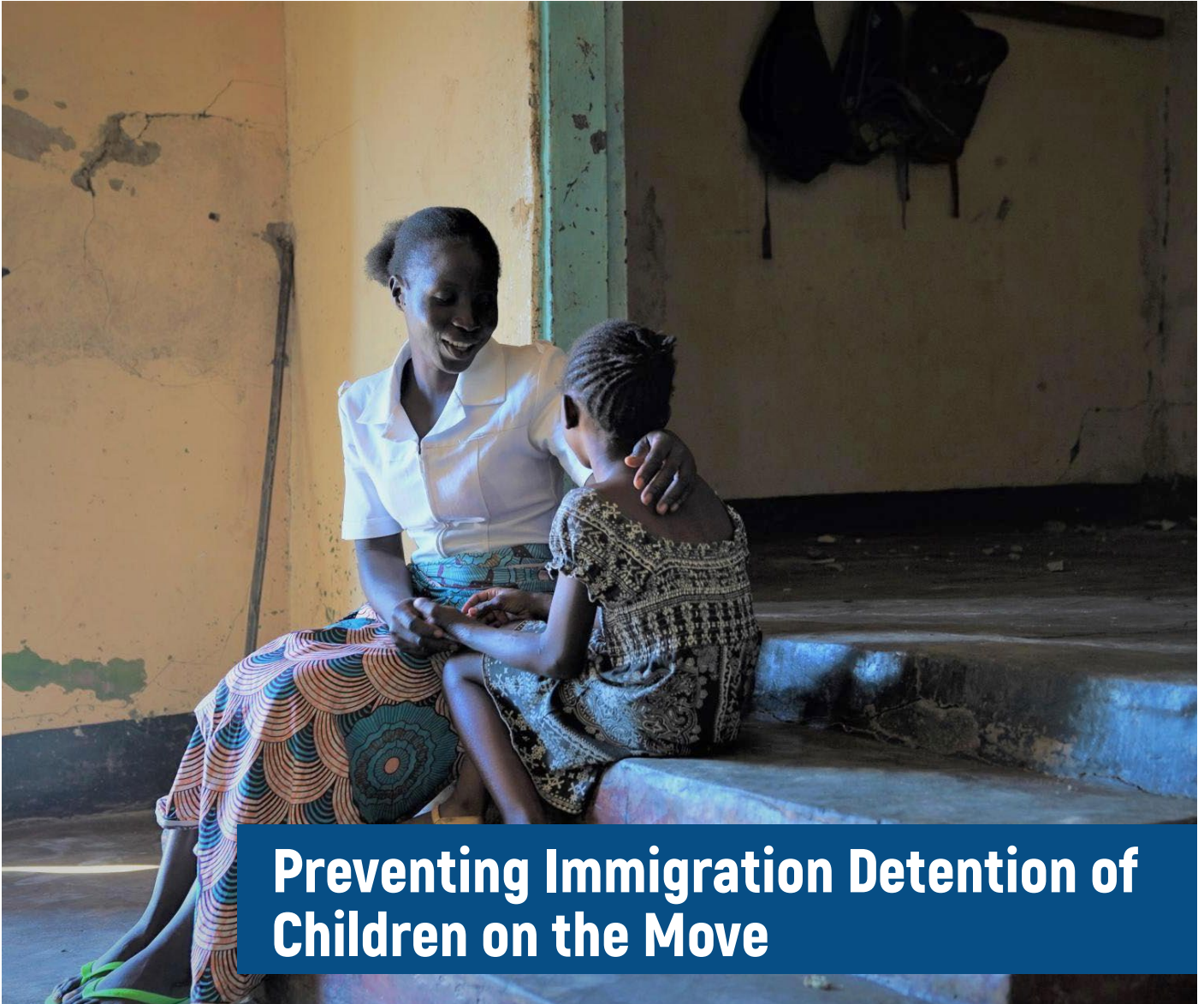
World Bank Appoints New Country Manager for Zambia



Achim Fock has joined the World Bank Zambia office as Country Manager. Mr. Fock will lead the World Bank's engagement in Zambia that includes an active lending portfolio, a vibrant knowledge partnership and a dynamic dialogue with the Government and a wide range of stakeholders.

A German national, Mr. Fock brings over 25 years of experience working at the World Bank in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Most recently, he has been Operations Manager for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand in the East Asia and Pacific Region.

The World Bank's engagement in Zambia is closely aligned with the Government's National Development Plans and is guided by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the period 2019-2024. The World Bank has been a partner of the Zambian Government since 1955. As of June 2023, the Zambia portfolio stands at US\$2.85 billion (comprising credits and grants) which includes 20 national operations and 5 regional operations.



Preventing Immigration Detention of Children on the Move

// Seeing children happy here is all that matters to me. I take care of children awaiting family tracing and re-integration," says Fedis Bukama [32], a caregiver at a child-care facility in Chililabombwe district of Zambia.

Fedis is one of the caregivers, who works with children in need of temporal care, and ensures that the basic daily needs are met. This includes food, clean clothes, bathing and attending the school. As a caregiver, Fedis is critical as a caseworker to collect information that aids family tracing and reintegration processes.

"My work brings me satisfaction, because of the difference that I make to the life of the children here. Eventually, they are reintegrated and reunited with their families and there is nothing like seeing them happy as they join their families and return home," says Fedis.

UNICEF through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is implementing the EU Global Promotion of Best Practices for Children in Migration in Zambia – a project being implemented in Eastern and Southern Africa, and Caribbean Regions with generous funding support from the European Union (EU).

The project is strengthening the implementation of alternatives to detention as well as promoting family and community-based alternatives care options for children on the move. It formalizes the placement of unaccompanied children in families and communities as first care options and reduces the number of children placed as a measure of last resort under institutional care facilities.

During the project period of January 2020 to December 2022, UNICEF with

support from the MCDSS, UNHCR, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security (MOHAIS), and local implementing partners like Lifeline Childline Zambia and the Undikumbukire Project Zambia has placed more than 800 children in various alternative care options.

