

Resident Coordinator's Annual Report

PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSFORMATION

Brief description of major development or political and economic events that have had an effect on the work of the UNCT.

2015 began and ended with election activity: the Presidential by-election in January saw a low turnout but was another peaceful democratic transition for Zambia. The Electoral Commission, with support from UNDP and partners, delivered a sound process which withstood challenges from the losing party over vote tallying. Politicians stayed in campaign mode through the year, and were well into election mode by December, looking ahead to the general elections in 2016.

As pledged at his inauguration, the President delivered the revised Constitution, signed into force in January 2016. Its embedded Bill of Rights can be amended only by referendum, expected at the general elections. The Constitution builds judicial independence, strengthens democratic elections, and has stronger rights language which will help if the revised Bill of Rights fails at referendum. It sets up a Gender Equality Commission; the matching Gender Equality Bill awaits assent. Gender issues remained a strong concern and strong focus for the government and the UNCT: gender equality remains low, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) and early marriages very high. The President became a HeForShe champion and jointly launched the Zambia HeForShe Campaign with the UNDG Chair, Helen Clark when she visited in July. Traditional leaders, government, police, defence forces, faith-based organisations, private sector, media and academia all joined this unique campaign which focuses on stimulating change, particularly through male leaders. The President also initiated structural reform across Ministries to improve policy coherence and implementation and introduced performance-based contracts for Permanent Secretaries.

Zambia faced multiple challenges in 2015: El Nino brought poor rains again in the 2014-15 season, leading to depleted water resources, low power generation and widespread load-shedding for the first time in Zambia. The 2014-15 harvest was just adequate and, with the 2013-14 bumper maize harvest reserves, Zambia managed to feed itself and also to export to neighbours in the region who fared much worse. But, as predicted, the 2015-16 rains came late and the harvest may be poorer than 2014-15. Low resilience in some rural areas means emergency help will be needed in 2016; budget pressures may mean requests for international support. As in other emerging economies, the currency was hit hard, losing 51% against the dollar from January to September. Inflation rose to over 22% at year end. Copper prices (down 25%) and demand fell. Real GDP growth slowed to 4.6% from a 7% target. Investor confidence was dampened: S&P and Fitch both reduced Zambia's sovereign credit rating from B+ to B. Zambia's external debt ratio ended the year at 32. The fact of these challenges all occurring at once in 2015 revealed the nation's vulnerability in relying on multiple single major sources: whether large-scale hydro for power generation, maize for food and export, or copper for revenues, via a single major buyer - the China market.

Highlights on progress on joined up work. Summarize the three most significant achievements in delivering together for development.

In developing the Partnership Framework, the UN in Zambia focused in 2015 on finding new ways to tackle the high levels of poverty and inequality in Zambia, looking for game changers not business as usual. This led to the formation of new multisectoral Results Groups led by Heads of Agency, developing cross-cutting action plans to contribute step-by-step to the

achievement of the complex outcomes in the Partnership Framework. The Results Groups come together at the Pillar level (Inclusive Social Development; Inclusive and Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development; and Governance and Participation) to verify the continued transformative direction of the workstreams over time, and to ensure cross-linkages between Results Groups. Some issues have been identified as area-based projects where the collective impact of the UN in Zambia working together should make a demonstrable transformative impact. An example is Sustainable Resettlement. The UN partnered with the World Bank and government in an assessment to support local integration of former refugees in Zambia. Based on the study, a coherent multi-sectoral concept - Sustainable Resettlement - is being developed in line with the Partnership Framework rights-based approach and with an emphasis on tackling rural poverty. It will support the transition from humanitarian to long-term development response for former refugees as well as building capacity particularly at the local government level and connecting across to existing communities through a stronger focus on the complexities of rural human settlement, migration and poverty reduction. There will be benefits also for the other resettlements in the country.

i) Support to the national government in the advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and activities related to the 2030 agenda;

2015 continued the UN in Zambia's innovative Partnership approach to programming, built around the SDGs and the principles of universality, indivisibility and leaving no-one behind. The July visit of the UNDG Chair, Helen Clark, and subsequent high level missions from UN Agencies, gave impetus to this approach, reaching out to government, private sector, youth and cooperating partners. This deliberate policy of going beyond traditional channels of cooperation at all levels promoted national ownership and secured high level political commitment to sustainable development and the Partnership approach. Throughout the year, the impact of SDG sensitisation was evident in public speeches, particularly by the President, Vice President and Ministers, on Zambia's emerging priorities for sustainable development, including economic diversification, human capital development, infrastructure development, democracy and good governance, gender equality, social protection and global partnerships.

