



UNITED NATIONS  
ZAMBIA



# NEWS LETTER



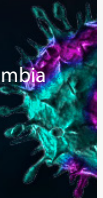
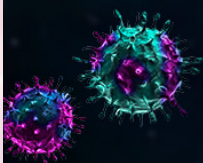
# TOGETHER WE CAN



**PONTIANO KAICHE | MAUREEN LILANDA | MACKY2 | WEZI | CHEF 187**

Together We Can' is brought to you by (Macky 2, Chef 187, Maureen Lupo Lilanda, Wezi & Pontiano Kaiche)  
working with the Ministry of Health and supported by UNICEF as part of the United Nations campaign to  
fight the coronavirus disease in Zambia.

UNICEF/Zambia



MINISTRY OF HEALTH



# INSIDE

**P2** Zambia Presents First Voluntary National Review

**P4** Refugee Youth Receive Lapidary Training

**P8** Zambian Artists and UN say "Together We Can Fight COVID-19"

**P15** Zambia Integrated Social Protection System Launched

**P17** UN Agencies Join Hands in Supporting Correctional Service Fight COVID-19

# UN Zambia Supports Government on Voluntary National Review



The UN in Zambia, delivering as one, is supporting the Government of the Republic of Zambia to prepare for the Voluntary National Review (VNR), a critical component for implementation of the 2030 Agenda where governments report on their progress on the implementation of the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VNR will this year be held virtually. The HLPF on SDGs accords Member States opportunities to showcase their achievements, challenges and lessons learnt on how they are implementing SDGs. The VNRs are also intended to track progress on the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

This will be the first VNR by Zambia. The 2020 HLPF will give Zambia an opportunity to showcase its strategies to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as espoused in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP), including but not limited to the achievements, lessons learned, and challenges faced in the implementation of the SDGs.

In the past five years, Zambia has been implementing the SDGs, whilst at the same time laying a sound foundation for their smooth implementation. Despite, the country not having earlier reported on progress made so far at the HLPF, a lot has been done with regards to SDGs. Zambia has adequately mainstreamed SDGs (86%) into its current national development plan, which is the 7NDP, and hence, is implementing SDGs together with other programmes in the Plan using the same institutional arrangements i.e. National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC), Provincial Development Coordinating Committee (PDCC), District, and Ward Development Coordinating Committee.

UN Resident Coordinator Dr Coumba Mar Gadio notes the importance of the VNR process.

“The VNR is an important and timely opportunity for Zambia to showcase progress on implementing national development programmes as well as the SDGs. As we know, the core principles of the Agenda 2030 include Universality, Leave No-One Behind (LNOB), Interconnectedness and Indivisibility, Inclusiveness and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships. To actualise these principles by 2030, member states need to follow-up on and review implementation of the SDGs contained therein,” said Dr Gadio.

The Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. It recognises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries

and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, are called upon to implement this plan. The United Nations in Zambia is determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, leaving no one behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

At the global level, the 17 SDGs and 169 targets of the Agenda 2030 are monitored and reviewed using a set of global indicators. At national level SDGs are monitored through National SDGs reports (NSDGR) and VNRs. The VNR and SDGR are complementary in that both are analysis of country-level experience, successes, challenges and lesson learned on the implementation of the Agenda 2030. Both VNR and SDGR are built on multi-stakeholder engagement and rely on the input of quality data.

The overall VNR process includes national consultation processes, regional meetings, main messages summarizing countries’ key findings, as well as the presentation of the report at the HLPF. VNRs are not conceptualized as an accountability mechanism among states; rather, the aim is to strengthen accountability to citizens as well as to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned.



# REFUGEE YOUTH EMPOWERED WITH LAPIDARY TRAINING

Edidia Banza, a 19-year-old Congolese refugee, will soon be one of the few specialized lapidarists in Zambia thanks to partnership between UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and Jewel of Africa to accommodate refugees under apprenticeship program. The partnership promotes the education of both Zambians and refugee youth in the arts of lapidary.