"At UNICEF, we are committed to support the role of MCDSS and MOHAIS in promoting and protecting the rights of every child in all circumstances. The Best Interest Procedures and Case Management System helps identify children in mixed migration flows and fosters implementation of alternatives to immigration detention of children in Zambia. This work would not have been possible without the funding support from the European Union," says Angela Maswau, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Zambia.

**Name and age of the child has been changed to protect the privacy.*



Giving Youth a Voice: UN Zambia Helps Convene African Youth Summit on the SDGs

As the world prepared for the 2023 SDG Summit in September, Zambia hosted 1,000 in-person youth participants from across Africa and hundreds of others joining virtually to lend their voice to accelerating progress on the Global Goals by 2030. Held from 15-17 August in the country's capital city, Lusaka, the 5th African Youth SDGs Summit, also served as a platform for young people from Africa to share experiences and envision solutions for achieving the SDGs. The continental event was organised by a team of young people from the continent with the local organisers representing 2nd Door Zambia and Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia.

The objectives of the summit included improving awareness and knowledge among the youth about the SDGs and their roles in the implementation, review and accountability process; and discussing the mechanisms and strategies for localizing the SDGs and ensuring greater ownership by the youth. Others were to develop new and strengthen existing youth networks to engage and monitor the implementation of SDGs and to advocate for effective participation of African Youth in SDG programmes affecting them.

Led by the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), UN agencies in Zambia that form part of the Government of the Republic of Zambia-UN Joint Programme on Youth, namely the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) provided technical and financial support to the summit. Further, the agencies held side events on key issues around youth engagement and the SDGs.

As part of the opening ceremony, participants heard from Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Secretary-

General's Envoy on Youth who, in her virtual address, called for meaningful youth involvement in actions for the SDGs.

"Today's young generation simply cannot afford to wait. We are at an inflection point in history, the halfway mark to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and get us back on track to building a better world that leaves no one behind....It is time for decision makers everywhere to urgently make greater investments in youth," said Ms. Wickramanayake.

In a show of support, UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia Beatrice Mutali noted the pivotal role of youth in ensuring sustainable development. In a speech read on her behalf by UNDP Resident Representative James Wakiaga, Ms. Mutali said that the UN was committed to youth participation.

"As the UN we believe in the transformative potential of the young people of Zambia and double down on our support towards their empowerment and economic inclusion, as is demonstrated in our commitment towards achieving the SDGs. The UN position has been clear - to support youth-led approaches that promote stronger socio-economic and political participation in a conducive and enabling environment", said Ms. Mutali.

This message was buttressed by UNFPA Representative in Somalia, Niya Ojuolape.

"The African Youth SDG Summit highlights the need of shared inspiration and collective effort between stakeholders," he said,

During the side events, youth shared suggestions on how to advance inclusive Social Protection to unlock the power of women and girls while also addressing recovery from COVID-19 and contributing to attainment of the SDGs. Others

covered setting priorities for accelerating SDGs in Africa, and envisioning Africa's contributions to the SDG Summit. Other key themes addressed ensuring climate action, tackling inequalities and gender biases with youth at the centre of mobilization efforts as drivers of the Decade of Action for the SDGs.

Voices of youth

"The summit stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of African youth who are catalysts for change, & architects of a brighter future for our continent." "We are a major force for sustainable development and key agents for social change, economic growth and technological innovation."

"The message goes beyond the 5th AYSDGs in Lusaka. Policies must include the diverse age groups we serve, including youth. Let's discuss with them and use their language." "I was honoured to attend the 5th African Youth SDG Summit. We had so many important conversations on the role of young people in achieving sustainable development."

"Without youth-driven innovation, achieving the goals by 2030 is out of reach. Innovation lessens the impact of disabilities. Let's champion intentional inclusivity for a sustainable future."

"Over the year's AYSDGs partners have proven that partnerships can turn African youth's aspiration into reality, by continuing to believe in our vision, the summit."

The summit, which was also attended by policy makers, development partners, private sector, academia, and CSO representatives and heads of UN agencies from Africa, concluded with commitment by youth to play a bigger role in attainment of the SDGs by 2030.



Fighting GBV through Village Led One Stop Centres: GBV Phase II Project



It was a day of joyful ululations as community members of Nkula village in Chinsali district of Muchinga Province gathered at their Chief's palace to witness the official opening and handover ceremony of the first ever Village Led One Stop Centre (VLOSC) in their area.

In its continued efforts to fight Gender Based Violence (GBV) and make communities safer from all forms of GBV, regardless of one's gender, the United Nations (UN) in Zambia through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing the Joint GBV Prevention and Response Programme Phase II (GRZ-UN GBV JP II), which works towards contributing to the reduction of GBV prevalence in Zambia through preventive and response mechanisms in line with provisions of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011.

With support from UNDP, the Nkula Village Led One Stop Centre was built in line with the project's mandate to ensure uniform response in the provision of services to survivors of GBV at the VLOSC; provide guidelines on the services and quality of services to be provided at the VLOSC; share information regarding the operations of the VLOSC and build community ownership by ensuring that community members are adequately involved in the activities of the VLOSC from the onset.

Speaking at the launch, UN Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali said the UN System in Zambia acknowledged the ongoing efforts by the Government of the

Republic of Zambia to provide protection and support to Gender-Based violence survivors and those at risk with prevention and response services through both state and non-state actors.

"Through the GRZ-UN Joint programme on GBV Phase II that involves UNDP, IOM, ILO, UNFPA and UNICEF, the UN in Zambia has been supporting the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development on prevention and response to GBV services through the Traditional leaders as custodians of culture and tradition.

"We thank the Governments of Sweden and Ireland for their generous support to the GRZ-UN Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence Phase II implemented with the Government of Zambia and civil society organizations on various interventions including the establishment of the six Anti-GBV Fast Track Courts, the Forensic DNA Lab, temporary safe-shelters, hospital-based one stop centers, and support to women and girls' empowerment," said Ms Mutali.

