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1 Introduction

This is a report of the findings of the baseline study of poverty information in Zambia and beyond. The study was commissioned by the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) and was undertaken by Mr. Chrispin Mphuka. The study's key aim was to establish information availability on poverty so as to feed into the process of establishing an information centre for CSPR.

The study follows the feasibility study of transforming CSPR into a Poverty Eradication Centre (PEC). According to the findings in that study, many of those interviewed felt that there was need for the PEC to become a "one-stop" centre where information on poverty could easily be accessed. At that time it was felt that the information centre of the PEC would primarily be used by members of the CSPR while the other institutions and individuals would also be at liberty to use the same facility.

This gave way to the need to expand CSPR's role beyond its current activities. Due to the continuing growth of the network the aspect of being beneficial to the public becomes paramount. One way of the network being of benefit to members is by providing useful information on poverty and related issues. This was indeed the genesis of this study-to find out what is there in terms of poverty information, identify gaps, weaknesses and strengths of the present information centres and establish justification of establishing this new Information Centre.

1.1 *Scope of the Study*

In order to achieve the objectives of this baseline study, the consultant visited various organisations with established information centres but not commercial libraries. This was done in order to:

- Identify existing information on poverty. This would also involve identifying the form in which the poverty information is stored. For example certain information is in written form like books, reports, journals, magazines, brochures, periodicals etc. But some other information could be stored in other forms such as videotapes etc.
- Identify the source of that information and find out the possibility of procuring the poverty information so identified. This process also involved establishing the cost of purchasing the information.
- Find out the way other centres are being run and identify any weaknesses and strengths of these centres
- Establish contacts of the people running information centres so that when establishing the information centre for the PEC, there would be easy contact and procurement of documents.

Another key source of poverty information is the Internet. This involved a careful selection of what type of poverty information can be accessed via the Internet. This process involved searching advertised books and other poverty documents and sees how such documents could be purchased. The second

part involved selecting which websites that focus on poverty. After all this, the documents identified are well catalogued for purposes of further usage.

1.2 Methodology

The key form of collecting information was through visits to ZAMSIF, INESOR, Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP), Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), Central Statistical Office (CSO), World Bank. A questionnaire in appendix A was used to solicit for the views on this exercise.

The website was also used to find poverty information that could be accessed through the Internet or that which could be accessed using the same channel.

1.3 Limitations of this Study

The main limitation of this study is in the word poverty itself. The term poverty is too wide and to cover all its areas would imply collecting most of the information around. The term poverty information in most cases applied to the type of information that the people keeping consider as poverty information. In some cases, however, the consultant tried to bring in certain documents that may not be closely related to poverty but in the context of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) is relevant.

The other weakness of this study involved commissioning of this study without preceding it with an information needs assessments and also identification of gaps in the current set up so as to give direction to the type of information the members of CSPR, who are the primary beneficiaries of the initiative, are in need of.

2 Findings

The organisations visited were mainly those that are key in storing and/or generating information on poverty. Since these were few, it is important to put up the findings on each separately. Therefore, the findings start with the organisations visited and the other part gives a breakdown of what is available in terms of poverty information.

2.1 Information Centres

2.1.1 Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR)

The institute is the research wing of the University of Zambia (UNZA). It was established with the sole purpose of enhancing and co-ordinating research in UNZA. Apart from conducting research, INESOR also has a very rich documentation centre where research information is stored and can be accessed by the public.

INESOR has a very wide area of focus, all of which are relevant to poverty. The main areas of focus of INESOR are agriculture and rural development, economic and business, governance, health promotion, and socio-cultural and urban development. Since poverty is considered a multidimensional issue, INESOR considers all its areas of interest relevant to poverty.

The Documentation Centre at INESOR has a very rich and wide collection of information on poverty and related issues. This information is mainly stored in form of books, reports, journals, articles, conference papers also referred to as grey literature and CD-ROMS. This information is stored in form of hard copies and a computer database. The computer database is not yet connected to the Internet because of poor Internet facilities, and INESOR intends to connect the database immediately they get good Internet facilities.