Lapidary is a profession which specializes in sorting, grading, cutting, polishing and designing uncut stones, mainly gemstones, into finished products for sale to the public in Zambia and overseas. Jewel of Africa, a Zambian company, produces beautiful jewels with different types of precious stones extracted from the local mines in Zambia and neighbouring countries.

With over 87,000 persons of concern to UNHCR in Zambia (refugees, asylum-

seekers and new permanent residents), there are economic vulnerabilities predominant in the refugee settlements that place youth at risks of not undertaking viable livelihoods activities.

Edidia, under the auspices of UNHCR, is one of the five youth (refugees and Zambians) who have been granted a three-month apprenticeship by Jewel of Africa. This symbiotic venture will educate deserving youth while nurturing a cadre of professional lapidary artisans, of which only few are

in Zambia.

"I like this course and am very excited to learn how to process stones," said Edidia, while tailoring a gemstone at the "Jewel of Africa" workshop in Lusaka.

Another apprentice, David William, 22, a Burundian refugee, thanked UNHCR and "Jewel of Africa" for the opportunity he has to be trained in lapidary. "This is an opportunity

which I've embraced, and hope will help me in future," said David, in a thoughtful demeanor.

Dr., Rajnish Sharma, Managing Director of the Jewel of Africa, explained that the idea behind the apprenticeship was to address the need to groom local expertise in the specialized field of lapidary. "To build local artisanal skills, we started the apprenticeship programme for Zambians. After meeting with UNHCR, we agreed to incorporate refugees in addition to Zambians. Zambia has been hospitable to refugees for many years. In this regard, Jewel of Africa is supporting the government by providing vocational skills to both Zambians and refugees," said Dr. Sharma.

"The opportunity equips benefiting youth with unique employable and practical skills. UNHCR is looking forward to work with other private sector entities to offer practical solutions to the many unemployed youth," explained UNHCR's Livelihoods Officer George Omondi Oduor.

The apprentices are trained by expert lapidarists. Dr. Sharma is optimistic that the most promising apprentices will be offered employment by Jewel of Africa, while others will be empowered to use their training to undertake personal ventures in jewelry.

Jewel of Africa will be giving opportunities to future cohorts of youth following the completion of this cohort's apprenticeships. It is expected that up to 20 youth will have benefited from this apprenticeship by the end of 2020.

UNHCR Representative, Ms. Pierrine Aylara, made it clear that a significant number of the refugee population in Zambia is composed of youth aged 17-35 who are left idle due to lack of opportunities to help them build resilience. Hence, the Representative applauds the opportunities provided to the youth by Jewel of Africa. "I wish to appeal to the corporate world to consider partnering with UNHCR to ensure that refugees and others of concern are incorporated into employment and livelihoods

opportunities wherever they are. This way, seeing as 34% of the refugee population in Zambia is aged 17-35 years old, they can meaningfully contribute to Zambia's economic agenda and become proud agents of the society," said Ms. Aylara.

Building a global African jewellery business which puts world-class expertise at the top of its priorities is a mission on which Jewel of Africa never compromises. For 28 years as a family business, Jewel of Africa places great emphasis on practicing an honest work ethic which will stand the test of time.



# Reinforcing COLLABORATION with COMESA



The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) staff met with their Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) counterparts as part of initiatives towards strengthening collaboration between the two institutions. The officials deliberated on the work of the two organizations and identified priority areas for collaboration to broadly include, industrialization, the African Continental Free Trade Area, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and Private Sector Development. The ECA SRO-SA Officer-in-Charge, Sizomhlenga emphasized the need for the

two organisations to collaborate closely in support of regional integration initiatives in Southern Africa. He chronicled the various areas of technical support to COMESA by ECA noting that current efforts towards the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area required collaboration with member States and COMESA.