Meanwhile, then UNDP Acting Deputy Representative Gregory Salli said the community-based facility being launched was unique, innovative, and effective as learnt from those launched before. He said that was aimed at bringing to the fore the importance of community involvement for gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, as a means of achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, His Royal Highness Chief

Nkula, expressed gratitude to the UN, the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the various partners for their support in the establishment of the Nkula Village Led One Stop Centre. He committed to ensuring zero tolerance to GBV and relentless work towards promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The launch of Nkula VLOSC and Minimum Standards will result in improved access to adequate GBV services at community level leading to improved health outcomes for survivors, reduced unwanted pregnancies, HIV infections, and reduced post-traumatic disorders. It will also lead to improved human and legal rights knowledge through increased awareness raising leading to increased case uptake, referral, and prosecution of GBV cases.

To curb the rising number of GBV cases, the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the United Nations with support from the Governments of Sweden and Ireland, are implementing the Joint GBV Prevention and Response Programme Phase II, which seeks to increase access and utilisation of coordinated GBV services for survivors and persons (including children and adolescents) at risk of the vice.

The Programme focuses on both prevention and response mechanisms to GBV by strengthening existing institutional structures to provide a more consolidated package of services at sub-national and national level. The Response component includes four key elements, namely, Fast Track Courts, One Stop Centres, Shelters, and Village Led One Stop Centres as avenues for strengthening service provision. Overall, effective, and efficient operation of VLOSCs will result in GBV survivors and persons (including children and adolescents) at risk having increased access to and utilize quality GBV prevention and response services.



30 Persons with Disabilities complete internship programme



The International Labour Organization (ILO) with Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE) through the United Nations Joint Program on Social Protection Phase II (UNJP-SP II) has successfully completed a pilot internship programme involving 30 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

The interns, who were placed for five months from August 2022 to December 2022 mainly in the private sector, focusing on education, manufacturing, communication, and food processing sub-sectors, had their allowances paid for under the UNJP-SP II during the attachment.

The United Nations Joint Programme for Social Protection Phase II is being implemented by four United Nations (UN) Agencies- ILO, WFP, UNDP, and UNICEF- with financial support from Government of Ireland, Swedish Government, and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Through UNJP-SP II, the ILO is providing technical support to the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) to not only improve employability, but also support inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the labour market.

The private sector employers, who are ZFE affiliate were requested to express interest in hosting interns with disabilities. This resulted in over 30 companies and employers expressing interest in hosting them. Among the companies that were willing

to take up the challenge were Coca-Cola, Varun Beverages Zambia, Zamtel, Airtel, Fringilla, Trade Kings, Zambia Association of Manufacturers, Yalele and Rhodespark schools among others.

Prospective employers were trained on Disability Equality Training (DET). The training focused on empowering the employers with skills on how they could provide reasonable accommodation to employees with disabilities.

Throughout the internship period, Persons with Disabilities demonstrated themselves as productive members of the labour force. This project had an initiative of promoting diversity in the labour force by employers opening opportunities marginalized persons.



Employers had testimonies that spoke to the abilities of Persons with Disabilities. For instance, one employer who had placed Persons with Disabilities who are deaf on the assembly line realized that their quality control improved while the other employer noticed that the interns with disabilities were putting twice their efforts.

"All the interns turned up for the work as expected and never missed work. Their attendance and commitment to work was second to none," said the employer.

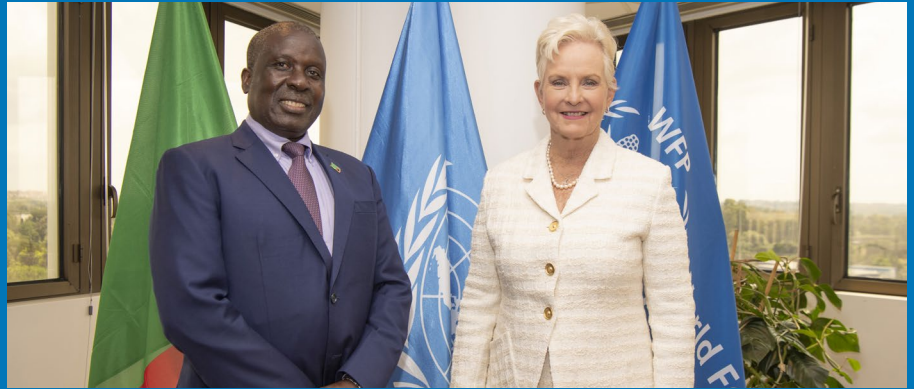
12 interns have since been given an opportunity to become full-time employees with access to social security such as pension and national health insurance. Following the successful completion of internship programme, the employers have since formed the Zambia Business Disability Network (ZBDN), which is linked to the ILO Global Business Disability Network, a network of employers championing employment of Persons with Disabilities in the private sector.

This network is employer-led and championed by employers. On 24th February 2023, Zambia Business Disability Network was formed, and Airtel Zambia was elected to lead the executive board as the chair of the group.

Persons with Disabilities are amongst the most marginalized groups in Zambia. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Zambia has an estimated 2 million Persons with Disabilities (equivalent to approximately 15 percent of the total population).



World Food Programme Embarks on New Five-Year Plan to End Hunger in Zambia



The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in partnership with the Government of Zambia has launched a five-year plan to target nearly 650,000 people. The plan aims to eliminate hunger, enhance nutrition, and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to food shocks.

Budgeted at US\$98,463,341, the WFP Country Strategic Plan which will run from 2023-2028 positions WFP as a key player in building the resilience of smallholder farmers. Extensive consultations involving the government,

donors, UN agencies, financial institutions, NGOs, academia, youth, and the private sector contributed to the plan's formulation.