Regarding the source of this information, a good number of the collection is generated by INESOR from its own research. In addition most of its information is procured through the World Bank Depository Library Programme. Other documents are given as gifts or donations.

Asked on what INESOR thinks about CSPR's plans to establish a one-stop information centre, INESOR's head of the Documentation and Information Centre had this to say:

You need your own resource centre on poverty which you can nurture and see grow... Having your own resource centre will result in a reduction in opportunity costs in the long run.

This implies that INESOR does not see the initiative by CSPR to establish an information centre as counter productive. Although it was not specified how

opportunity costs would be reduced, it makes one suggest that members' costs in terms of time and money spent on looking for information would be reduced when such information can be found in one place.

Since INESOR stores plenty of information most of which relevant to poverty, it was not possible to get all the information the institute has. But a sample of INESOR's collection has been included in the information database created in the latter part of this report.

2.1.2 Zambia Social Investment Fund (ZAMSIF)

ZAMSIF is a World Bank funded project within the MoFNP. It has three components: the Community Investment Fund (CIF), District Investment Funds (DIF), and the Poverty Monitoring Analysis (PMA). Under the PMA, ZAMSIF is putting in place a documentation centre. Since the focus of ZAMSIF under PMA is poverty monitoring and analysis, the organisations focus is generally on poverty and related areas.

ZAMSIF funds research focused on poverty through a study fund. This is the only line of information generated by ZAMSIF and stored at its information centre. Other types of information come from government ministries and departments such as the Central Statistical Office (CSO), Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP), etc. World Bank and UN publications are also stored. Information not generated by CSO is normally sourced as donations or it is bought and also through exchanges.

The information is stored in hard copies though a computer-based catalogue is used to access the information.

Asked on what would be the view of ZAMSIF regarding the CSPR plans to establish an information centre, the ZAMSIF Poverty Information and Documentation Specialist had the following to say:

CSPR's effort is a rather duplication of efforts as PMA in ZAMSIF has already done this activity which will be handed over to MoFNP in 2005. CSPR may wish to use resources on other ventures as INESOR, MoFNP, UNZA and ZAMSIF are already in this venture. CSPR may wish to make a presence in an already established place. For example, CSPR may acquire space at INESOR Resource Centre, pay for the cost of shelves and contribute to the well being of that centre. INESOR is better than MoFNP because INESOR is a neutral place.

In addition, ZAMSIF suggested that there should be efforts to ensure that gaps in the existing information centres are properly identified, so that the CSPR information centre would come in to just fill in that information gap. According to ZAMSIF, this would mean that the CSPR centre is a truly value adding process. ZAMSIF further advised that there should be a proper

networking among resource centres, especially between INESOR and the CSPR centre yet to be established. Networking would ensure that though CSPR may not be in possession of certain information, they might be able to direct people where to find certain information.

Another key observation by ZAMSIF is that CSPR should ensure that before procuring information there is need to assess the information needs of the members so that the centre does not just turn into another library.

2.1.3 World Bank (WB)

The World Bank national office maintains an information centre that is rich with documents on poverty and related issues. The centre is free for the public to use and free Internet facilities are offered to those who want to download information. Internationally the World Bank also maintains a web site on poverty.

Apart from poverty information accessed via the Internet, the library has hard copies of documents, research papers, and books etc. on poverty. Some of the information is also kept on CD ROMs.

Regarding sources of this centre's information on poverty, most of it is through the joint World Bank programme. The centre also has a joint venture with the UN-family to exchange information.

Main contributions on the establishment of the information centre for CSPR, the Public Information Programme Assistant suggested that the CSPR centre should engage in training its staff in information management and also that there should be a close link with the Zambia Library Association.

2.1.4 Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP)

As the main ministry coordinating the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), MoFNP is key in generating and storing information on poverty and related issues. Under the Strategic and Operation Planning Unit (SOPU), MoFNP has established an information centre with both quantitative and qualitative information. The information is stored in form of hard and electronic (computer) copies. Also have videos on HIV/AIDS.

