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*Poverty Eradication Newsletter*

**PEN**

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## WILL THE 5TH NDP MAP OUT ZAMBIA'S PATH AWAY FROM POVERTY?

Zambia is currently in the process of drawing up its fifth National Development Plan (NDP). This is the overall plan for national development for 2006-2011 and will succeed the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP). The 5th NDP will be for a period of six years, beginning 2006. The cardinal question for every one to ask is: Will the NDP result in national development and a significant reduction in Zambia poverty?

Following Government's disclosure of the roadmap for the next phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) – the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP), CSPR has drawn up a civil society roadmap that will guide and enhance civil society input to complement the government led process.

The Civil Society recognizes that government has limitations in the extent of including a wide spectrum of stakeholders in development processes such as the NDP and thus must be complimented. The civil society roadmap is intended to ensure broader inclusion of the poor people's voice, both directly and indirectly influence the final outcome of the NDP.

### GOVERNMENT'S PROCESS

Ministry of Finance and National Development NDP Anchor Person, Mr. Muhabi Lungu explained that NDP is a medium term planning instrument intended to focus Government's policy and programming towards a desired objective or objectives set in a specified time frame.

Giving a brief background to planning, he explained that national planning has been re-introduced upon realizing that an annual budget was not a sufficient tool for long-term national development planning.

In his presentation of the NDP, Mr Lungu emphasized the following issues:

**Time-Frame:** Covers a period of 6 years (2005-2011) which has been adopted as a result of the three-year budgeting cycle of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

**Basis of NDP Design:** Within realistic annual and medium-term budget process that will keep in line with the policy of decentralization and reflect broad based consultations

**Rational behind the NDP:** Is a build-up to the implementation of the first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP2002-2004) and the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP-2002-2005).

## GOVERNMENT'S ROADMAP

Government, through the Ministry of Finance and National Development drew up a roadmap of the NDP process in April, 2005. Among others, they held a consultative meeting with civil society at which the roadmap was shared and civil society asked to submit comments. The NDP will be for a five year period from 2006 – 2011. The final document is scheduled to be officially launched in February, 2006. This roadmap is going hand in hand with the formulation of the National Long Term Vision (NLTV) (2030). The Roadmap includes:

- Capacity Building for SAGs, including in NDP monitoring
- District Policy planning meetings to discuss District Poverty Profiles
- Advocacy and sensitisation which will entail adverts announcing the process and requesting for submissions
- Consultations with stakeholders representing the actual design and development of the NDP
- Consultations with members of Parliament on NDP and NLTV
- National stakeholders meeting to consider the draft sectoral chapters
- Incorporation of all contributions by all stakeholders solicited
- Approval by cabinet
- Official launch (tentative date is 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2005)
- Integration of the NDP PROGRAMS into the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (2006-8) and National budget for 2006.

## CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROADMAP

The civil society input will be implemented through the creation of platforms at which the different civil society groups and key stakeholders will have opportunities to exchange, share, discuss and debate key development and poverty issues for consideration in the NDP. Civil society and communities will be involved at the different levels through the various platforms, including the following:

- Civil Society Thematic Groups that will analyse and input into selected areas of focus. The thematic areas include environment, Employment and social protection, HIV/AIDS, gender, Health and Nutrition, Water and sanitation and low cost housing, Agriculture and food security, child, youth and education, mining and industry, macro-economics and governance.
- Linking Provincial Program Management Teams (PPMTs) to the government processes at district and provincial levels
- Ensure participation in ongoing government platforms such as Sectoral Advisory Groups, Provincial and District Development Coordinating Committees;
- Information gathering at the grass root level through participatory techniques through poverty assessments to get community input;
- Community sensitisation to raise the levels of awareness on the NDP process.
- Lobby for the draft NDP to be debated by parliament before cabinet approval;
- Consensus building workshop on the outputs.

## CIVIL SOCIETY INCEPTION WORKSHOP ON THE NDP

As a first step, the CSPR organised an inception workshop for civil society engagement in the NDP process on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005 where an overview of the government's roadmap was presented, as well as that of civil society. The civil society thematic groups were also revived and held their maiden meetings at the same workshop.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Mulima Akapelwa identified the following as reasons for the relevance of this workshop

The importance of keeping the fight against poverty as a key issue in the development process of the country

- The workshop would provide civil society organizations represented with one common and generally agreed upon entry point in the National Development Plan
- To gain knowledge about the National Development Plan and more importantly share this information with other partners that might not be present in the workshop

The importance of the workshop was to gain adequate understanding of the National Development Plan in order to have meaningful and effective engagement.