Hon. Reuben Phiri, Minister of Agriculture, expressed satisfaction with the plan's focus on youth, women, and persons with disabilities, acknowledging its alignment with Zambia's national priorities and the UN's Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

WFP's Country Director in Zambia, Cissy Byenkywa, emphasized the plan's critical role in achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty, and ensuring food security for all Zambians.

The five-year plan aims to create a more resilient, sustainable, and prosperous future, with a focus on achieving food and nutrition security by 2030.

Empowering Farmers: Motor-Tricycles and Bulking Centre Handed Over to Community

During a monitoring visit of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded "Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural Livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia" (SCRALA) projects in Nyimba district, Mr Green Mbozi, the Ministry of Agriculture's Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, handed over two motor-tricycles and a bulking centre to Lupala cooperative.

"I urge you to use the facilities for the greater good of the community, as I am aware most of you are farmers around this area," emphasised the Permanent Secretary, highlighting that the motor-tricycles will facilitate intra-village transportation of produce around Vizimumba Agricultural Camp and the bulking centre will help securely store the produce.

To strengthen market systems and enhance value chains for farmers through an end-to-end market systems development approach, the World Food Programme (WFP) is

distributing tricycles to farmer groups and cooperatives in the 16 operational districts of the SCRALA project.

Furthermore, Mary Banda, a lead farmer, shared her experience with the delegation on post-harvest loss management. "Embracing low-cost technologies like these hermetic bags to safeguard our produce with the post-harvest loss management practices we have learned. These have not only reduced food losses for my household but also for my fellow farmers."

Implemented jointly by the Zambian government through the Ministry of Agriculture, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP), the SCRALA project aims to promote climate-resilient agricultural production and diversification practises to improve food security and income generation.





Chef Andrew Zimmern Sheds Light on Climate-Driven Hunger during a WFP Zambia Visit



WFP's Goodwill Ambassador, Andrew Zimmern, recently visited the WFP Zambia country office to learn about the impact of climate-driven hunger and WFP's work to build sustainable food systems and resilience.

Chef Zimmern interacted with the Country Director, Cissy Byenkya, United Nations Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali, Ambassador Michael C. Gonzales, WFP CO staff, and smallholder farmers impacted

by climate change, Emeldah Hachibowa of Monze and Priscilla Chalivwela of Gwembe.

During his visit, he harvested, cooked, and shared meals with them, gaining first-hand knowledge of the challenges they face due to climate change.

At Gwembe Primary School, learners demonstrated how they use hydroponics to supplement their meals and improve their agriculture science knowledge. Chef

Zimmern also prepared and shared a meal with the learners, highlighting the importance of nutrition for school-aged children.

During his visit, Chef Zimmern also collected content to share on digital channels to educate audiences about the impact of climate change on food security and encourage them to act.

You can watch the series [here](#).





Making Elections Observation Recommendation Count: UNDP Support to the Inter Agency Working Group



The Ministry of Justice with the support of UNDP's Democracy Strengthening in Zambia Project (2020-2023) has established the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on implementation and reporting on Election Observer Mission (EOM) recommendations. The IAWG has been established by the Ministry out of the realisation that in each electoral cycle, several EOM reports are prepared and handed over to Government and stakeholders on the assumption that the relevant institutions would identify their areas of action for implementation. Yet, from the 2016 general elections and in the 2021, very few, if any, of the recommendations from the EOMs have been implemented.

The IAWG was officially launched by the Honourable Minister of Justice, Hon Mulambo Haimbe, SC, MP in Chongwe. In his address, Mr. Haimbe said that the government had settled on creation of the IAWG as a structured response to methodically consider EOM recommendations towards administrative, policy and legal reforms.

Echoing His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema's remarks during the opening of

the 13th Session of the National Assembly, the Minister emphasised that "promoting and entrenching the tenets of our democracy cannot just be wished into existence, but through structured efforts such the IAWG we are launching today is what can actualise and keep alive Zambia dream of continuing as a beacon of democracy in Africa and the globe".

Speaking at the event, the UNDP Resident Representative, James Wakiaga welcomed the government's decision to establish IAWG as a testament to Zambia's rich democratic credentials in the region. He stated that the establishment and launch of IAWG and the important work it is expected to perform was the culmination of the 4-year support by UNDP's Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (DSZ) project, with the financial assistance of the European Union, the embassies of France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. Wakiaga noted the issues highlighted by the EOMs were not new but were critical to Zambia and the UN in general as outlined

in the Decade of Action for Agenda 2030. The identified issues were critical to the country's achievement of Sustainable Development Goals target 5.5 on "...women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life" and Sustainable Development Goal target 16.7 on "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels."

The mandate of the IAWG is to coordinate reporting on the actions taken by responsible ministries and institutions on implementing the recommendations made by EOMs on the Zambia 2021 general elections, including challenges encountered in operationalising them. At least eight EOMs submitted comprehensive reports containing some 251 recommendations for consideration by the Government and other electoral stakeholders. The IAWG will work with relevant line ministries, specialised state entities such as the Electoral Commission of Zambia, Parliament, the Judiciary, Human Rights Commission as well as faith-based organisations and civil society.



iReport: UNDP's Support to Building a Sustainable Human Rights Culture in Zambia



The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has established a new case management system for reporting human rights violations across the country. The i-Report case management system is part of UNDP's support to the Early Warning and Early Response System (EWERS) against electoral violence under the Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (DSZ) Project.

In the lead up to and during the 2021 general elections, UNDP partnered with the HRC to develop and deploy an EWERS that sought to identify hotspots for electoral violence and mobilise responses from institutions such as the Zambia Police, Electoral Commission of Zambia, and Human Rights Commission to institute counter measures to prevent or de-escalate violence.

Post elections, for sustainability and consolidation of the investment in the EWERS, there was an identified need to domesticate the system in the day-to-day operations of the organisation, hence redesigning the system to include a human rights case management module. Inter alia, this would provide a clear and straightforward method for monitoring and follow-up, ensuring efficiency and accuracy in the HRC's day-to-day operations.