The UN supported Zambia's strategic engagement in the global SDG process leading up to the Sustainable Development Summit, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Commission on Population and Development and the UN Statistical Commission. Zambia's international position, including the President's statement at the Sustainable Development Summit, High level events co-chaired by Zambia and Zambia's National Voluntary Report to ECOSOC ("From MDGs to SDGs"), were informed by studies and analysis supported by the UNCT. Following SDG sensitisation activities, the National Assembly established a new SDG caucus to hold the executive accountable. The judiciary embarked, with UNDP support, on a major judicial reform process, with SDG16 at its heart.

ii) Support to the national government in integrating a human rights based approach into national development processes

Globally, 2015 was the year of the Rights Revolution, with Heads of State at both the Sustainable Development Summit and COP21 basing the new Agenda 2030 squarely on rights

for the first time. In line with this, the strong human rights-based approach developed through the Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (2016-2021) design process exposed both UN staff and government counterparts to new ways of considering and integrating rights across the whole development agenda driven by the SDGs. The duality of the Partnership Framework rights-based approach deliberately targets in parallel government and institutions as dutybearers, as well as people and communities as rightsholders, with the aim of capacitating each group so that they fully complement each other in achievement of rights through equitable development. This strong focus on stimulating the rightsholders is new and is essential to achieve any level of sustainability and to build a self-propelling methodology of self-development. This Partnership Framework approach and its related country analysis are already feeding into the process to draft the next National Development Plan, which will be finalised after the August elections, enabling finetuning of UN in Zambia support in full alignment with national priorities. In addition, various UN-supported national studies and assessments which provide evidence on inclusive national development are also a significant contribution, including the National Demographic Dividend Study signed by the President, the Situation of Women and Children in Zambia, and sector specific studies.

The new President put an emphasis during the year on a number of rights issues, starting with a pledge in his inaugural speech to deliver the long-awaited revised Constitution. UN support to the Constitution-making process, including circulation of the Braille and regular print versions of the draft, was widely recognised and the UN has been invited to coordinate partner support for the complex implementation phase. The Constitution has progressive elements to strengthen democracy, including introduction of a Presidential running mate system and 50%+1 for the Presidency; fixed election date; and requirement for at least Grade 12 for candidates at all levels. It also enhances judicial independence through direct financing from the Treasury instead of via the Ministry of Justice, and introducing a Constitutional Court and Court of Appeal. It strengthens accountability in the public service, including defence and police.

Gender issues remained a strong focus for support to the government. The new Constitution introduces a Gender Equity and Equality Commission and the matching Gender Equity and Equality Bill, developed with support of the UN and partners, was passed by the National Assembly and awaits assent in 2016. It localises CEDAW, the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa, and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Child Development. Forced and early marriages remain a terrible scourge in Zambia and UN-supported efforts to reduce them included development of an Early Marriage strategy, scaling up community-based interventions and setting up safe spaces for girls at risk of forced and early marriage. Zambia hosted the first African Union African Girls Summit. The pilot Village-led One Stop Shops against GBV also became the natural place to report impending early marriages, enabling the community to intervene promptly. The UN supported the judiciary in the development of the first Fast Track Court in Zambia for Gender Based Violence cases, launched by the Chief Justice and RC in January 2016. Significant support was provided for ensuring birth registration as a core children's right.

