

APRIL - JUNE 2021



UNITED NATIONS
ZAMBIA



NEWS LETTER



COVAX

VACCINES

ARRIVE





Foreword from the Resident Coordinator



I welcome you to the UN Zambia Newsletter covering the period April – June 2021. On behalf of the UN Country Team, I wish to thank you for your continued readership as we keep you updated on UN support in helping meet Zambia's development priorities as well as responding to humanitarian needs, including the needs of refugees and migrants. In this issue, we highlight UN support, made possible by the generous financial contributions of our donors, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We see the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines delivered through the COVAX facility and the support from Cooperating partners in making Oxygen available when it was most needed. Related to this, we see how a group of youth is helping people living with HIV fight COVID-19. In line with the principle of living no one behind, we feature a story about a TV programme by the Zambia Deaf Society to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

Being in an election year, the UN has underscored the holding of inclusive, peaceful and credible elections including the need to increase women's participation in the electoral processes. This, and the visit by the Secretary General's Special Representative to the African Union in May, are among stories that you will find in the context of the UN's continued engagement and support to Zambia ahead of the August 2021 elections.

Emergency Cash Transfers and nutrition have also been featured prominently as the COVID-19 pandemic has brought both health and socio-economic challenges.

Thank you and happy reading.

Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio



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Government and UN Host High Level Dialogue on Increasing Women’s Participation in Electoral Processes



On 21 April 2021, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Office of the Vice-President, in partnership with the United Nations in Zambia held a virtual High-Level Dialogue aimed at increasing women’s participation in electoral processes and addressing violence against women during elections. The Dialogue, organised in the lead up to Zambia’s general elections on 12 August, also tackled other reasons for Zambian women’s underrepresentation in the electoral processes, decision making structures and the broad socio-economic development agenda of the country.

The dialogue was co-hosted by the Vice-President of Zambia, Her Honour Mrs. Inonge Mutukwa Wina, MP, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Zambia, Dr Coumba Mar Gadio.

The Vice President noted that women are not asking for favours, but an opportunity to share leadership and democratic views at the same table with men.

“As the country aspires for greater heights in attaining gender equality, participation levels are still very low especially that women account for more than 50 percent of the population,” said Mrs Wina.

Dr Mar Gadio called for strengthening and expanding the capacity of women in leadership. “There is need for support structures and networks, to share common experiences, lessons, useful practices and new information. This way, women leaders can also build a critical mass of support, and forge a common agenda around common issues,” said Dr Gadio. Former President of Liberia, Her Excellency, Ms Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf, delivered the keynote address through which she indicated that leaving no one behind means that every girl and every woman has the right to a life of fulfilled aspirations and one that is free of violence.

In her message, UN Deputy Secretary General Ms Amina Mohammed noted that every election is an opportunity to make progress towards global commitments to women’s full and equal participation in decision-making. She noted the call by the 2021 Commission on the Status of Women to increase the gender balance in all elected positions but expressed concern at the slow progress.

“The pace of change towards this goal is too slow. At the current rate, gender parity will not be reached among heads of government



before 2150. This means waiting for 130 years more,” said Ms Mohammed.

The Deputy Secretary General also called for urgent actions to ensure zero tolerance for harassment, intimidation, cyberbullying and any other forms of violence against women in political life.

“This begins with men at all levels and in every sphere of society advocating for the right of women to participate,” she said.

The High-Level Dialogue was guided by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security which advocates for the inclusion of women in decision making and peace processes. The event drew participation from the Zambian Government, the United Nations, parliamentarians, non-state actors including political parties, women leaders from other countries, academia and members of the diplomatic community. The dialogue demonstrated that in Zambia, like many countries globally, women’s participation in governance continues to be limited, yet it remains a top priority and a critical element for achieving gender equality. All the presenters were agreed on the need for actions to ensure that more women participate in electoral processes in an environment free of violence and one that is supported by the right legal framework.



UN Special Envoy Visits Zambia



As part of the United Nations’ continued engagement and support to Zambia ahead of the August 2021 General Elections, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, Ms Hanna Tetteh, visited Zambia from 30 May to 4 June 2021.

Announcing the mission, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zambia, Coumba Mar Gadio said the purpose of Ms Tetteh’s visit was to consult

with the Government and other stakeholders on the United Nations’ continuing assistance to Zambia in addressing all national priorities and maintaining a peaceful national environment during the period before the elections and after.

During her visit, Ms. Tetteh met with senior Government officials that included Her Honour the Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia Mrs. Inonge Wina, representatives of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), key national institutions, United Nations agencies, the diplomatic corps,

Civil Society Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations, as well as the media. She also engaged with representatives of special interest groups, such as youth, women, persons with disabilities and Faith-Based Organisations.

At the end of her visit, Ms Tetteh held a press conference at which she gave reflections from her engagements in the country. Considering guidelines for campaigns in respect of COVID-19 prevention measures, she called for consistent application of the guidelines.