UNDP commissioned the United Nations

International Computing Centre to develop the EWERS with the technical support of UNDP-European Commission Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (JTF). In June, a trainer of trainer's workshop was conducted for key HRC staff on the case management module. Thereafter, the HRC rolled out the training to all the provinces and districts targeting civil society/ community-based organisations and human rights defenders. On completion of the training, participants were accredited to operate the system and report cases of human rights violations across all the 116 districts of the country. In total, 232 human rights defenders and champions were accredited.

The roll out to the districts to HRC stakeholders/implementing partners collectively referred to as human rights champions will scale up and promote a human rights culture across the country.



Institutional Support to Judiciary: Strengthening Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

The Judiciary with the support of UNDP-Democracy Strengthening in Zambia Project has embarked on the process of reviewing and amending court rules and procedures relating to electoral dispute resolution. The review is aimed at easing the procedural requirements in the processing of electoral petitions towards more efficient Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR).

To this effect a law reform workshop was organised in Chongwe and attended by the Chief Justice, judges of the Constitutional Court, and research advocates. The workshop was meant to deliberate on the existing framework and identified opportunities for streamlining and strengthening EDR processes for the Constitutional Court and the High Court.

The workshop was officiated by the Chief Justice Hon. Dr. Mumba Malila, SC and featured presentations from Justice Albert Louis Sachs, retired justice of Constitutional Court of South Africa and Professor Muna B. Ndulo, Honorary Professor of Law at Cornell

University and internationally recognised scholar in the field of constitution making. In his opening remarks Hon Dr Malila welcomed the effort towards amending the Constitutional Court Rules and related pieces of legislation. He expressed the Judiciary's appreciation for the support received from UNDP and its cooperating partners under the DSZ Project.

Speaking on behalf of the UNDP, then Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Roland Seri, welcomed the Judiciary's decision to review the various pieces of legislation that guide

electoral courts on electoral justice. He commended the Judiciary for this decision, and the related actions being undertaken well before the next general elections in 2026. He pledged UNDP's continuing support to this process.

The outcome of the workshop was a detailed report of proposed amendments to the Constitutional Court of Zambia Act No. 8 of 2016, Constitutional Court Rules Statutory Instrument No. 37 of 2016 as amended by Statutory Instrument No. 29 of 2021 and the Local Government Elections Tribunal Rules S.I. No. 60 of 2016. The review of these pieces of legislation are key to strengthening timely resolution of electoral disputes and confidence building in the country's justice system and electoral processes.





Fish Pass-on-the-gift boosting production in Mpika and Chinsali - FAO Support to Scaling Up Nutrition Phase II program

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in Chinsali, Isoka and Mpika districts of Muchinga province is part of the multi-sectoral team implementing the SUN 2 project aimed at reducing stunting in children. To increase access to fish stock by supporting capture fish farming, access to fingerlings to SUN II targets for household consumption, the project is supporting beneficiaries with a fish pass on scheme mechanism which includes trainings in fish pond construction, integrated fish production (feed formulation and management) and access to fingerlings aimed at improving management levels in fish farming to increase production.

The increased production of fish amongst beneficiaries helps in fighting malnutrition amongst children due to increased availability of proteins through fish consumption and income that enables access of other nutritious foods through purchases. So far, 95,000 fingerlings (Mpika district), 36,000 fingerlings (Isoka dsistrict), 86,250 fingerlings (Chinsali district) have been distributed to 205 SUN II households (Mpika district), 804 (Isoka district) and 453 households (Chinsali district) respectively.

Exhilda Katongo a SUN II beneficiary from Kabuka village of Mutamba ward in Mpika district explained that "I received trainings

on fish production management and pass on the gift from Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock through the project and also received 500 fingerlings which I stocked in my pond in February 2022. I have since been harvesting for consumption since October and I have also passed on 1,500 fingerlings to three groups (each group has 7 members and received 500 fingerlings each) here in Kabuka village who have stocked in their group ponds".

She added that "In my household, we used to have challenges in the past to have meals with protein foods such fish during meals, but now we are able to eat fish three or four times in a week as we are able to harvest from our fish pond. This has really improved the nutrition status of my household especially my child who is less than 2 years" she narrated.

And Ruth Chitwaka of Chimbele village in Itutwe ward in Chinsali who is also a beneficiary under SUN II explained that after beneficiary registration, a team from fisheries and livestock identified their area to have potential for fish farming. She narrated that "we were put in a group of 16 households and trained in fish farming. With the help of our spouses (husbands) a 20meters by 30meters fish pond was dug and stocked. And so far, 5 households from

the 16 have dug their own ponds and have received fingerlings (each received 250 fingerlings) from the first pond on a pass on". She further explained that challenges of access to food with proteins will be a thing of the past as they have started harvesting fish for consumption.

Mpika District Fisheries Assistant, Samsom Habulembe explained that the SUN II project has empowered many households through the fisheries and livestock component. He explained that the Ministry has trained more than 300 households in integrated fish and poultry management and have made it a priority to use locally available materials as this will help in sustaining the fish production. He went on to explain that beneficiaries have been trained in feed formulation using locally available materials such as Azolla, hydroponics fodder production etc. to help in sustaining this intervention.

And Oswald Banda, the Chinsali District Fisheries Officer explained that the Ministry has appreciated the SUN 2 project as it has also made access to fingerlings easy in the community. He said that many households will have access to fingerlings at no cost through the pass on once they finish putting up their own fish ponds.





United Nations Supports Gender Equality and Women's Participation Among Refugees



The Gender Equality and Women's Participation Initiative (GEWPI), a programme funded by the Embassy of Ireland in Zambia, is supporting the Government to address current gaps in existing coordination mechanisms across all key stakeholders in the Gender area.