Most of the information is generated by government and a very small segment is sourced from outside. Information sourced from outside include publications from the IMF, World Bank, UN agencies and civil society. The ministry was supportive of the idea that CSPR establishes and information centre but cautioned that there is need to stay current especially on statistical information.

2.1.5 Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS)

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) is key on issues that relate to poverty. Before the PRSP process in Zambia, The MCDSS spearheaded the formulation of the National Poverty Reduction Action Plan (NPRAP). Just like the PRSP, The NPRAP was aimed at finding strategies that would help reduce poverty in Zambia.

With such a background, MCDSS remains a very important ministry on poverty reduction matters, especially looking at vulnerable groups. The MCDSS has an information centre that mainly has reports generated by government ministries, Central Statistical Office, World Bank and UNDP. The ministry also has field reports from districts. These reports are normally on quarterly basis.

Like ZAMSIF, MCDSS urged CSPR to start by identifying information gaps before setting up a new information centre. This they felt would reduce the duplication of roles between information centres.

2.1.6 United Nations International Children's Emergence Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF has a wide range of focus. Areas of focus include women, children, water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and adolescent health, HIV/AIDS and education. UNICEF maintains an information centre with materials that relate to its areas of focus.

Information kept mainly is research papers and UNICEF publications. These are kept as hard copies or as electronic copies. On poverty, the main sources of information are Participatory Assessment Group (PAG), CSO, UNDP and UNICEF headquarters in New York.

Regarding the establishment of the CSPR information centre, the UNICEF librarian welcomed the idea and advised that there should be enough computers for clients to use.

2.1.7 UN-System Coordination Office in Zambia

This office coordinates the whole UN system in Zambia. The main focus of the office is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This office also maintains an information centre and the main documents found are both global and national Human Development Reports. The Office also has access to the Zambia Social Economic Database from UNICEF. These reports are kept as hard copy reports and also on CD ROM.

Main sources of information include the UN head quarters and the CSO. The programme officer interviewed advised that all the information stored by the CSPR information centre must be also accessed online. He also urged CSPR to collaborate with the UNZA Study Centre on poverty.

2.1.8 International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution that seeks to promote macroeconomic stabilisation through sound economic policies. Until recently the work of the IMF has purely centred on macroeconomic issues, but with the PRSP the organisation is now focusing on poverty reduction as well. Besides, the macro-economic section forms one of the key parts of the PRSP.

The IMF has the following information: Research papers, World Bank Journals, Surveys, GRZ publications, CSO publications, UN publications and publications from the civil society. This information is stored in hard copies, CD ROM and on the web site. The information is procured through research and networking.

2.1.9 Non-Governmental Coordinating Committee (NGOCC)

NGOCC is a membership-based organisation. Its focus is to alleviate poverty through empowerment of members. This is done mainly through policy advocacy. NGOCC is also a member of the CSPR network and its choice was deliberate so as to have a picture of what some CSPR members could think with regard to the establishment of the CSPR information centre.

As a membership based organisation, NGOCC maintains an information centre primarily to be used by its members. Apart from own information through research, NGOCC has stores PRSP publications, IMF, World Bank and government publications. This information is on areas such as debt, food relief, and food security, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) etc. The information is stored in hard copies and Videotapes. All this information is sourced through networking with other stakeholders and through own research.

Since CSPR has a wide representation of organisations, NGOCC thinks that the CSPR information centre will have a wider collection reflecting its broad membership base. This is not the case with the other information centres. In terms of the needed information, NGOCC felt that the CSPR information centre must stock information such as:

- Statistical data on poverty levels/situation
- Comparative poverty analysis with other countries
- Sector information on poverty and related issues
- Etc.

2.1.10 Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)

CCJP seeks to promote social and economic justice through advocacy and research. CCJP is a member of C SPR and so is an important organisation through which an indication of what type of information is required could be done. CCJP maintains an information centre. Stocked are own research reports, government reports, UNDP reports, C SPR reports, CSO reports, etc.