COMESA was represented by Mr. Joe Okwir (Agricultural Economist, Industry and Agriculture) and Mr. Joseph Mpunga (Senior Investment Promotion Officer, Private Sector Development). The COMESA team identified one of the priority support areas as that of a feasibility study on establishing and managing a common

agro-industrial park between Zambia and Zimbabwe. This would include an assessment of potential challenges and opportunities for industrial synergies and investment linkages for targeted agricultural value chains integration and development. Overall, the agro-industrial park was expected to enhance agro-industrial productivity and competitiveness by promoting linkages among agro-industries and other economic sectors including MSMEs.

The meeting discussed other areas of collaboration including undertaking studies for establishment of a regional platform for buyer-seller linkages for MSMEs including women and youth owned SMEs dealing in regional value chains; carrying out benchmarking exercises to obtain best practices including laws and regulations on investment in green technologies and cleaner production at national and regional levels; conducting a study on the feasibility of establishing national

and regional entrepreneurship centres of excellence and innovation for business and industrial development particularly for MSMEs; supporting the domestication and implementation of the COMESA Common Investment Area in member states as a regional framework for harmonizing the ease-of-doing business environment and supporting the development of a regional policy framework to guide mineral exploitation and beneficiation in the region. The meeting agreed that

detailed project documents would be drafted once the projects were prioritised.

Mr. Sizo Mhlanga reassured the COMESA team of ECA's support in various activities leading to socio-economic development of our member States.



# Major Zambian artists and the UN say “Together We Can” stop the coronavirus disease



To share messaging around COVID-19, artists Macky2, Chef187, Maureen Lupo Lilanda, Wezi and Pontiano teamed up with the Ministry of Health and the United Nations in a song to encourage Zambians to protect themselves and their communities.

The release of the track, entitled ‘Together We Can’, on 30 March formed part of the Ministry of Health’s efforts to sensitise the public to wash hands regularly with soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizers, to maintain physical distancing and to call 909 if they think they have the symptoms. The initiative, led by UNICEF, brought together a mix of musical styles and a mix of languages, with messages given in Bemba, English, Kaonde, Lozi, Nyanja, and Tonga. The music video, released on 7 April, featured the Honourable Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, the UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio, and staff from a variety of UN agencies, including the country representatives of UNICEF and WHO, Ms. Nora Skinner and Dr. Nathan Bakyaita respectively. The video, released on 7 April, also included television soap star Mr Nguzu and national football captain Barbra Banda. In the three months since its release, independent audience data from Brandcomm show the song reached an audience of 1.6 million people in Zambia, with

frequent airplay on DSTV, ZNBC, Hot FM, Phoenix, QFM, Komboni Radio and close to 50 community radio stations. Offline, the song has been used on PA trucks during community sensitisation and has been played in a variety of stores including Shoprite and Pick n Pay.

The song was part of wider UN efforts on Risk Communication and Community Engagement around COVID-19. A national billboard campaign with vernacular messages is featuring in more than 20 cities and towns across the country, while t-shirts, chitenges and more than 300,000 posters have been printed through UNICEF support.



# UNHABITAT



Under the UN-Zambia joint programme , Promoting Human Security through Sustainable Resettlement Programme in two resettlement schemes located near the refugee settlements of Mayukwayukwa (Kaoma District, Western Province) and Meheba (Kalumbila District, North-Western Province), UN-Habitat carried out activities with funding from UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and co-ordination of UNDP working closely with the Department of Resettlement (DoR) in the office of the Vice President.

The overall goal of the programme is that, by 2021, communities living in the targeted resettlement schemes are cohesive, productive, sustainable and fully integrated into development at all levels. The overall goal of the programme is to address inter-related insecurities through supporting the national and local governments as duty-bearers to carry out their protection mandate and empowering the resettlement communities to claim their full rights as residents in Zambia, while promoting peaceful co-existence.

UN-Habitat contributed mainly to two key objectives of the programme:

- a. Government at national and sub-national level undertake inclusive and participatory planning and governance processes that incorporate the targeted resettlement schemes.
- b. Communities in and around the targeted resettlement schemes have access to social services and sustainable economic opportunities.