The initiative plays a catalytic and key role in tackling the four critical areas for a gender transformative approach namely Strengthened Coordination, Research & Data, Diminishing Voices – Women's Empowerment, and Social Cohesion – Male Involvement and GBV Prevention.

The GEWPI project strengthens UNHCR's current programme in preventing, risk mitigation, and responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV)/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in refugee settlements. To promote community ownership and sustainability of GBV prevention and response programmes, awareness campaign are being conducted through engaging community structures, men and boys, the youth, and women in Mantapala Refugee Settlement.

Building on the existing activities with Implementing Partners including YWCA through coordination with UNFPA, UNHCR leads on inclusive engagement interventions for men and boys for GBV prevention through peer-to-peer support and youth facilitation of GBV prevention and women and girl's empowerment dialogues in Mantapala.

In August 2023, the UN undertook a monitoring visit to Mantapala Refugee Settlement to assess progress made towards implementation of the programme

activities through Research and Data in addition to Enhanced Social Cohesion by Male Involvement & GBV Prevention done with the Mens and Womens Networks. There was also a separate interaction with youth to get their views and concerns with the awareness training on GBV and Gender norms.

Furthermore, a one-day training workshop on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) that was conducted for GRZ, UN Staff and Implementing Partners to ensure that they were aware and understood how to prevent and respond to SEA in the Mantapala Settlement.

At the close of the training, UNHCR Head of Field Office Kawambwa Awo Dede Cromwell had this to say, "The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is important in the work that we do and it is our responsibility to protect those under our care".

On the final day of the monitoring visit, two UN Clubs were opened at Mantapala Primary and Secondary schools. Present at the launch were Headmen Kunda and Nsamiwa, members of the PTA, community leaders, teachers, and learners. The clubs are aimed at helping children and youth learn more about the UN, global issues and topical subjects such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Human Rights, Gender, Democracy, Health, and Governance. The clubs will enable learners to relate what they learn in class and other platforms to practical situations during debates, outreach activities, learning visits and related opportunities.

"This is a historic moment for the school, the learners and the community at large", said Mr Nacuos Musata, Head Teacher Mantapala Secondary School at the official opening of the club.

Voices of youth

"As a youth, I am grateful for the awareness training on SEA as it has helped me better understand how to protect myself from being abused." - Angela

"Children are aware of their rights, this has helped reduce the chances of being abused by adults because they know where to go and report matters of abuse." - James

"We have seen a significant reduction in issues of GBV in the community following the awareness sessions." - Beauty

"My home is now a peaceful environment for my children and myself, we are now self-conscious in how we conduct ourselves." - Martha

"We are respected in the community because of our training and the branding we have that easily helps identify us and our neighbours come to us when they are facing difficulties." - Mary

"We urge the sponsors for this programme to continue with the good work," - Moses

"The UN Clubs that have been opened at the two schools will enhance the learning experience of the children. Climate Change is a real issue here in Mantapala and I am glad that it is something that with the knowledge received will not only benefit the learners but the community as well," - Headman Elastus Kunda

About Mantapala Refugee Settlement

Mantapala Settlement, which covers approximately 8,000 hectares, was established in January 2018 to host refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who entered Zambia through Luapula province and other northern border entry points. The refugees who are 7,943 as of 31st August 2023 coexist with a farming host community of approximately 7,000 people in 11 villages surrounding the settlement. In 2022, more than half of the refugee population in the settlement chose to return to the DRC as part of the voluntary repatriation programme which began in December 2021.



Chipembi Girls School Makes History as Hosts of World Food Day 2023 Commemorations

In a groundbreaking achievement, Chipembi Girls School in Zambia etched its name in history as the first educational institution in the country to host the World Food Day Commemorations, a momentous occasion celebrated across 150 countries. The school's recognition stems from its outstanding accomplishments in sustainable agriculture practices and its commitment to driving innovation in the sector.

World Food Day stands as a crucial event on the UN calendar, rallying diverse stakeholders worldwide to address global hunger and advocate for collective action towards a sustainable future for food, people, and the planet.

The Zambia World Food Day Committee bestowed the honor upon Chipembi Girls School due to its remarkable success in championing sustainable agriculture. The school had previously earned prestigious accolades, securing titles such as Overall Champions in Beef Production for 2023, Best Breeding Bull, Best Female Cattle, and the Best School Award at the Zambia Agriculture Commercial Show.

Seizing the opportunity, Chipembi Girls School showcased its innovative and sustainable agriculture practices, aligning seamlessly with the World Food Day 2023 theme. Students presented various value chain development activities, including

livestock production, hydroponics-based vegetable production units, and value addition initiatives.

Notably, the school's hydroponics garden drew attention for its efficient water management and quicker turnaround time for vegetable production. This groundbreaking innovation not only reduces water usage but also enables the production of a diverse array of vegetables.

Hon. Douglas Syakalima, Minister of Education, underscored the pivotal role of young learners in agriculture, emphasizing that the youth are not just the future but a formidable force in the present. He highlighted their fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and technological aptitude as essential drivers for a more sustainable and equitable food system.

UN Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali commended Chipembi Girls Secondary School for their success in agriculture production, recognizing the inspirational lessons being imparted to the students. She stressed the collective responsibility to combat hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

FAO Country Representative Suze Percy-Filippini highlighted the significance of multi-sectoral participation in food systems transformation, applauding Zambia's pioneering move in having a

school host World Food Day.

The 2023 World Food Day campaign centered around water as the foundation for life and food. It aimed to raise global awareness about the prudent management of water resources, given the threats posed by rapid population growth, urbanization, economic development, and climate change. Water scarcity is one of the foremost global development issues, and it can be hard to imagine that 2.4 billion people live in countries stressed for water. The campaign emphasized the imperative to transform agricultural practices to address water challenges, stressing the importance of efficient water management systems.

Chipembi Girls School's adoption of hydroponics and other innovative practices in agricultural production serves as an exemplary model for other schools to emulate. The school's pivotal role in hosting World Food Day underscores the transformative power of education and sustainable agriculture in shaping a resilient and equitable future for food systems.