“What is important is that these protocols are applied consistently by the relevant authorities, so that all political parties and candidates are given equitable and equal opportunities to campaign despite the challenges posed by the pandemic,” she said. While urging key institutions with an electoral mandate to undertake their respective functions in a manner that inspires public and stakeholder confidence, Ms Tetteh called for the fair application of the Public Order Act to secure

an environment conducive to the conduct of peaceful, transparent, and credible elections.

Dialogue and peace messaging was another matter that Ms Tetteh raised.

“We call on all political players to be open to dialogue and jointly address contentious issues which affect their political participation. In addition, during this campaign period, we encourage political actors, in particular those in leadership to convey messages of peace and unity as they have the power to influence public behavior and have a crucial role to play in ensuring that Zambians do not engage in violence,” she said.

Other areas of concern were the need for all special interest groups such as Persons with disabilities, women, and youth to be given an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process and steps to increase the number of women in Zambia in political processes. She also encouraged the media, particularly public media houses to give equitable opportunities to all political players so that the Zambian people could know about all party

manifestos.

Regarding legislative concerns, Ms Tetteh noted concerns from various stakeholders about need for Constitutional reform on issues such as the 14-day period to hear and dispose of a presidential petition which they described as inadequate.

The UN in Zambia is through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting Zambia’s electoral process through the Democracy Strengthening Zambia (DSZ) project which seeks to promote electoral transparency, inclusion, accountability, integrity and peace, and also strengthen key institutions of democracy such as the Electoral Commission of Zambia, Zambia Police Service, Human Rights Commission, Judiciary, Parliament, political parties, media and civil society to deliver on their respective electoral mandates. The UN’s vision through this project is to support elections which are democratic and credible as well as elections whose outcomes enjoy stakeholder trust and confidence and widespread legitimacy.



UNAIDS supports Phenomenal Youth to mitigate impact of covid-19



Phenomenal Positive Youths are a group of young people living positively with HIV and working towards the elimination of stigma and discrimination, adherence to HIV treatment and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services in Zambia.

UNAIDS has facilitated SRHR training for the Lusaka team of Phenomenal Positive Youths with the training also extended to other districts in Zambia. The training will now include the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on young people living with HIV. The capacitated members have mobilised and facilitated access to HIV/SRH services including ARVs and have avoided any stock out and interruption of treatment.

The organisation, which started its community activities in 2017, was officially launched on the 20 December 2020 with the UNAIDS Country Director in Zambia, Dr. Tharcisse Barihuta as guest of honour alongside other guests that included community leaders.

As the way forward, UNAIDS will provide additional technical and financial support to reach other provinces and include an entrepreneurship module to capacitate the young people in income generation.

The UN appeals for more stakeholder involvement in refugees



On 20 June, Zambia joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Refugee Day, with a call by the United Nations for more stakeholder involvement in the protection and assistance of refugees and other persons of concern.

This year, World Refugee Day was commemorated under the global theme: 'INCLUSION: Together we can do Anything', and the Local Theme: 'INCLUSIVENESS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SPORT'. The sub themes focused on inclusiveness in health, education and sports to ensure refugees are included in national programmes.

In a video message, the UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia, Dr Coumba Mar Gadio, called for innovative ways of mobilizing resources to address the growing and diverse humanitarian and development needs of refugees and their Zambian hosts. She said that refugees and others of concern were inherently one of the most vulnerable groups at high risk of being left behind.

"As the UN, we are also engaging our various partners including the Government of the Republic of Zambia,



cooperating partners, international financial and development agencies, faith-based organizations, NGOs and the private sector, advocating for the inclusion of refugees and their Zambian hosts in their plans, strategies, programmes, businesses and humanitarian and development interventions,” she said.

She said sustainable inclusion started with inclusion in national development plans (like the Eighth National Development Plan), policies, programmes and budgets and further appealed to cooperating partners, international development agencies and other stakeholders to come to the table and include refugees.

UNHCR Country Representative,

Ms Pierrine Aylara, also in a video message, said the humanitarian and development needs of refugees as well as the host communities were increasing rapidly in the face of declining resources to support the countries and organizations directly dealing with refugee situations.

Ms Aylara said the situation called for new and innovative ways of working and the need to forge partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders to leverage the various strengths, expertise, and resources to effectively address the situation.

“Everyone’s contribution in terms of resources, expertise, and experience matters. We need

to join efforts for bigger impact and transformation of the lives of refugees and their warm Zambian hosts who have welcomed them,” she said.

She commended the Government of Zambia and the other partners already on board for the strides made so far in improving the welfare of persons of concern in the country.

Refugee day was commemorated mainly through media and virtual events owing to restrictions on public gatherings due to COVID-19.

Zambia is hosting more than 98,500 persons of concern from a variety of countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda.





COVAX VACCINES ARRIVE

When the Honourable Minister of Health announced on 25 March 2021 that Zambia’s Cabinet had approved the use of COVID-19 vaccines, it was all systems go to bring the life-saving treatment to Zambia.

