

What is CSPR?

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is a civil society network that came together in October 2000 with the main objective of ensuring that civil society from different backgrounds and in diverse locations effectively participated in the formulation of Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PRSP was launched in July 2002 and reflects a fairly large amount of civil society's concerns.

CSPR members felt that the depth of unity shown by civil society during the PRSP formulation should be extended to monitoring the PRSP and other policies, programmes and activities aimed at poverty eradication. The diverse membership of CSPR has continued to grow into a strong civil society poverty network, with teams in different parts of the country.

The main thrust of our activities is advocacy around poverty reduction issues. The advocacy is supported by poverty monitoring currently centred around PRSP, research, information dissemination and capacity building. All these activities are aimed at strengthening civil society's voice in poverty eradication. CSPR also carries out sensitisation programmes for different stakeholders and popularisation of poverty documents.

Who belongs to CSPR?

Many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are part of the network. They include groups with interest in governance, democracy, human rights, education, gender, youth concerns, health & HIV/AIDS, agriculture, land, economic issues, press freedom, trade unions and environment.

Activities;

Our activities focus on three programme areas:

A. Monitoring & Evaluation

The **overall objective** of this programme is to effectively monitor the implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and plans aimed at reducing and eradicating poverty by government and other stakeholders.

Activities include:

Research

To identify specific policies, strategies and programmes aimed at reducing poverty and see whether they meet the poverty eradication test.

Pre and Post Budget Analysis

To raise the voice of civil society in the budget formulation process and implementation.

Poverty Assessment

To monitor the implementation and impact of pro-poor policies and programs using approaches which allow the intended beneficiaries to participate. This involves micro level monitoring in which the community is the unit of analysis.

Expenditure Tracking

This entails macro and micro level analysis aimed at tracking resources meant for poverty reduction from the allocations to disbursements to poverty programmes.

B. Information Dissemination & Advocacy

The **overall objective** of this programme is to promote awareness and increase understanding on poverty issues in order to advocate and influence policies aimed at poverty eradication.

The activities include:

Awareness

Through sensitisation programmes, and production of popular materials (simplification of documents), radio and television programmes, press articles, etc.

Forums

Through experience sharing forums, media discussions, national workshops and provision of information on poverty to various stakeholders.

Advocacy

To lobby and pressurise stakeholders to formulate and implement appropriate policies, plans and strategies for poverty eradication.

Resource Room

To source and make available policy documents, research reports, books, journals, periodicals and other materials on poverty.

C. Capacity Building and Institutional Development

The **overall objective** of this programme is to develop the capacity of CSOs to enhance their active participation and full ownership of poverty reduction in Zambia.

The activities include:

Training

To improve the ability of CSOs to participate in poverty reduction programmes.

Networking

To promote networking through local, national and international workshop that facilitate information sharing on practices in poverty reduction and eradication.

Institutional Development

To ensure the structure of the CSPR network continues to be relevant and responsive to the mission of the network.

Our Structure

CSPR comprises:

Network Council:

This is the general membership of CSPR. It is the final decision making body and meets once a year at an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Network Steering Committee

The Network Steering Committee is the policy making body of the network and meets on a regular basis in order to design and plan the implementation of CSPR programmes.

Program Management Teams

To ensure effective implementation of the CSPR activities, a Program Management Team (PMT) has been set up for each of the three core programmes, namely, the Monitoring and Evaluation, Information Dissemination and Advocacy, and Capacity Building PMTs.

Provincial Programme Management Teams

The Provincial Focal Groups link our activities to the people in the communities. Our focal groups are in Eastern, Luapula, North-Western, Southern and Western Provinces.

CSPR Secretariat

The activities of CSPR are co-ordinated by a Secretariat located directly opposite the University of Zambia main entrance. The Secretariat houses a Coordinator, Assistant-Coordinator, Information Officer, an Administrative Assistant and a Development Worker

Friends of CSPR

Friends of CSPR are those organisations that participate in larger forums and broad activities of the CSPR e.g. capacity building programmes, recipients of information, provide input on national issues, etc, but are not part of the formal structure of the network.

Our Mission

In partnership with Government and other stakeholders, to promote the effective participation of civil society in poverty eradication in Zambia through the promotion of awareness on poverty issues, the monitoring of implementation of plans, policies and programmes, advocacy on pro-poor policies and programmes and capacity building within member organisations and other partner institutions involved in poverty eradication.

OUR VISION:

A POVERTY FREE ZAMBIA

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