Leading up to the on-farm demonstrations at Chipembi Girls School, FAO collaborated with the National Food and Nutrition Commission, serving as the Government's World Food Day Coordinating Organ. The initiative involved various Government Ministries, including Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Health, Community Development and Social Services, and Water Development.

With the collective efforts of World Food Programme, UNICEF, GIZ and other stakeholders, additional World Food Day events were organized, including a High-Level Networking Breakfast Meeting with the Vice President as the Guest of Honour, an 8-kilometer student walk, and a Food Fair at the Natural Resources Development College.





WHO Director General visits Zambia, honoured with lifetime achievement award



From 27 to 30 November 2023, Zambia hosted the third International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2023) under the theme, "Breaking Barriers: Repositioning Africa in Global Health Architecture," which was also attended by the World Health Organization's Director General (DG), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. It was exciting for Zambia and WHO Zambia to host the Director General.

During his two-day visit to Zambia, Dr Tedros attended the opening ceremony of the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), where he was honoured with the prestigious CPHIA Lifetime Achievement Award in Public Health for his unwavering commitment to advancing global health and his transformative leadership during unprecedented crises.

Accepting the award with mixed feelings of pride and humility, Dr Tedros urged African countries to harness their resources and invest in strengthening the health sector.

The CPHIA Lifetime Achievement Award is the most esteemed recognition conferred by CPHIA, the African Union's official platform for continental collaboration and policy dialogue on public health. The award is bestowed upon an individual who has significantly contributed to advancing public health in Africa.

However, the highlight of Dr Tedros' visit was his meeting with the Zambian president, marking a significant moment in diplomatic and health relations. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the CPHIA opening ceremony at the Mulungushi Conference Centre, on 28 November 2023.

President Hakainde Hichilema warmly welcomed Dr Tedros to Zambia and recognized his dedication to global health and the positive impact of WHO's initiatives in the country and across the continent. He also congratulated him on the award received.

Recognizing that the President Hakainde Hichilema is the Global Cholera Champion, Dr Tedros thanked him for his unwavering commitment, leadership, and support towards fighting disease outbreaks in Zambia. The two leaders explored avenues for increased collaboration between Zambia and WHO and discussed strategies to strengthen the country's health sector.

Dr Tedros also had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Health, Hon Sylvia Masebo and featured on a discussion panel at the HeDPAC high level CPHIA side event, under the theme "Seeking Synergy for Health Development."

Dr Tedros also took time out of his busy schedule to interact with the WHO staff in Zambia at the country office. This interaction brought a new momentum and commitment to work among staff towards achieving WHO's vision of universal health coverage and advocating for health for all.

As the Director General bid farewell to Zambia, his visit lingered on. The Lifetime Achievement Award and the collaborative initiatives forged during his visit left a mark on Zambia's public health landscape, renewing a promise of a brighter and healthier future for the nation.





Zambia Celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Zambia joined the rest of the global community in celebrating 75 years of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A series of activities that included stakeholder consultations, social media engagement and community outreach culminated into a candlelight vigil and commemorative event held at the Alliance Française in Lusaka on 7 December 2024.

Over 150 guests, including Zambia's Minister of Justice Hon Mulambo Haimbe, UN Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Heads of UN agencies, Youth, Civil Society and media representatives witnessed the sombre evening that was characterised by speeches and poetry. Musical and acrobatic performances by Zambian youth showcased young talent that helped celebrate Human Rights in grand style.

Hon Haimbe, who was the Guest of Honour, reiterated Government's commitment to human rights.

"Zambia was delighted to go through its fourth review of the Universal Period Review on 30th January 2023. The process not only served to highlight the tremendous progress Zambia has made in respecting and promoting human rights since the last review but also helped to reflect on the shortcomings in certain areas," he said. He added that the Human Rights are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development.

"A number of SDGs are anchored on the Declaration. For example, the Right to Decent Work and Pay, the Right to the a Decent Standard of Living and Health and Wellbeing, the Right to a Decent Education, the Right to Equality Without Distinction including based on Gender and Promotion of Human Rights, Access to Justice and the Rule of Law," he said.

The UN Resident Coordinator called for commitment to the UDHR by all. "Let us remember that the UDHR is not just a historical document but a living testament to our shared humanity – a timeless guide. May we preserve its principles and safeguard fundamental human rights on a global scale," Ms Mutali said.

And Human Rights Commissioner Chairperson Pamela Towela Sambo noted that the UDHR serves as a guide to Zambia and other countries on fundamental freedoms and self-determination.

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights reaffirms the notion and belief that no matter what distinctions people may have, there is one basic principle that underlies all humanity that every human being is born equal in dignity and rights," Dr Sambo said.

She noted that the four pillars of the UDHR, namely dignity, liberty, equality and

brotherhood remain cardinal and critical in the execution of the human rights mandate.

As part of the year-long commemoration, the UN in Zambia, through OHCHR, organised other events that included exhibitions, media appearances, a social media campaign, stakeholder consultations and a capacity-building exercise on advancing the rights to food and education in Zambia.





UN Zambia Launches Disability Friendly Communication Materials

On 30 November 2023 the UN Country Team in Zambia with support from the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) launched disability-friendly and accessible formats of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 to enable persons with disabilities receive key messages of the blueprint for UN support to Zambia's development.

UN Zambia Resident Coordinator, Beatrice Mutali and the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Mala Sikazwe, launched the materials at the Zambia Institute for Special Education (ZAMISE) in Lusaka, in the presence of disability advocates, students and representatives of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities. Others in attendance were IOM Chief of Mission Keisha Livermore in her capacity as Chairperson of the UN Zambia Leave no one Behind Theme Group, Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) Chairperson Moses Luneta, ZAMISE Principal Nambula Changala and Commissioner for the Human Rights Commission Christine Chama.