Less than three weeks later the paperwork had been submitted, export clearances given, and tand the Hon. Minister of Health, senior officials, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, ambassadors and senior dignitaries from COVAX-supporting cooperating partners and the heads of UNICEF and WHO were on hand to receive the 228,000 doses of the covax facility as the first consignment at Lusaka’s Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.

The COVAX Facility has been facilitated by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi and the World Health Organization (WHO) - working in partnership with UNICEF as key implementing partner.

“I’m so proud to see the COVID-19 vaccines arriving in my country today,” said Dr Ngawa Ngoma, Immunisation Officer with UNICEF Zambia as the vaccines were led into the cold room at the airport warehouse. “This will really add to our efforts to ensure the population is protected against the pandemic.”

Two days after the first consignment arrived, the Minister of Health was the first to receive a dose of the vaccine in front of the waiting media. Frontline health workers followed in a public event designed to provide additional reassurance of the safety of the vaccination process.

“I came here for the launch and I’ve actually gotten the vaccine. I’m encouraging all health workers, all the doctors, all the nurses, all clinicians to come and get vaccinated. This is how we prevent COVID-19 from spreading,” said Senior Nurse Chisuwa Kapumanda.

Dr Mundia Mwitumwa was also vaccinated on launch day. “I’d like to encourage everybody to get the vaccine ... it will really help the community out there to prevent & not get COVID. It’s very safe, not

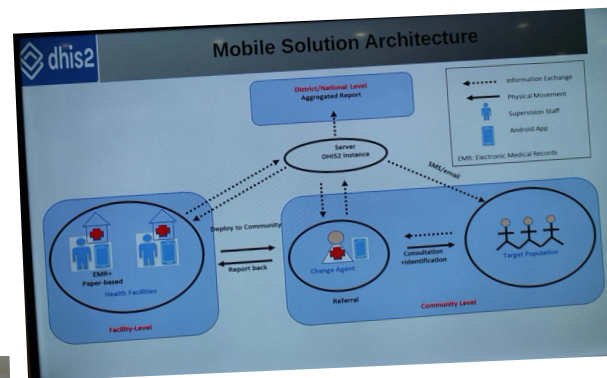
painful...Get protected from COVID!”

“As you can see, as health workers we’re very excited,” said Dr Aggrey Mweemba, consultant physician at UTHs. “We’ve been fighting for the past one year. I have now had the vaccine. And I’d love to urge my fellow health workers that it is time that we all got protected so that as we fight the pandemic we shall be protected.”

As the campaign roll-out spread throughout the country, sensitisation materials including 225,000 posters and brochures, and radio and television messages in local languages, as well as 300,000 vaccination cards were supported by UNICEF, while both WHO and UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health develop a COVID-19 vaccination communication strategy. The COVAX Facility’s Advance Market Commitment provides the vaccines free of charge to Zambia and is made possible through the generosity of governments, private sector, philanthropic and multilateral partners.



Mobile App enhances data tracking in Zambia for migration-affected population



services. The rate of referral completion has increased from 55% before October 2018 to 75% by May 2021.

Following the successful pilot stage, IOM is now working to expand the programme to a larger community. As part of the roll out, 120 ‘Change Agents’, who manage the app from Chipata, Katete and Chanida border in Chadiza have been trained to use the app, as well as in the monitoring and evaluation management tools on the tracker. The ‘Change Agents’ have been equipped with ultra-modern tablets for data-entry, processing and referrals to health facilities for various SRH-HIV services that migrants, sex workers and young and vulnerable people may require.

Working in partnership with local community based organizations, ‘Chisomo Community Programme’ and ‘Young Happy Healthy and Safe’, IOM launched and deployed the expanded DHIS 2 tracker on 8 May 2021 to help capture timely, accurate information and make timely referrals to deliver impact at community level.

The app helps ensure better data capture and tracking for some of the most vulnerable users of health services, something that has only increased in importance with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Understanding how easily people in Zambia are able to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV services requires good quality data and analysis that is reliable and timely. For migrant and mobile populations, access is thought to be a particular challenge, though data on the extent of the issue can be hard to come by.

In order to help address this gap, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with support from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, piloted a mobile app called “DHIS 2 tracker” in an area straddling the border between Malawi (Mchinji) and Zambia (Chipata). The project’s goal and success has been to strengthen community health data management systems to capture data concerning migrant populations and better target them with key messages.

The DHIS 2 tracker app is part of the “SRHR-HIV Knows No Border Project” in six countries in the Southern African

Development Community (SADC) region. The app is a first step towards better adapting the DHIS 2 information management system, which is used globally and covers more than 30 per cent of the world’s population.

The issue that the mobile app sought to address was that many in the border areas were reluctant to present referral slips at health facilities, and so were registered each time as new clients, leading to duplication. Migrants and sex workers were particularly reluctant to share personal information for fear of stigmatisation. The result of this was that the referral system was not functional.