Capacity building of Ward Area development committee (WDCs) in both settlements. This will enable effective participation of community members in the wards and schemes in government planning and governance through local governance systems integrated at district level and ensure sustainability of development interventions. In collaboration with Kaoma and Kalumbila Towns councils, trainings for WDCs were conducted for Mushwala and Kapili wards of Mayukwayukwa in Kaoma; and four wards that covers Meheba namely shilenda, Mwajimambwe, Mumena and Matebo in Kalumbila.



Capacity building of community in the construction of cost effective housing using Local materials: To ensure that the settlers in the targeted schemes are trained and supported to be able to construct their own houses using locally available material, ensuring that the most vulnerable are targeted and that shelter is promoted in a sustainable manner. For this outcome, UN-Habitat collaborated with the Local implementing partner (IP) called Peoples' Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia (PPHPZ) and its affiliate Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation (ZHPPF).

This capacity building Model of community in constructing own homes on a sustainable basis is founded on training women in Housing co-operatives in this green technology to build cost effective housing units in climate friendly way. The trained co-operatives then provide the service to the rest of the community members on a demand driven basis. Two main activities were sensitisation and mobilisation; and capacity building of Housing co-operatives constituting mainly women in using local materials to build their own homes.

The co-operative members, who are mostly women, were trained to make inter-locking soil stabilized bricks (SSBs) using local soils.

The training involved the selection of proper soils, preparation of the soils, and the production of the inter-locking SSBs. Two types of machines were used:

the diesel driven hydraulic hydra-form brick making machine and the manual brick making machine.

The women underwent the hands-on training in operating both machines and are able to competently and confidently operate the manual machine.

Further to making bricks the community members were trained housing construction through all the stages from foundation trenching, substructure and superstructure erection to roofing. For demonstration purposes and in order to develop complete skill and capacity in building low cost but quality housing from local materials, five (5) demonstration two-roomed incremental housing units were built, 3 in Meheba and 2 in Mayukwayukwa.



## Assessing the COVID-19 National and Regional Responses

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Regional Office's (SRO-SA) presented a report on the COVID-19 landscape in Southern Africa in terms of the impacts and the national and regional responses to the pandemic at a Virtual Meeting convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the 13th of May 2020.

The presenter highlighted that up-to May 12, 2020, over half a million regional citizens had been tested and of these 2.4 percent had tested positive and 1.8 percent of the positive cases had succumbed to the pandemic. He however alluded to the fluid nature of the numbers noting the recent surge as mass testing was introduced in regional member States. SRO-SA attributed the high number of positive cases in South Africa to a more widespread testing strategy compared to the rest of the region. As of 13th May 2020, South Africa accounted for over 90 percent of the cases in the region and Eswatini had the lowest recovery rate at 15 percent.

SRO-SA highlighted that the adverse impacts of the pandemic in the region were being transmitted through the falling prices of key commodities such as oil and minerals noting that the region's commodity export dependence in the face of declining growth in the major export markets of China, the European Union and the United States will undermine economic growth. Consequently, the regional economy was expected to contract by 3.4 percent in 2020 from an initial expected growth of 2.8 percent. The tourism sector, a key contributor to the economies of Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe will also contribute to the worsening economic situation in the region. Indebtedness is expected to breach the threshold of 60 percent of GDP to reach 70 percent, deficits will widen to 9 percent of GDP, inflation is expected to rise and the regional macroeconomic convergence criteria will be missed. The closure of borders in a highly informalized region with high cross border trade has precipitated unemployment, especially amongst women and the youth. The health sector characterized by low investment in health infrastructure per capita, limited health facilities, low levels of universal health coverage, low numbers of doctors, critical shortage of medical equipment and high levels of HIV/AIDS prevalence will be further undermined by the diversion of resources to fight COVID-19.