This information is stored in hard copies, on the web site, videos and audiotapes. In particular, budget forums are captured and kept on videotapes. The information is sourced through own research teams and through purchases and donations and through the Internet.

CCJP felt that the best storage of information would be through the C SPR website and suggested that back-up copies should be stored on CD ROM. On type of information to be stocked by the C SPR information centre, CCJP suggested research publications like those generated by UNZA, magazines on poverty (e.g. Newsweek magazine), newspapers, etc.

2.1.11 Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD)

ZARD is a research organisation with the purpose of promoting gender balance. Apart from focusing on gender, ZARD also pay attention to trade and liberalisation issues. ZARD has an information centre and information on poverty includes reports on PRSP, research papers generated by ZARD and publications by organisations such as the World Bank.


The information is available in hard copy. Information sourced was through donations and through exchange programme with various member organisations.

2.2 Index of Collected Information

2.2.1 Information Needs Assessment

The attached questionnaire (see appendix A) was distributed to members of C SPR with the aim of assessing what type of information members would like to access from the C SPR Information Centre. Of over 30 questionnaires distributed only 4 were actually received. With such a poor response it became very difficult in the study to conduct a meaningful information needs assessment.

From the four questionnaires, it emerged that information most needed or deemed most useful should be ranked as follows:

Most Useful	Grassroots Research Reports (e.g. CCJP budget monitoring reports)
	Poverty Survey Reports (e.g. Living Conditions Surveys)
	Sector Statistical Bulletins (for agriculture, health, education etc.)
	Other Research Reports and Documents (e.g. Comparative poverty reports)
	Relevant Workshop Reports
	Poverty Statistical Bulletins
	Macroeconomic Statistical Bulletins
	Population and Employment Statistical Bulletins
	UNDP/UNICEF Reports
	GRZ Reports
	Least Useful

Looking at this breakdown, it is clear that the aspect of stocking grassroots type of information will be the real source of strength for this information centre. Moreover, all the other information centres visited, very few stock grassroots type of research information for various organisations. Members of CSPR would be the primary source of such type of research information. A point to note is that though the reports by GRZ, UNDP and so on appear at the bottom, these reports are indeed very useful, only that such reports are stocked by nearly every organisation which makes no real value addition by stocking such information for purposes of reference by others.

2.2.2 Description of Index of Information

The Index of collected information (in annex B) shows the titles of information, author's name(s), priority and where such type of information was found. The information is extremely broad, for academic papers to annual reports and other applied researches. Therefore not every entry is important with regard to the information centre establishment. But it gives a broad view of what type of information the various information centres are stocking.

The column for priority indicates the amount of importance that CSPR members attach to such information. One star (*) implies the least priority and

four stars (****) entail highest priority. Most entries are not prioritised due to the broad nature of the information.

Information found at the University of Zambia Institute (INESOR) is strictly for reference purposes, implying that the best CSPR can do to access such information is to devise close linkage with the centre. The Information at ZAMSIF can be made available on request and a fee of K50, 000= 00. But the question is whether to have a collection of such type of information at the CSPR Centre while such information can already be accessed by anyone at the ZAMSIF library.

3 Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

3.1 Lessons Learnt

3.1.1 Lesson 1: A few Sources of Major Publications

From the survey, it was clear that there are a few organisations that generate major publications. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP), produces an annual Economic Report, which is a good indicator on how the economy is progressing. Apart from the Economic Report, MoFNP has published the PRSP for Zambia and on a monthly basis produces macroeconomic indicators.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) is another important source of publications. Most of these are statistical in nature but there are also survey reports that would be useful for use. Key poverty publications by CSO include the Living Conditions Survey reports of 1996 and 1998. But there is a lot more statistical information that would be considered important by the CSPR members.

Most information centres visited indicated that they sourced a good number of their publications from the World Bank. Indeed the World Bank is a major source of information on poverty and related issues. The key document is the World Development report that is produced annually. The World Library has a good collection of documents generated by the World Bank. The question that remains is whether there would be value addition in sourcing such documents that are also available to the public.