Through the mobile app, health workers are now able to update the information on clients that is already logged in the app. This is leading to much better completion of referrals and an increased the number of people accessing healthcare



COVID-19 funds revived my business

- Elina Kangungu



Elina Kangungu at her stand where she sells various fruits and vegetables to make a living; UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Mulikita

It's a rare sunny day amidst the rainy season in Solwezi district. We are on our way to meet one of the beneficiaries under the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer programme.

In the distance, an elderly lady is busy with customers at her stand. She notices us as we approach. With happiness in her eyes, she welcomes us and informs us she has been expecting us. It seems she knows the district officers who have brought us to her.

“My name is Elina Kangungu and I am 54 years old. The six kids you see are my grandchildren left by my late children. Apart from the six, I keep two other grandchildren who have gone to school.”

Warmth returns to Elina's eyes as she remembers how she



Elina with six of her grandchildren that she takes care of; UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Mulikita

attended a community sensitisation meeting organised by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and learnt about the COVID-19 emergency cash transfers.

“We were encouraged to buy basic household items such as soap, nutritious food and face masks. I was excited to hear we can also invest the money in business, gardening or livestock.” She adds.



“Since COVID-19, my business has not been good. All suppliers of the goods I used to sell increased the prices and it was difficult for me to catch up. When I heard I was going to get a lumpsum of K2,400, I thought it was not true until the receipt of my first installment of K1,200.”

Elina immediately went to buy food for her household members and bought a few school requirements for her school-going grandchildren. She later invested the rest of the funds in her small business.

“Since COVID-19, I was so concerned about my household. My business capital was almost exhausted as I had to buy extra soap when I learnt washing your hands regularly keeps the virus away. Having all the kids at home also meant we consumed more food, so I spent most of my business money on food.”

To respond to socio economic impacts of the pandemic, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, through

the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and with technical support from UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, WFP) has been implementing the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) programme to support over 200,000 households in 25 districts in Zambia.

The COVID-19 ECT is financially supported by the European Union and the Governments of Germany (through the German Development Bank - KfW), Ireland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Elina is one of the beneficiaries who qualified under the programme by virtue of being a SCT beneficiary, following the rationale that beneficiaries under the SCT are already a vulnerable group whose needs have now been increased due to the

pandemic.

Like other beneficiaries in her area, Elina received the last instalment of K1,200 in May 2021.

The ECT Programme builds on the Government’s ongoing efforts to support vulnerable households already on the Social Cash Transfer Programme and the informal sector, persons with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children and survivors of gender-based violence that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and are not on the Social Cash Transfer Programme.

Apart from the cash support, the programme links beneficiaries to other emergency response areas such as nutrition, hygiene, and prevention of Gender Based Violence. The programme also sends out SMS messages on nutrition and other important topics that can help the beneficiaries improve their livelihoods.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Misinformation is dangerous
Take care before you share

UNICEF logo and Verified Campaign logo

Verified Campaign

Join 'Verified', an initiative launched by the UN in May 2020 aimed at delivering trusted information, life-saving advice and stories from the best of humanity. The initiative also invites the public to help counter the spread of COVID-19 misinformation by sharing fact-based advice with their communities. Join at verified.un.org

“COVID-19 is not just this century’s largest public health emergency, but also a communication crisis... We need to empower everyday people to spread factual trusted information with their friends, families and social networks.” - United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming.



In response to the third wave of COVID19 in Zambia, UNICEF with support from the German Government, through KfW Bank, on 25 June started daily deliveries of 100 rented oxygen cylinders to UTH, Levy & the National Heart hospitals.



On 1 June, WHO Zambia called on tobacco users to quit through the Commit to Quit 28 Day Challenge



Cooperating partners witness COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer Programme



A C-ECT beneficiary showing off her money following a successful withdraw: Photo Credit: ILO/Zambia/2021/Mshanga

On 7 May 2021, UNICEF, ILO and UNDP in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and cooperating partners (British High Commission Zambia / UKAID, European Union, German Embassy, KfW, Ireland, Sweden and the Swiss Development Cooperation) undertook a technical field mission to Kabwe District to witness COVID-19 -Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) payments, interact with the district officers, Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACs) and beneficiaries to increase their overall understanding of the programme on the ground.

In his welcome remarks, the Acting Provincial Permanent Secretary Alfred Sakwiya highlighted

the challenges faced by people in Kabwe, especially those in the informal sector who had lost incomes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also noted that women, persons with disabilities and children were among the most affected. Mr Sakwiya was grateful for the emergency response and said it was timely as it was also contributing to prevention measures.

During the mission, that included visits to four pay points, cooperating partners heard personal testimonies of how the COVID 19 had impacted already vulnerable households and how the money received through the programme had cushioned household needs so that they did not fall on negative coping mechanisms. Speaking on behalf of the Cooperating Partners, Sweden Head of Development, Susanna Hughes expressed gratitude to

Government and the United Nations for coordinating such a large and complex undertaking through the ECT.