## Strategic Alliances and Partnerships

In her opening remarks, Acting UN Coordinator Ms. Margaret O'Callaghan noted that Zambia is a good example of how the poverty situation in the world is worsening in spite of the progress made in advancing human development in the last century.

She explained that the United Nations Systems will strive to build strategic alliances and partnerships with a full range of civil society actors in order to ensure that the interests of the poor are fully integrated in the NDP. In addition, Ms. O'Callaghan stressed the following key points:

“The engagement of the UN system in the National Development Plan is supported by various internationally agreed upon development initiatives such as the UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which emphasize the importance of focusing poverty reduction strategies,” she said.

Ms. O'Callaghan said the role of the UN in poverty reduction strategies is based on the following premises:

- National Governments have the main responsibility to eradicate poverty in their countries
- Ensuring a participatory process by advocating, promoting and facilitating the involvement of civil society organizations
- Ensuring that the MDGs are substantively addressed in the poverty reduction strategies or national development plans
- Estimating costs of implementing poverty reduction strategies such as the MDGs is a basis for advocacy and resource mobilization.

She concluded by assuring the participants two major issues. Firstly, the UN agencies will continue to build the capacities of the Government for its effective implementation of poverty reduction strategies. Secondly, the UN recognised the important role of civil society in the formulation of National Development Plans, especially as a means of ensuring wide participation, quality and in depth analysis of poverty.

## MDGising the NDP

UNDP Economist, Ms. Elder Chirwa's presentation focused on the importance of anchoring the NDP on the MDGs. She informed the participants that an MDG-based NDP approach is characterized by the 2 following issues:

- It is anchored on bold, long-term and outcome-based strategies aimed at achieving the MDG targets
- Focuses on NEEDS despite absorptive capacity constraints
- Planned investment in people, infrastructure and environment

Furthermore, she explained that an MDG-based NDP must be guided by six factors namely national ownership, high level of political commitment, transparency, inclusiveness, integration and regular reviews.

In conclusion, Ms. Chirwa stressed the following about an MDG-based NDP:

- 2005-2015 should be a decade of bold actions
- Will be receive support from the UN system
- Must be based on 10-year framework for action
- Link to MTEF to translate the PRS into budget outlays
- Must be linked to the national budget and Vision 2030

## CO-OPERATING PARTNERS' RESPONSE TO THE NDP

Mr. Richard Montgomery from DFID informed the participants that the NDP was important because it was building on Zambia's present PRSP, thereby strengthening poverty reduction efforts. In addition, he explained that the NDP was important to the co-operating partners for the following reasons:

- Re-balancing CP support
- Reducing administrative burdens of “too many donors’ on Government
- Increasing the use of more effective funding

According to Mr. Montgomery, the following are the views of the CP on the roles of civil society in the NDP

- Giving the voice for the poor
- Influencing priorities within and between sectors
- Can decisively influence the quality and legitimacy of the NDP

## Civil Society and the NDP

Based on past experiences on PRSP work, CSPR Network Coordinator, Mrs. Besinati Mpepo, implored on civil society to ensure that it meaningfully and effectively participated in the NDP. Furthermore, she argued that civil society's participation was important because of the following reasons:

- Wealth of information in civil society
- The importance of national ownership
- The need to set correct priorities

In addition, Ms Mpepo stressed that civil society's engagement in the NDP must be characterized by a clear, coordinated and widely agreed upon strategy at all levels. She also urged civil society to lobby to strengthen the NDP consultation structures such as the SAGs, PDCCs and DDCCs in order to ensure effective civil society participation.

Furthermore, she shared the proposed civil society thematic groups, namely Agriculture and Food security, Industry and Mining, Water and Sanitation and low cost housing, Education, Child and Youth, Health and Nutrition, Environment, HIV/AIDS, Macro-Economics, Governance and Gender.

## HIPC Completion Point - Is It Worthwhile for Zambia?

***On 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that Zambia had finally reached the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Completion Point. This development has earned Zambia considerable debt relief from both bilateral and multilateral partners. It has also raised mixed reactions from different quotas of society. Charity Musamba, Coordinator of Jubilee Zambia, analysed what attaining HIPC Completion really means for Zambia.***

...the relevance of the HIPC Initiative to Zambia must be seen within the context that there is a big difference between "sustainable debt" and "sustainable development." Zambia needs sustainable development, which takes into account the issue of debt sustainability. The key question remains: Was the HIPC Initiative worthwhile?