UN in Zambia efforts to secure the rights of indigenous people bore fruit in 2015. Following the RC's intervention in 2014 in partnership with the Vice President's Office to produce a documentary on the conditions of the indigenous Batwa people in Luapula Province, the multiple deprivations they suffer were widely discussed across society. Government acted to ensure that the country-wide exercise to renew National Registration Cards (NRCs) included the Batwa. For the first time, they received NRCs enabling them, also for the first time, to get Voter Registration Cards to exercise their political rights. Work to design a sensitive long-term development strategy for the community will continue in 2016.

iii) Progress on preparedness, crisis and Post-crisis transition results achieved in cooperation with UN peacekeeping, peace building, political, and humanitarian actors

Fortunately, Zambia has been a stable and peaceful country since Independence in 1964 and until this year the greatest existential threat people in Zambia had had to face was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Although for years there has been discussion of crop diversification, alternative sources of energy, and economic diversification to break the dependency on copper, it has taken severe pressures across all three sectors concurrently to bring about strategic intent to implement change, and fast. The timely visit of the WFP Executive Director captured this moment of intent and the UN in Zambia will support government in designing a comprehensive national strategy to transform agriculture. This strategy will need to address mechanisation and commercialisation of crops at the smallholder farmer level to have an extended impact and to break the poverty cycle in the rural areas where the majority of people in Zambia live. The close partnership between the Rome-Based Agencies in Zambia has been recognised at HQ-level as a model for cooperation and leaves the UN well-placed to carry out this important strategic support to the country.

The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) in the Office of the Vice President is charged with national coordination and regional (SADC) coordination. Its Vulnerability Assessment Committee is recognised as one of the best in the region and it has, and uses, a good National Contingency Plan. The UN in Zambia works closely with the DMMU and provides support - RC co-chairs the wider Coordination Forum with DMMU and WFP leads at the technical level. The UN in Zambia provided strategic support to government in the development of the National Disaster Management Policy and Operational guide, as well the 2015/2016 National Contingency Plan and related capacity development. In 2016, it is likely that a minimum package of social services including enhanced school-feeding support and integrated health/HIV/GBV related services will be required, as well as relief food distribution particularly in some drought and flash flood-prone areas. Government manages such relief well, with support as required from WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and other partners.

The pressures in the mining sector also have a direct impact on poverty with increased numbers losing their jobs and livelihoods. The government's policy to address this is linked to the agricultural diversification concept, with new resettlements being planned for the former miners, incentivised by giving them land title. The UN in Zambia will support these agricultural settlements in part as poverty reduction but also as local conflict prevention: the Copperbelt is one of the most volatile regions in the country, where sporadic civil violence and unrest stand out in comparison with other parts of Zambia.

Results of joined up approaches: To illustrate the impact of joined up work, describe the results of joined up approaches of the UNCT.

The 2011-2015 UNDAF which has just ended was based around Joint Programmes. These produced significant results in a number of sectors. Zambia recorded a 54% decrease in maternal mortality resulting from significant investments and development partnerships by the UN Joint programmes, in collaboration with government and national partners. The increased awareness and focus on adolescent and youth development issues gained momentum through the concerted contributions of Joint UN investments in evidence-based development programmes for in and out of school youth on teenage pregnancies, child marriages, girl child education and so forth.

There have been significant inroads in the health sector partner coordination. The UN in Zambia now has permanent membership in the troika that oversees the interactions between donors and government, giving the UN a broad leadership role. The UN-supported rapid assessment of the health sector realignment (introduced in 2012) found the realignment itself to have been innovative and relevant. However, it also found that the desired strengthening of community engagement in health delivery through improved implementation of primary health care services and disease outbreak responsiveness had not been achieved. The decentralisation of health services from Ministry of Health to Ministry of Local Government introduced in 2015 will need to take this into account, ensuring sufficient preparation.