UNICEF Chief of Social Policy and Research, Mr. Daniel Kumitz explained that the programme had not only responded to COVID-19 but also how through the United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection, the programme continues to lay a foundation for effective shock responsive social protection in the country.

A total of 5402 Households will be supported under the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer in Kabwe with a total amount of K2,400 per household.

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As a social protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zambian Government, through the Ministries Community Development and Social Services and Labour and Social Security, and with technical support from the United Nations (UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, WFP) and non-government organisations (Plan International, ChildFund and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement) is leading the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) programme to support vulnerable households across 25 districts (Chilanga, Chililabombwe, Chingola, Chipata, Chirundu, Chisamba, Choma, Kabwe, Kafue, Kalulushi, Kasama, Kazungula, Kitwe, Livingstone, Luangwa, Luanshya, Lusaka, Mansa, Mongu, Mpika, Mufulira, Nakonde, Ndola, Nyimba, Solwezi).

The COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer programme has two objectives of reducing the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable households by stabilising household income, and to support the fight against the pandemic by providing households with the means to comply with pandemic control measures such as masking up and physical distancing.

As of May 2021, over 90 percent of the beneficiaries had been paid. Further, the programme had established systems to strengthen implementation of other social

protection programmes. The programme has successfully established linkages to address other prominent vulnerabilities in beneficiary households besides those related to income. Through SMS text messages on nutrition, beneficiaries are sensitized on

how to ensure a healthy dietary intake, while other text messages inform them on what to do in case of Gender-Based Violence or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and how to make use of the C-ECT grievance mechanism amongst others.



CPs interact with some of the CWACs at Ngungu Youth Resource Center: Photo Credit:UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Nkandu



Chief of SPR provides clarity during Q&A session following District C- C-ECT programme overview: Photo Credit:UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Nkandu



The ‘Shadow Pandemic’: Violence Against Women in African Politics - A Case of Zambia

Quotes

“We cannot over emphasize that women’s participation in politics is very critical in any democracy. Women have a unique contribution to good governance, democracy and development.” - **H.E. Ms. Inonge Mutukwa Wina MP, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia.**

“Political actors need to stand up for women’s rights, to ensure women in politics are protected before, during and after elections” - **Ms. Hannah Tetteh, UNSG Special Representative to the AU.**

“We need to be more ambitious about what we do to accelerate our efforts towards gender equality. We need to do much more and much faster” - **Dr Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director for East and Southern Africa (on behalf of Ms. Diene Keita Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA).**

“An electoral process that is free from violence against women is possible, only if society can commit to the protection and the rights of women in politics” - **Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio, UN Zambia Resident Coordinator**

“Effective policies and voter education are key enablers to enhance women’s participation in political processes” - **Ms. Carin Jämtin, Director General - SIDA**

“Being a female candidate, I have to work 3-5 times harder to market myself compared to my male counterparts. This narrative needs to change.” - **Ms. Patricia M Ndhlovu, aspiring parliamentary candidate.**



On 29 June 2021, ahead of the Generation Equality Forum Paris that took place from 30 June - 2 July, the Government of the Republic of Zambia in collaboration with UNFPA hosted a pre-forum high-level panel discussion on violence against women in African politics. Featuring high-profile women leaders, the pre-forum event underscored concrete, ambitious and sustainable actions required to achieve gender equality in African politics.

Panellists included H.E. Ms. Inonge Mutukwa Wina MP, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia; Ms. Hannah Tetteh, UN Secretary General’s Special Representative to the African Union; Dr Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director for East and Southern Africa (on behalf of Ms. Diene Keita, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director); Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio, UN Zambia Resident Coordinator; Ms. Carin

Jämtin, Director General, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); and Ms. Patricia Mphanza Ndhlovu, an aspiring Parliamentary Candidate in Zambia.

The pre-event contributed to building momentum towards the Generation Equality Forum, which launched a 5-year action journey to achieve irreversible progress towards gender equality, founded on a series of transformative actions, including \$40 Billion in financial commitments. UNFPA’s key commitments to the Generation Equality Forum included strengthening comprehensive sexuality education, improving access to contraception, contributing to women and girl’s decision-making and bodily autonomy through reproductive rights literacy, improving effective gender-based violence coordination, prevention and response, ending female genital mutilation and child marriage, and supporting feminist movements.





Leveraging innovation to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Zambia

In a rapidly changing world, the need to continuously explore dynamic solutions to effectively achieve development cannot be over emphasized. Accordingly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the National Technology Business Centre (NTBC) and the Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) have partnered to implement the National Innovations Initiative (NII).

The overall objective of the initiative is to identify innovations - especially from marginalised populations including youth, women and people living with disabilities - which have the highest potential and prospective impact for solving challenges in Zambian society. The identified innovations will be provided with technical and business development support as

well as financial resources for their implementation and scaling up to increase their resilience in a competitive business environment.