The UN family also produces very good publications on poverty. For example the UNDP produces the Human Development Report and the Zambia Human Report. These are good documents that are also available at the UN information centre. UNICEF, ILO and UNIDO also produce a good number of documents useful for poverty analysis.

Most members of CSPR are actively involved in research. This information could also form the basis for CSPR information collection.

3.1.2 Lesson 2: Methods of Sourcing Documents

From the survey, it is clear that most of the information centre source documents first through purchasing but second through donations either from members or through exchange programmes. For those documents that are readily available for purchase it is easy to for CSPR to buy. This relates to government economic reports and CSO publications. However, certain information can only be obtained by networking with organisations that produces such information.

From the experience of ZARD, it is clear that a good portion of the C SPR collection should come from members. All those members that have an active research wing should consider depositing some information at C SPR for easy access to other members.

3.1.3 Lesson 3: Identification of Gaps

Most people echoed the point that the C SPR information centre should only come to fill identified gaps. This is because of the fear for duplication of roles. Although C SPR is broad based in its representation, it would pay off if the C SPR information centre is linked to other information centres such as the INESOR information centre. This would be done such that C SPR could either be connected to INESOR electronically so that the INESOR database could be accessed from C SPR or by C SPR having the catalogue of INESOR so that people wanting certain information could be referred to INESOR with certainty.

Apart from linking with INESOR, the C SPR information centre must strive to network with other centres, for example through having regular meetings. Most of the information in this study is already available to the public through the existing information centres but what is not there at the moment is the availability of grassroots research (mostly by civil society) in one place. Thus such would be one key role of the C SPR information centre.

3.1.4 Lesson 4: Assessment of Information Needs

The vital aspect of assessing the needs of information by members of the C SPR has not been exhausted by this study due to poor response from members. There is still need from time to time to conduct such assessments so that information stocking is done in response to the demands by members.

3.1.5 Lesson 5: Storing Information Electronically

This has the advantage that information can easily be retrieved but the disadvantage is that such information can easily be lost or destroyed. Hence there is need to have back-ups on CD ROM. Having a website for poverty analysis is also a good way of making information available to a wider audience.

3.2 Recommendations

Based on these lessons learnt, the following recommendations are made:

- The CSPR must call for a meeting with all the people managing the information centres especially those mentioned in this paper to establish some of the gaps that exist in this area so that the CSPR centre must fill that gap.
- The primary source of information for the CSPR information centre should be that information by its members. Most of the CSPR members are generating grassroots research information that could be accessed by others via the CSPR information centre. This would be a way of facilitating information sharing among CSPR members. All members of CSPR visited were willing to share their information with CSPR at no cost at all.
- Looking at the procurement of information, the CSPR should start with those documents highlighted at key priority in this study (See Index). But the network is at liberty to choose what type of information it intends to purchase from the index. However, the most practical way is to start by those documents considered as highest priority then move down to the least prioritised.
- In order to strengthen its position, CSPR would be better placed if it enters into partnerships with other information centres so that references can be accessed easily among the centres. That is, each CSPR centre must know what other centres are stocking and vice versa.
- In the long run it would be best to allow for the information database of CSPR to be accessed electronically.

4 Appendices

Appendix A: Questionnaire

Dear Respondent,

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) Network is now being transformed into a Poverty Eradication Centre (PEC). One of the main functions of this centre will be to collect and store information on poverty. In short, the PEC will set up a resource centre on poverty. Based on this, CSPR is now undertaking a survey to establish organizations which have a main focus on poverty and more especially generate, collect and store information on poverty.

Organization.....
Position of Respondent.....
Date.....
Focus area (s) of the organization on poverty?

.....
.....
.....

Type of existing Information on poverty?

.....
.....
.....

What would you advise on the plans to set up a resource centre on poverty?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Please list the titles of documents that your organization produces, e.g. The JCTR Food Basket Bulletin:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Can copies of the documents listed above be donated to the CSPR information centre? Please indicate whether free or at a fee.