The Joint Gender Team has registered significant impact including through the Zambia HeForShe campaign, launched by the President and Helen Clark in July 2015; the launch of the first Fast Track Court in Zambia for Gender Based Violence cases; the piloting and roll out of village-led One Stop Shops against Gender Based Violence; the passage of the Gender Equity and Equality Act and the inclusion of a Gender Equity and Equality Commission in the new Constitution.

i) Highlight new partnerships formed in 2015

2015 was a year for establishing a fundamentally new model of partnership for the UN in Zambia. The concept was developed throughout the Partnership Framework design phase with government counterparts, youth, private sector and cooperating partners. Work with government at provincial, district and community levels, and through traditional leaders, reinforced the dual human rights-based approach. Government restructuring of several Ministries during 2015 including crucially the establishment of a new Ministry for National Planning under the Office of the Vice President, led to strengthened partnerships. Support for the National Youth Policy, its corresponding national action plan and a targeted Youth Empowerment Action Plan, as well as cross-UN support for a pilot youth resettlement scheme, built a particularly strong partnership. The UN YouthSWAp set up a Youth Partnership Platform to come into operation in 2016 as a core mechanism for engaging youth - 82% of the population is under 35, making this a key group for partnership.

Outreach to the private sector has seen a good response, both from mining companies who would like their corporate social responsibility efforts to be more in line with mainstream

sustainable development; and from agribusiness who see an urgent need for a coherent joined-up approach to crop diversification, mechanisation, value addition and trade, especially in light of the El Nino effect. Outreach activities with the private sector in Zambia have also included wider advocacy on the SDGs, including a platform on Business and Human Rights, as well as Zambia HeForShe campaign sessions with business leaders. An exciting new partnership is with global philanthropy and the next SDG Philanthropy Platform will open in Zambia in 2016.

ii) Highlight results of joint resource mobilization where possible

2015 has also been the year of developing the new Investment Approach for the Partnership Framework and the launch of the SDGs was an opportunity to partner with the private sector in Zambia to raise the profile. For the Partnership Framework, the idea of joint investment means first identifying shared interest at the strategy and planning phase. Investment may be direct funding or it may be technical assistance, knowledge or political capital. The key point is that the investment is made deliberately, in line with an investment plan and business case, with clear expected returns. The returns are not monetarised profit but steps toward achieving transformation - of a sector such as agribusiness or mining - with the aim of achieving more decent jobs, reducing poverty and vulnerability, and increasing resilience.

A significant area of work in preparation for joint investment in 2016 has been the new Sustainable Resettlement strategy to transition the integration of former Angolan refugees from a humanitarian to a long term development approach. The two new resettlements, which are to be 50-50 former refugee and Zambian, as well as a youth resettlement scheme, will showcase the strength of a combined sustainable development approach by the UN in Zambia, in support of government and its new Resettlement Policy under the Office of the Vice President.

Outreach to the philanthropic world resulted in agreement at the SDG Summit for Zambia to be in the first wave of rolling out the new SDG Philanthropy Platform. This exciting new development aims to raise awareness among philanthropy about opportunities to engage in sustainable development work in Zambia, in a deliberate move away from the traditional philanthropic approach. It brings USD 2 million initial investment.

In 2015, the UN Health Agencies (UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF) jointly mobilised USD7 million from the RMNCH Fund to support Zambia's country implementation of the Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescent's Health, towards improving health outcomes, especially for marginalised populations and underserved communities.

iii) Highlight innovations in programme and operations to address key development challenges

The new Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework 2016-2021 ("the Partnership Framework") was signed by the Vice President and authorised by the President, signifying the highest level of political and leadership commitment to the partnership. The Partnership Framework fully reflects the high ambition of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and takes a strong Human Rights Based Approach, focusing both on

institutions and on rightsholders. It is innovative, shifting the focus from sectoral to multi-sectoral and from development assistance to partnership, reflecting both that Zambia is a lower middle-income country and that the complexity of the SDGs requires multisectorality. A further innovation is the establishment of a Governance and Participation Pillar both to address issues relating to SDG16 on rule of law and access to justice, and to underpin the other two Pillars: Inclusive Social Development and Inclusive and Environmentally Friendly Economic Development.