Through the UNDP Accelerator Lab, the first ever National Innovation Initiative was implemented in 2020. Based on the 2020 implementation process, the 2021 National Innovation Initiative envisions expanding the programme to all ten provinces of Zambia with a streamlined thematic area focus. In addition to contributing to the Eighth National Development Plan process, this year's focus will also aim to increase participation from marginalized populations by providing access to information and capacity for them to participate in the highly

competitive Innovation Fair. This is an affirmative step to ensure inclusion and advance the Leaving No One Behind agenda.

The National Innovation Initiative will work with various partners to scout for the initial innovations from all provinces targeting to shortlist and showcase 50 innovations with half coming from women, youth and other marginalized groups. 20 promising and scalable innovations will then be selected to participate in the Acceleration and Business Programme.

The hope is that the final innovations will be instrumental in responding to some of the most pressing development challenges in Zambia and accelerate the overall advancement of the sustainable development goals.



Advancing maternal and new born health outcomes in Zambia through health systems strengthening



FCDO Zambia Health & Nutrition Adviser Ms. Silke Seco and UNFPA Zambia Country Representative Ms. Gift Malunga present some of the EnMOC equipment to the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Kennedy Malama.

In order to sustainably reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in Zambia, it is critical that health facilities are adequately equipped with essential lifesaving equipment. However, this is not the reality in many health facilities especially those in under-served communities. While the Government of Zambia has made notable strides, there is need for continued priority investment in maternal and newborn health across the continuum of care.

In order to address the existing gaps, UNFPA Zambia with funding support from UK aid from the British people (FCDO) procured and - in March - handed over assorted emergency, obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) equipment to support the Government in its efforts to advance maternal and newborn

health outcomes in Western and Central provinces.

The equipment, which includes, caesarean section sets, Normal Delivery Sets, cervical sets, oxygen concentrators, ultrasound scanners and other various theatre equipment, will provide another step towards fulfilling Zambia's commitments to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, as well as achieving national aspirations as espoused in the National Health Strategic Plan 2017-2021, the 7th National Development Plan and Zambia's Vision 2030.

"As we continue to implement health programmes," said Dr Kennedy Malama, Permanent Secretary-Technical Services at the Ministry of Health, "our role is to ensure that we focus on strengthening

health systems including human resource for health, health care financing, infrastructure, equipment and transport as well as availability of essential medicines and other medical supplies."

"Therefore, this equipment is a smart investment that will go a long way in ensuring that as a country we roll back maternal mortality, neonatal mortality and ensure the overall well-being of mothers, children and adolescents' country wide."

UNFPA remains committed to advocating for increased support from both international and local partners as well as private sector investment in EmONC services, which are a critical component in a comprehensive and sustainable approach to universal health coverage.



Playful Parenting Campaign launched

On 7 May 2021, the Government of Zambia through the First Lady of Zambia, Mrs Esther Lungu, who served as the Guest of Honour, launched a national advocacy campaign to encourage playful parenting, under a five-year global partnership between UNICEF and the LEGO Foundation.

“The early years of a child’s life offer parents, caregivers, health care providers and teachers a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape a child’s capability to learn, grow and contribute meaningfully to society,” said the First Lady, Mrs Esther Lungu, in her remarks during the virtual launch event.

UNICEF is supporting the government with the six-month parenting campaign, which is designed to raise awareness of the importance of play in the early years for children’s brain development and well-being. The campaign tagline ‘Play to learn, learn to play’ highlights that play is

the way that children learn, and through the catchy theme song ‘Play papa play’ by Maureen Lupo Lilanda who performed during the launch, different types of care givers are encouraged to engage in playful interactions with children.

“The first few years of life are the most intensive time of brain development - this is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said UNICEF Representative Ms Noala Skinner.

The campaign includes radio and television spots, newspaper adverts, a media orientation, billboards and media discussion programmes. It is one component of a wider programme in Early Childhood Development (ECD), which includes the Insaka Initiative, started in Eastern Province and now moving to other areas, and support to national policy development.

Netherlands Government Supports IOM on SRHR/HIV Project



sex worker who is now offering support to young girls on issues of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. A single mother of three children, Agnes, whose highest level of education is Grade 9, has seen tangible results of her efforts.

Getting Infected: “When my husband got sick we did not know that it was AIDS. He used to get sick often, but we did not know what he was really suffering from. Eventually, he passed away, but it took 8 years before I could learn what had killed him. On a certain day, I remember feeling like I had malaria, so I went to the clinic where they asked me to undergo VCT. The results were positive, but I ignored them and just moved on with my life. A few months later I got malaria again but this time around it was more serious which made my relatives curious. So they started interrogating me on whether I had undergone an HIV test which I eventually admitted and told them about my status. I was basically living in denial but later they convinced me to get started on ARVs.”