The presentation alluded to the various national strategies that had so far been deployed by member States to address the adverse impacts of COVID-19 including fiscal and monetary stimulus measures, the introduction of travel restrictions, lockdowns and quarantine regulations, the removal of import duties on medical supplies needed to fight COVID-19 and the introduction of mass testing. Recently, countries had been slowly easing the lockdowns restrictions, albeit in an uncoordinated manner. The presenter alluded to efforts at regional level, through the SADC Secretariat to contain the virus including through coordinated transit facilitation, allowing the smooth passage of medical supplies, food and fuel across the borders, evoking the regional procurement of medicines and supplies strategy and the acceleration of the alignment of national COVID-19 response measures to the regional guidelines including those on the quality of quarantine facilities and services. SRO-SA emphasized the importance of strengthening the ongoing collaboration amongst member States through policy harmonization and information sharing in fighting the trans-boundary spread of the pandemic. Furthermore, supporting micro, small and medium enterprises should be part of the anchor strategies for growing the regional pharmaceuticals sector value chains going forward.

## Reporting on COVID-19 in Southern Africa

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) participated in a webinar on April 21, 2020, on the role of the media and communication professionals in the global response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The meeting was organised by the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Southern Africa Cluster Office. In the opening presentation, Dr. Michael Charles, Head of Cluster, IFRC advised that the objective of the webinar was to: provide a platform for media to engage with communication experts working on the COVID-19 outbreak in Southern Africa and discuss the challenges to accurate reporting. He noted that in the face of the pandemic, the media should provide public reassurance, promote calmness and motivate people to act to protect themselves and their communities.

He outlined the challenges faced by media practitioners and communication experts in reporting on COVID-19 in Southern Africa. "We are in uncharted ground, we need to be accurate and innovative in our reporting to help defeat the disease," he said. Other presentations were delivered by representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Internews and BBC Media Action.



Dr Suvajee Good, WHO, Programme Manager, spoke about the role of journalists during the crisis and explained that the COVID-19 outbreak and response has been accompanied by a massive 'infodemic' – an over-abundance of information – some accurate and some not – that rendered it a challenge for people to access trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it. She noted that a lot of messaging had been global in nature, and had little relevance to the Southern African context, cultural practices and the socio-economic challenges that the region faced. "We have to understand the power of media who can help to create the norms of health hygiene, lets advocate for positive change," she added.

Ms. Patricia Sinyangwe, Project Manager, BBC Media Action, Zambia complemented the presentation on the role of the media by emphasizing that it was no longer business as usual for journalists reporting during the pandemic. She advised that journalists must help the population by also telling positive, inspiring stories and sharing experiences and not just giving numbers.

Ms. Ida Jooste, Global Health Media Adviser with Internews spoke about COVID-19 misinformation and stigma emphasizing that media organisations had an important role to play in closing the information gaps, countering incorrect information and destigmatising people affected by COVID-19. She advised that the most important way for communication experts to reach their audience was through sending out accurate information to counter rumours and packaging information in a way that helped audiences understand the message better. She called on Journalists to remember that, "COVID-19 is science, its global but It's is also local and it's about lives, communication matters and we can save lives," hence reports should be couched with this understanding.

Dr. Petronella Mugoni, the Community Engagement and Accountability focal point for IFRC closed the meeting with a presentation on risk communication and community engagement in Southern Africa and warned that the lack of accurate and appropriate information had resulted in misunderstandings and misinformation proliferating across mass and social media platforms and throughout various communities. This had resulted in indifference, ignorance, anxiety and confusion all of which put people at unnecessary risk and increased the stigma towards people affected by COVID-19.

In the ensuing question and answer session, the meeting concluded that in a public health emergency of this kind, media could also play a role beyond its typical function of holding those in power accountable, contribute to providing reassurance, promoting calm and motivating people to act to protect themselves and their communities, through the ongoing dissemination of accurate and appropriate information. This could potentially save lives.

## ECA Coordinated Integrated Health Regional Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) contributed to the brain storming virtual meeting on the Regional Impacts and Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Imperatives for Accelerated Health Integration in Africa through a presentation on the situation in Southern Africa.