Yes.....No.....

What type of information would your organization want to access from the CSPR information centre?

.....

For each of the categories below, indicate how useful the information/documents would be once accessed from the CSPR Information Centre?

Please Indicate 1. <i>Very useful</i> 2. <i>Useful</i> 3. <i>Not useful</i> 4. <i>Can't tell</i>	Type of Information	Where possible specify area
	Grassroots Research Reports E.g. CCJP budget monitoring reports	
	Other Research Reports e.g. PRSP country comparative studies	
	UN Annual Reports E.g. Human Development Reports	
	GRZ Economic Reports and other GRZ reports	
	World Bank World Development Reports	
	Macroeconomic Indicators (Produced Ministry of Finance)	
	Survey Reports E.g. Living Conditions Survey Reports	
	Poverty Statistics	
	Employment Statistics	
	Sector Statistics E.g. Health, Agriculture, education Statistics	
	Trade Statistics	
	Population Statistics	

	Workshop Reports E.g. the ZAMSIF Poverty Information Dissemination Workshop	
	Other documents	

Appendix B: INDEX OF DATA

INDEX OF PUBLICATIONS TITLES

Author	Title	Year	Cost	Priority	ISBN	Found At
CSO	Report on Employment and Earnings	1969-71	5000			CSO
CSO	Selected Socio-economic Indicators	1999	20000	****		CSO
CSO	Selected Socio-economic Indicators	2000	25000	****		CSO
CSO	Quarterly Employment & Earnings Survey	1992	4000			CSO
CSO	Quarterly Employment & Earnings Survey	1993	5000			CSO
CSO	Quarterly Employment & Earnings Survey	1994	5000			CSO
CSO	Quarterly Employment & Earnings Survey	2000	15000			CSO
CSO	Employment Trends	1985	4000			CSO
CSO	Living Conditions Monitoring Survey Report	1996	20000	****		CSO
CSO	Living Conditions in Zambia	1998	20000	****		CSO
CSO	Living Conditions in Zambia (main Report)	1998	20000	****		CSO
CSO	The Evolution of Poverty 1991-1996	1996	15000	****		CSO
MoFNP	Economic Reports (several Years)	Undated				MoFNP
UNDP	Zambia Human Development Report	2000				UNDP
UNDP	Human Development Report	2000			0-19-521679-4	UNDP
World Bank	World Development Indicators	2001				WB
World Bank	Zambia Poverty Assessment	1994		***		WB
World Bank	Taking Action to Reduce Poverty in	1996		***	0-8213-3699-1	WB
World Bank	A Framework and Indicative Cost Analysis For Better Health	1993				WB
J.Klugman, et al	A Survey of Health Reform in Central Asia	1996				WB
Sara Project	Action For Better Health in Africa	1994				WB
Senderowitz, J.	Adolescent Health-Reassessing the Passage to Adulthood	1995				WB
Wigg, D. et al	And Then Forgot to Tell us Why	1993				WB
World Bank	Better Health in Africa-Experience and Lessons Learnt	1994				WB
World Bank	Brazil-The New Challenge of Adult Health	1990				WB

Ann Starrs	Challenge For the Nineties-Safe Motherhod in South Asia	1990	WB
D. Filmer,et al	Child Mortality and Public Spending on Health	1997	WB
H.Alderman,et al	Child Nutrition,Child Health & School Enrollment	1997	WB
World Bank	Chile: The Adult Health Policy Challenge	1995	WB
World Bank	Confronting Aids-Public Priorities in a Global Epidemic	1997	WB
A. Kim, et al	Cost Benefit Analysis of the Global Dracunculiasis	1997	WB
B.R.Johnson et al	Cost Benefit Analysis of the Onchocerciasis Control Program	1993	WB
B.Bidani, et al.	Decomposing Social Indicators Using Distributional Analysis	1995	WB
K.D Benefo, et a	Determinants of FertilityandChild Mortality in Cote D'ivoire	1994	WB