Life as a sex worker: “When my husband died, I was only 22 years old and he left me with

National Launch of the Playful Parenting Campaign.

Play to learn. Learn to play.

Friday, 7th May 2021

Guest of Honour:
The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia, Madam Esther Lungu

Logos for UNICEF, The LEGO Foundation, and ECDAN are displayed at the bottom of the banner.

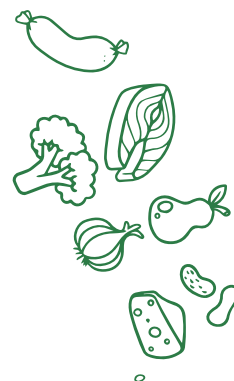


four children, one died later, with no education or skills to fall back on. My children and I were living under very desperate conditions so three years after my husband died I decided to accept the invitations from my friends to join the sex work business.”

Joining the HIV Knows no Borders project: “I joined this project when a group of young people from Young Happy and Safe came to visit me at home. They told me about the project and the benefits of joining. By the time they came I had already acquired some knowledge and was taking my ARVs, but I have received further training on sexual reproductive health and rights under this project. Since I started working as a hub Manager, I help the girls in various ways including providing them with female and male condoms to prevent diseases and pregnancies. In addition, I provide them reproductive health information. In my area now, since the project came about there is also a reduced number of abortions because young people are better informed. I also escort the girls to the clinic when they have sexually transmitted diseases because they fail to go on their own due to fear of stigma especially when testing for HIV. For the girls who might be positive, I also help them collect their ART drugs and make sure they are taking them consistently. I also support the girls to report cases of Gender-Based violence to the police. In terms of financial literacy, I tell the girls to open mobile money accounts to help them save money which they can use for emergencies.”

Looking to the future: “I would just appeal that we get more trainings from the project and some funding to get the girls alternative sources of incomes. Because the entrepreneurship trainings without funding for small businesses cannot work.”

FARMERS SCALING UP VITAMIN-A RICH CROPS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN ZAMBIA



Sydney Musabuka is the Agricultural Conservation Lead Farmer in Lobolola village, Chongwe District. @UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Mulikita

The Scaling Up Nutrition Phase II (SUN II) programme, supported through the United Nations, aims to take a comprehensive approach to improving nutrition in priority districts, from training health staff, to identifying and supporting children in need of support, to helping families increase their livelihoods.

Farming, which remains the largest economic sector for rural households, can be a key part of the solution, though helping farmers improve yields, lift themselves out of poverty, and grow the most nutritious foods.

Sydney Musabuka from Lobola village is one of the small-scale farmers in Chongwe District who was selected to represent farmers within his community to share training and information. Known as a ‘lead farmer’, his job is to pass on the information picked up at one of the 16 agricultural camps in the district to share with others.



“As lead farmers, we were taught the simple technique of utilizing minimum land space with just hoes, cattle or tractors,” said Mr Musabuka. “We were taught these crops help with eyesight, physical development and they also boost the immunity of especially children between 0 and 2 years” he says.

Under the project in Chongwe District, seed reserves are being built up for orange sweet potatoes and orange



Photo caption: Lead farmer Matthews Chulu demonstrating how to use a Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bag @UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Mulikita

maize so that they can be distributed to farmers for year-round production of nutritious foods.

Vitamin A deficiency is a key contributor to child undernourishment; it limits growth, weakens immunity, affects eyesight, and increases mortality. The latest national micronutrient survey indicates a Vitamin A deficiency prevalence of 54 per cent among children under 5 in Zambia.

Matthews Chulu, fellow lead farmer and programme beneficiary. He is growing orange maize and beans.

“Once we harvest the maize from the field, we teach our followers how to use special bags for storage. These bags ensure that the crops are stored safely and securely and protects them from the harsh elements that cause rot and invite insects,” said Moses.

UNICEF in collaboration with FAO and

WFP is also supporting farmers through implementing partners to test low-cost storage methods that promote preservation and consumption of nutritious foods. SUN Phase II is promoting low-cost storage methods, such as Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags, which have been produced in Zambia and are proven to maintain grain safety and quality during storage.

“The bags are airtight and cut off oxygen supply to create conditions that are unfavourable for insects to survive. We can store any kind of grain, we don’t have to use any chemicals to protect it and we can keep it until prices are high on the market to get increased income from the sales,” said Moses.

Chongwe District, whose economy is predominately

agriculture-based (90%) with small and medium scale farmers being the major producers is one of 17 districts that the programme has targeted for improving household food security and alleviating micronutrient deficiencies by providing direct access to diverse, nutritious foods and increased income from sales of produce.

SUN II is a four-year initiative led by the United Nations in 17 high-priority districts of Zambia in support of the Government of Zambia’s First 1,000 Most Critical Days Programme Phase II. It is supported by the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany through the KfW Development Bank, the Republic of Ireland, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and UKaid from the British people.