The meeting sought to come up with regional-based solutions for addressing continental pandemics such as COVID-19 through health integration and coordinated actions in Africa. The meeting, chaired by the ECA Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD), brought together other ECA Divisions, the five ECA sub-regional offices and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) from across the continent including, the representative of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Monetary Union (AMU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The ECA RITD Director, Stephen Karingi, presented the effects of COVID-19 on African countries and indicated that in Southern Africa, South Africa with the highest cases of COVID-19, has been the worst affected so far and Mauritius has suffered due to dependence on the service industry, mainly tourism. He called on the importance of leveraging on the UNECA-led AfCFTA-anchored Pharmaceuticals Initiative, which is proof of the concept of integrated health integration in Africa. He advised that, "Initially commissioned in 10 select pilot African countries and with a focus on maternal and child health care products, the initiative



has a 3-pronged approach of pooled procurement, localized production and harmonized regulatory and quality standards.”

SRO-SA Economic Affairs Officer, Oliver Maponga, presented a brief on Southern Africa on regional impacts and responses to the COVID-19 including health and integration perspectives. The presentation provided an analysis of how the pandemic had affected the 11 countries served by SRO-SA: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mr. Maponga emphasized that, “the high number of positive cases in South Africa can be attributed to more widespread testing strategy compared to the rest of the region. South Africa accounted for over 90 percent of the cases in the region and Eswatini had the lowest recovery rate at 15 percent.” He alluded to the impacts of the pandemic on regional growth, macro-economic convergence, industry and trade, employment, cross border trade and the health sector.

The COMESA Director of Trade and Customs, Dr. Christopher Hugh Onyango, appreciated the role of ECA in organizing a meeting of this nature to deliberate on health sector strategies on the continent in the face of the pandemic. He indicated that COMESA supported initiatives of enhancing the local production of ventilators, disinfectors, masks and other medical supplies in Africa.

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), was represented by Mr. Sadwick Mtonakutha, Director, Finance, Investment and Customs who informed the meeting that, as at 13th May 2020, SADC had over 500,000 regional citizens tested and of these 13,331 had tested positive with 248 deaths. He outlined the different measures being taken by SADC to counter the crisis such as: high level meetings with member States’ Health Ministers and Permanent Secretaries to prepare a common response aligned with World Health Organisation measures; ensuring that countries put in place screening and voluntary quarantine on arrival; and mass media and radio sensitization messages to promote hand washing and social distance behavior and implementation of SADC guidelines on cross border for movement of goods and services. He applauded member States in SADC for the high level of compliance to proposed safety standards.

Mr. Francis Nguendi Ikome, Chief, RITD, indicated that the suggested imperatives for accelerated health integration in Africa and recommendations from the meeting would contribute to one of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 that of achieving “A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development and to realize this, one of the goals is expanding access to quality healthcare services, particularly to women and girls to ensure healthy and well-nourished citizens.”

The meeting agreed that the crisis had exposed the vulnerability of African health systems, but recognized progress made through; “the Africa Health Strategy, the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the African Medicines Agency, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, the African Union Model Law on medical Products Regulation, and the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Program Initiative at the continental level; as well as REC-level health initiatives and agencies like the EAC Regional Contingency Plan for Epidemics, the West African Health Organization, and the SADC Protocol on Health.” As the way forward, the meeting called on regional cooperation and coordination as key to managing both the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 and any future pandemic on the continent, including in exiting the current economic lockdown measures and the reopening of economies.

## SRO-SA to Implement 12th Tranche Project of the UN Development account

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) will implement a United Nations Development Account-financed (UNDA) project on Promotion and implementation of regional and national industrialization policies for inclusive and sustainable development in Southern Africa. The project, which will run from January 2020 to June 2023 and funded under the 12th Tranche of the UNDA, seeks to support industrialization in Southern Africa.

The 12th Tranche project, though targeting three countries for direct support, will benefit all the 11 (eleven) countries in Southern Africa served by SRO-SA (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe). All member States will participate in project activities including meetings and workshops to facilitate collective learning on policy harmonization to ensure a level policy field across all member States to facilitate the movement of capital and labour and the development of value chains. The harmonized policy environment will ensure that member States align with both the COMESA and SADC industrialization aspirations as elaborated in the respective policies and implementation plans.