The Partnership Framework requires significantly strengthened Delivering as One commitment from agencies and reflects the collective aspiration of the UN in Zambia and the government to transform the development status of the country. This is now happening in country though there remain challenges at HQ level because of lack of harmonisation of agency systems and processes. The complex SDG-related outcomes in the Partnership Framework have led to the establishment of innovative multisectoral Results Groups, each led by a Head of Agency bringing true leadership rather than a technical approach because of the multisectoral nature of the Results Groups. The strategic strength of this approach is recognised by cooperating partners, including non-traditional partners, and the new joint investment case style of funding will bring a more mature outcome-focused business orientation. The flexibility of the Annual Joint Work Plans will enable government and the UN in Zambia to assess and realign as required after the 2016 elections, within the overall context of Zambia's identified and agreed development needs and the high level strategic outcomes in the Partnership Framework.

A strengthened partnership with China was established in 2015, through a South-South triangular project and through an innovative secondment of a Chinese official into the UN in Zambia to share experience on development cooperation which is leading to innovative collaboration in stimulating the solar energy industry and market.

Upcoming opportunities for 2016: Indicate potential opportunities for the UN Country Team to support national partners in development policy and programme development

The effect of the August 2016 general elections is already evident and is both a challenge and an opportunity in programme implementation, as are various decisions such as restructuring government Ministries, introducing a decentralisation policy and pushing civil service reform where only limited impact was seen in 2015. Zambia chairs the African Association for Public Administration and Management (2016-2018) and is pushing a strong reform agenda, which is an opportunity for the UN to support coherent reform.

Implementation of Zambia's new Constitution is an extensive piece of work that will include judicial reform, broad legislative revision and structural and procedural change on ministries and other institutions. Mindset change will also be needed. Government has asked the UNRC to coordinate partner support for the process. Consequential changes relating to the elections will need rapid support: a new Electoral Support project will enable this as well as focusing on key areas such as rights-based policing of campaign and election activities and strengthening media. The Government has also requested UN support for the establishment of new government structures, including the Ministry of National Planning, which leads the process for drafting the next National Development Plan. The President has already announced that the next National Development Plan will fully localise the SDGs and the UN will be fully involved in that process.

The El Nino effect has produced a major opportunity for the country to transform. It revealed the nation's vulnerability in relying on multiple single major sources: whether large-scale hydro for power generation, maize for food and export, or copper for revenues, via a single major buyer - the China market. The UN in Zambia is well-placed to support agricultural business transformation: crop diversification, shift of major growing areas corresponding to changed rainfall patterns, greater use of water harvesting and irrigation, market stimulation including reform of the maize market. Under the governance pillar, support can be provided with other partners in the areas related to enabling trade, including through the LLDC processes and the new Tripartite Free Trade Area. Diversification in the power sector is also on the UN radar, including building on the pilot South-South solar technology transfer project with China, and other innovations such as the UNDP Solar for Health project. For the mining sector, the new Extractives workstream will bring together different stakeholders to look more comprehensively at the wider socio-economic impact of changes in the mining industry, particularly in respect of job losses. Through the Inclusive Social Development Pillar, the UN's support will significantly advance effective and efficient integrated social service delivery approaches that leverage the inter-linkages between health, education, nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, as well as equitable social protection mechanisms. In all areas, the dual rights-based approach in the Partnership Framework requires buy in at the individual and community level, not only government and institutions, aiming to build in sustainability and resilience through all interventions.

The UN in Zambia strongly supported the government's preparations for COP21, including the INDP and National Action Plan, as well as numerous policies and legislation: eg Forest Act; Wildlife Act; Climate Change Policy. Zambia's REDD strategy will be launched in early 2016 and the UN will support the government in raising investment for implementation from Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) as well as from cooperating partners. The UN will also support the establishment of the permanent Climate Change Secretariat under the new Ministry of National Planning, which is an opportunity to strengthen coherence across government.

Implementation of the Partnership Framework is itself an opportunity to introduce new ways of working across the UN and with the government and other partners. The rights-based and multisectoral partnership approach requires development of new tools, including the Matrix of Transformation to outline specific outputs for the entire period of the Partnership Framework; a compelling Joint Investment Plan to draw investments from public and private sectors, both national and international; a Joint Annual Work Plan; and a comprehensive Communications Strategy and Plan.

Among Zambia's membership of boards of various international bodies, its appointment to co-chair the UN High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS in June 2016 is notable and is an opportunity for the UN to influence through supporting the government's activities to coordinate the process within the country and globally.