Photo caption: Women preparing orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. @UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Mulikita



Photo caption; lead and follower farmers of Longolola village, Chongwe District. @UNICEF/Zambia/2021/Mulikita



UNAIDS and Zambia Deaf Society collaborate on TV Programme



The Zambia Deaf Society (ZDS) is a Deaf-led NGO with a mandate to champion for the human rights of Deaf people in Zambia through advocacy, sensitisation, lobbying, economic empowerment, membership mobilization, and partnership building among others.

One of the strategies through which ZDS endeavours to achieve its main objectives is through Deaf TV programmes, with a live Deaf TV programme dubbed TIMVELENI (listen to us) being aired on MUVI TV. Through the programme, deaf persons discuss pertinent issues affecting them. The programme is moderated by Deaf presenters through sign language interpreters who provide both voicing and signing interpreting so that both the deaf and hearing audiences countrywide are able to follow, thereby contributing to implementation of the principle of Leave No One Behind.

UNAIDS has provided technical

and financial support to ZDS for staging and documenting seven TV episodes on HIV/AIDS to inform the authorities, policy makers, the general public and the deaf people themselves as it seeks to mainstream the disability of deafness in health service process and human endeavors.

The activities have created awareness of the deaf people's rights to health care among the deaf and general public and has helped create demand for respect of these rights. The project has also contributed to educating the deaf persons and general public about HIV/AIDS and informing authorities, the general public about the status of the deaf people with regard to HIV/AIDS as a strategy for mainstreaming the disability of deafness in all aspects of human endeavors. Further, the programme has informed the general public, counsellors, caregivers, authorities and the deaf themselves on how

HIV/AIDS information and services can be effectively communicated to and by the deaf in Zambian Sign Language (ZSL) while also exploring the modalities, with stakeholders such as Government through the Ministry of Health and National AIDS Council, on how issues affecting the deaf can be mainstreamed in HIV/AIDS health centers and services through the provision of sign language like sign language translations of health posters, sign language interpreters or teaching health workers basic communication skills. Lastly, the initiative has helped create awareness among the general public and deaf people on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Information (CSE & I) risky behavior, prevention, where to find information by involving experts on CSE & I (Under Save the Children) psycho-social Counselling at Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ) and others as part of mainstreaming disability of deafness and partnership building.

Going forward, UNAIDS will continue to support the ZDS to implement the second phase of the project aimed to build the capacity of HIV/Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights services provider, caregivers in servicing deaf clients through demonstration and orientation to linguistic and cultural needs of Deaf citizens and building the capacity of deaf community mobilisers (foot Soldiers) who will facilitate demand in the delivery of sexual reproductive health services to the deaf people and their siblings in three provinces.



ZAMBIA TO PARTICIPATE IN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021



ANYONE CAN BE A
FOOD SYSTEMS HERO

[UN.ORG/FOOD-SYSTEMS-SUMMIT](https://un.org/food-systems-summit)

Zambia will join other United Nations (UN) members states in the Food Systems Summit which will be convened by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres alongside the UN General Assembly in New York. The Summit is part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and will, therefore, launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.

The Summit will discuss ways to achieve sustainable food systems by 2030. It will be an opportunity to engage all citizens as food system stakeholders, and bring about tangible, positive changes to the world's food systems. It calls for a broad systems perspective that reflects connections between food systems and all the SDGs and pays particular attention to people who are at risk of being left behind.

So far, countries have designated National Conveners and launched their respective Food Systems Summit dialogues to ensure broad stakeholder participation

in discussing food systems and developing actionable commitments.

Republican Vice President Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina launched the UN food systems dialogue roadmap for the country in Chayanyaya, Kafue, on 19 May 2021 when she launched the voices for climate change action programme in Zambia. The Secretary to the Cabinet has since appointed Mr. Victor Mbumwae, Director for Policy, Planning and Coordination in the Office of the Vice-President as the National Dialogue Convener to coordinate dialogues among stakeholders at different levels. Feedback from the Dialogues will form an important part of the Summit process.

The convener will be supported by experts in the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, and the National Food and Nutrition Commission as Secretariat as well as other line Ministries and provinces.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Dr Coumba Mar Gadio and the Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Ms. Suze Filippini, are supporting the process in the country.

Consultations have since started to help stakeholders shape their local and national pathways, indicate their intentions and commit to specific actions.

The Food Systems Summit will be preceded by a Pre-Summit gathering to be held in Rome, Italy from 19 - 21 July 2021. Under the leadership of UN Secretary-General and Prime Minister of Italy, the Pre-Summit event will bring together the efforts and contributions of a global engagement process to shape ambition to transform food systems.

The UN Food Systems Summit was borne out of a need to accelerate progress on the SDGs, which include delivering fundamental human rights, and this underpins all of the Summit's efforts. Even before the pandemic, the world was not on track to achieve all of our goals for people, planet, and prosperity. Too often food systems have been a part of the problem, when they can - and must - be a large part of the solution.





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