This project aims to accelerate the pace of industrial development and economic integration in Southern Africa by enhancing the capacity of regional member States to develop and implement harmonized natural-resource based industrialization policies, frameworks and strategies aligned to the regional frameworks. This will anchor the growth of regional value chains as drivers of economic transformation in Southern Africa.

This objective is to be realized through:

- Technical support to regional member States in the development of harmonized natural-resources-based industrialization policies, legal and regulatory frameworks aligned to the SADC and COMESA aspirations;
- Capacity building for the development of effective national implementation plans for the industrialization policies and strategies; and
- Support to the active participation of the private sector and micro, small and medium scale enterprises in industrialization and value chains development.

Overall, the project will help member States address the gaps between the national and regional industrialization frameworks, develop the requisite implementation frameworks and capacities while facilitating policy harmonization across the region. The implementation of the project will coordinate and fast-track processes already underway to harmonize policies and accelerate industrial development. Activities under the project will include; studies on regional harmonization, private sector development, technical support to member States and workshops and expert's meetings.

The project will be implemented by SRO-SA in collaboration with member States, SADC and COMESA Secretariats, African Union Commission Sub regional Office for Southern Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Resident Coordinators offices in the selected countries.

# WEAR A MASK



# ZAMBIA INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM LAUNCHED

.....system to enhance efficiency and minimise costs



The United Nations has commended the Zambian government for embracing systems that are efficient and effective in the implementation of pro-poor programmes.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Zambia Country Representative Dr George Okech has observed that embracing of the Zambia Integrated Social Protection System (ZISPIS) by the Zambian Government was a bold step that would enhance efficiency and cost minimisation in implementation

of Social Protection programmes in the country.

The system has been developed with financial and technical support from FAO and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) working with government through Smart Zambia Institute and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS).

Speaking during the national launch of ZISPIS in Chililabombwe, Dr. Okech emphasised the need for the

system to integrate various stand-alone programmes managing Social Protection in the country.

“The system functionalities go beyond the social cash transfer as it is capable of managing other social protection programmes particularly the Food Security Pack (FSP) where targeted beneficiaries receive agricultural input support,” he observed.

“Such dynamism in functionalities and integrations with other service providers offers a unique opportunity

for the government to integrate and link the various systems and mechanisms that are being used to manage various social protection programmes in the country.”

Dr. Okech explained that one of FAO’s strategic goals in the country is to support improvement and enhancement of national systems, such as ZISPIS, that support efficient delivery of national programmes aimed at reducing poverty and enhance broad based growth.

He added that the roll out was a demonstration of how strong collaboration between the government and United Nations could be instrumental in solving challenges faced by the Zambian population.

Dr. Okech highlighted the strong collaboration demonstrated by UNICEF and FAO delivering as one to support the development and roll out the system alongside the respective government counterparts.

Zambia’s Minister of Community Development and Social Services Kampamba Chewe expressed hope that the newly launched online based Social Cash Transfer payment system would enhance efficiency in the delivery of social cash transfers to the needy in the country.

Ms. Chewe, who was guest of Honour at the launch of ZISPIS, said the system will first be piloted in 17 districts and will later be rolled out to the whole country.

She added that the system was a great milestone for the government towards the efficient and effective delivery of social cash transfers to the most needy in the country.

“The system tracks payment from end-to-end, which is aimed at ensuring that payments reach the intended beneficiaries and offering an opportunity for my ministry to observe and track what is happening in the system,” Ms. Chewe said.

She explained that the new system has



brought on board payment service providers that include banks and mobile network operators in order to ensure timely and consistent payments to intended beneficiaries.

Ms. Chewe observed that the system is timely as technological advancement is at the core of national development.

Zambia’s Finance Minister Bwalya Ng’andu observed that the online payment system will enhance transparency and help to address the malpractices in the implementation of the Social Cash Transfer programme.

He explained that the system will be replicated to other programmes where the Zambian government pays out money.