Holding the event at ZAMISE was poignant because the institution is the premier facility that trains teachers who go one to teach children with various forms of disability, including the Deaf Blind category that was recently added.

The disability accessible formats have been produced in Braille, sign language, and audio to enable persons with disabilities can access and understand its contents, be informed about their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for contributing to sustainable development on an equal basis with others.

Speaking at the launch, Resident Coordinator emphasized that translating the Cooperation Framework into disability accessible formats was crucial for inclusive development. "As the UN in Zambia, we remain committed to Disability Inclusion and seek to ensure a collaborative approach towards equalization of opportunities and achieving the SDGs, leaving no one behind," said Ms Mutali.

The materials will enable people with disabilities to engage actively, empowers them to advocate for their rights, informs



policyholders about their unique challenges, promotes universal design principles, and fosters collaboration among different sectors. By embracing accessibility and inclusivity, we can work together towards achieving the vision of a sustainable world where no one is left behind.

The Chairperson of the UN Zambia Leave no one Behind Theme Group, Ms Keisha Livermore called for breaking the attitudinal barrier that remains a hinderance to inclusive communications, and that making communication accessible for persons with disabilities is sometimes perceived as a strain on resources.

Prior to the launch, the UN in Zambia, through the UN Information Centre, held validation meetings involving persons with disabilities representing the different disabilities to ensure accuracy and ability of the materials to be understood by end users.

Participants appreciated the UN's support towards disability inclusion and mainstreaming as well as the targeted interventions it was undertaking to eliminate barriers which hinder the full participation of persons with disabilities and underscored the importance of accessibility.



"On behalf of other persons with disabilities here, let me commend the United Nations for thinking about us and ensuring that we too can read key documents about development," said Mr. Keshi Chisambi, a Disability Advocate and former Director for the Zambia Library for the Blind.

Undoubtedly, the translated accessible formats of the UNSDCF will help policy makers and cooperating partners to gain a deeper understanding of the unique barriers and challenges faced by persons with disabilities to assist them in developing inclusive policies and programs that address the specific needs of persons with disabilities and ensuring that no one is left behind.

With the launch, the UN in Zambia has set a precedence to empower persons with disabilities to actively participate in decision-making processes, policy discussions, and development initiatives so that they can contribute meaningfully, foster coordinated efforts and strengthens joint initiatives, leading to more effective and impactful outcomes in creating an inclusive and sustainable society.





“UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: 16 Day of Activism Against GBV ”

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international campaign that aims to raise awareness and end violence against women and girls. This campaign runs from November 25, to December 10, the Human Rights Day.

The 2023 campaign was undertaken by various stakeholders, including UN agencies, the Civil Society Organisations, Non- Governmental Organisations, and the refugee community in partnership with the government under the theme “UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.”

International Labour Organization (ILO) Director for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, Wellington Chibebe represented the UN Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali.

“The United Nations System in Zambia remained committed in its support to the implementation of the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) and adoption of the

finalized National Gender Policy; as well as supporting Zambia to fulfil its international commitments in the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, among others,” Mr Chibebe said.

He further reaffirmed the commitment of the UN in Zambia in supporting the enhancement of the status of women and girls in the country. “Let us all therefore rejuvenate our efforts for realizing equal rights for all, through strengthened gender laws, policies, frameworks, bodies and actions that can ensure the much-needed transformations to improving lives,” he added.

Some of the activities that took place during the campaign were Radio and TV programmes on the impact of GBV and the need for action, Child-led debate sessions in schools on gender equality and GBV,

Discussions with women, men, and youth on economic empowerment, positive masculinity, and GBV. Drama and poetry shows to convey messages against GBV and Documentation of positive survivor testimonies.

The campaign also highlighted the challenges and gaps in the legal and policy framework, the justice system, and the support services for GBV victims. The campaign called for increased funding, collaboration, and implementation of the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Anti-GBV Act.

The campaign was a success in reaching out to various segments of society and raising awareness on the causes, consequences, and solutions to GBV. The campaign also contributed to the global efforts to end GBV and achieve gender equality.





UN Zambia Holds Fun Run in Support of the SDGs

Stronger Together for the Global Goals



Despite the October heat, over 800 people turned up on Saturday 28 October 2023, at Lusaka Showgrounds to run and walk in an effort to raise awareness and inspire actions on attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The run which saw people from all walks of life, including government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, private sector and Civil Society representatives, youth and United Nations staff with their families participated in the Run/Walk for the Sustainable Development for either 5km or 10km to help raise awareness about the SDGs and inspire action to ensure achievement of the Global Goals in Zambia by the year 2030.

Speaking at the event, United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali said that the Run for the SDGs event was about being inclusive because achievement of the

Global Goals requires actions from everyone at every level.

"Today is about learning a bit more about the SDGs and inspiring each other to act, so that together we can help Zambia make progress on the SDGs by the year 2030. Your presence speaks volumes about your commitment to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity," said Ms Mutali.

She further thanked all the private sector organizations that agreed to join efforts with the UN, to make the run & walk possible. The sponsors and partners included Choz Fitness Club, Ethiopian Airlines, Pick & Pay, Prudential, Zambia Athletics, and ZANACO.

"We are grateful to the companies for their partnership because making progress on the SDGs requires the involvement of all,

every individual and every sector. This is now more urgent than ever as we are at mid-point to the year 2030 which is the deadline for the SDGs. Many countries have experienced challenges in attainment of the SDGs due to unexpected challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and the impact of war and conflicts but here is hope that if we work together towards achieving the SDGs, we can get there," she said.

The SDGs were adopted by all 193 UN Member States including Zambia in 2015 to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice, and prosperity.

The Run for the SDGs was organised as part of commemorative events for the UN Day which is celebrated annually on 24 October.



PHOTO FOCUS

#RUN4SDGS





UN TEAM IN ZAMBIA



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UN Resident Coordinator



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IFAD Country Director for Lesotho,
Botswana and Zambia



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