“I think with this, we will improve overall the way this government manages money because we have the duty and responsibility of making sure that we account for it, and now we rely on technology to help us to do this and I think we will do a good job,” observed Dr. Ng’andu.

And UNICEF Zambia Deputy Representative Shadrack Omol said that under the United Nations joint programme, a total of 12 million dollars will be invested over the next three years to strengthen the system, provide emergency cash transfers, mainstream disability support and advocate to regular and predictable funding.

Mr. Omol believes that with collective and individual actions, Zambia will have a strong fully functional and dependable social cash transfer programme that will support country’s national vision of being proud and free.

The United Nations commended Government, in particular, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and Smart Zambia Institute for the leadership, courage and determination to conceptualise the system leading to the national launch.



# UN Zambia presents COVID-19 supplies and Maternity Medical Equipment to the Zambia Correctional Service



**T**he Zambia Correctional Service is one of the National Security wings established under Article 193 of the Constitution Amendment Act no.2 of 2016. The Service is mandated to manage and control all prisons and correctional centres in the country. Mukobeko Maximum Correctional facility located in Kabwe is one of those facilities managed by the Zambia Correctional Services.

The United Nations system, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), presented Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to the Zambia Correctional Service for use by inmates who constitute one of the vulnerable groups in society.

UNODC Zambia HIV Prevention Officer Dr Mujinga Ngonga handed over the materials to Deputy Commissioner General, Mr. Lloyd Chilundika on behalf of the Commissioner General

for Zambia Correctional Service, Dr Chisela Chileshe, at Mukobeko Maximum Correctional Facility on 22 May, 2020. UNAIDS contributed by providing funding for the COVID-19 PPE and IEC materials valued at USD23,000.

“UNODC is keen to support national efforts so as ensure that international standards of prison management and public health are upheld. People in prison should be able to enjoy the same standards of health care as the general population. In Zambia this population is about 23, 000 inmates and about 4,000 prison staff. These should not be left behind. We believe that they have a fundamental right to enjoy as good quality health care as other members of society free of charge and without discrimination and this includes COVID-19 prevention and control,” said Dr Ngonga.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude on behalf



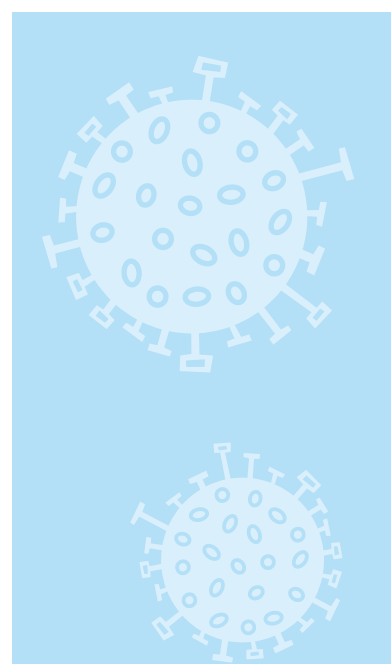
of the Prisons Service and the Government. "This gesture by the United Nations, Swedish Embassy and other partners, will go a long way in improving the quality of health of the inmates," he said.

In addition to the PPE and IEC materials, UNODC also presented Maternity Clinic Medical Equipment for use at the Mukobeko Maternity Clinic to help address Sexual and Reproductive Health challenges faced by incarcerated pregnant women. The equipment, valued at over USD 37,000, was procured with funding from the Swedish Embassy.

An inmate Beatrice Hangwende, speaking on behalf of the other inmates expressed gratitude to the Zambia Correctional Service, the UN and partners for ensuring that the inmates especially females had access to good

medical facilities as well as ensuring that maternal health is safeguarded within the prison walls.

On hand to receive the donation were representatives from the Ministry of Health, selected inmates, staff of the Zambia Correctional Service







**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ZAMBIA**



This newsletter is published by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) with support from the UN Communications Group (UNCG). For any queries or feedback on this newsletter, please contact: [un.zm@one.un.org](mailto:un.zm@one.un.org)