This period was significantly marked with the continuation of the Structural Adjustment Reforms. We are all familiar with the benefits and the huge problems associated with this programme. The key benefit was debt relief - the "carrot" attached to adherence to the conditionality mentioned.

Zambia missed the HIPC Completion Point in December 2003 because we had overspent in terms of the Government expenditures. Ordinary Zambians and civil servants were asked to "sacrifice" in order for the country to reach the HIPC Completion Point!

There was very little emphasis on the need to meet the "conditionality" on social sector conditions. It is now time to ask this question – was it worthwhile?

### BACKGROUND to HIPC

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) was initially introduced by the international creditor community in 1996 and was "enhanced" in 1999. The IMF and World Bank assumed the role of "gate keepers" in this initiative - to ensure that this initiative was to be accompanied by "sound" macro-economic policy. According to these institutions, the HIPC initiative was primarily designed to:

- Ø Provide poor countries with a "robust exit" from the debt overhang. The aim was to bring the huge debt stocks of these countries to sustainable levels (to a situation where a country would have no problems to pay back when debts fell due).
- Ø Provide funds in form of debt relief (reduction in debt service payment) to finance poverty reduction programmes in these poor countries.

As expected, the solution to poor countries' debt and poverty crises lay in promoting economic growth, which would be created through promotion of export – oriented economies.

Since the year 2000, Zambia's main avenue of reducing its debt has been through the enhanced HIPC initiative. Zambia "qualified" to this initiative in December 2000. This was three years after successfully implementing IMF and World Bank led structural and monetary reforms. Zambia was "awarded" a total debt package of US\$3.8b. This relief was going to be fully met by the creditors after reaching the HIPC Completion Point. Zambia has struggled for the past 5 years to reach the HIPC Completion Point, which we attained recently.

### THE BENEFITS

**a. Irrevocable Debt Relief:** The total package of “debt relief” to Zambia is US\$3.8bn. Zambia started receiving this relief in January 2001. The relief that came to Zambia between the Decision Point and the Completion Point was known as “interim” relief. These funds were primarily for poverty reduction purposes. Therefore, we saw an increase in the national budget allocations to poverty reduction areas. Some programmes embarked upon were schools and health infrastructure rehabilitation, bridges and roads rehabilitation. After the HIPC Completion Point, it is expected that Zambia will receive an average of US\$135m as debt relief per year.

**b. Reduced External Debt Servicing Levels:** Zambia would have been servicing debts in amounts of US\$450m to 650m per year if it did not qualify for HIPC. There has been a reduction in the levels of debt servicing – US\$100m – US\$150m on average. Clearly this is a breathing space! Would we have afforded to pay extremely high servicing?

**c. Reduction in Total Debt Stock:** It is expected that there will be a minimal reduction in the total debt stock, though not immediately. But if this reduction is taken with the overall reduction in debt service, it does give Zambia some breathing space.

**d. Greater Focus on Poverty:** As outlined in the conditionality, we have seen greater focus of the international community in the issue of poverty. The PRSP and stronger focus on social sectors has facilitated national and international debates on the issue of poverty in Zambia

## THE CHALLENGES

**a) Reduction in Total Debt Stock:** It might not come automatically for the following reasons. We are aware that Zambia has continued to borrow outside the HIPC initiative arrangement. This might mean a short-lived reduction in the debt stock and compared to the development challenges before Zambia, Government might be forced to borrow more. We must look at the issue of the rise in the cost of imports vs. our exports’ earning real income. This is what has forced Uganda to go into unsustainable levels of debt 4 times after reaching the HIPC Completion Point.

We must also be aware that most of the debt relief to Zambia after the HIPC Completion Point will be in form of reduced debt servicing and not a reduction on the total debt stock. Poor terms of trade at international level will also continue to force our Government to borrow more in order to finance the budget deficit. Therefore, we must not expect any significant changes on the actual debt stock of Zambia. This means that the debt burden is still with us. It is now more urgent than ever for us to vehemently campaign for total debt cancellation.

**b) Reduction in External Debt Servicing Levels:** The continuation of debt service payments after HIPC shows that the country will still need to put a certain amount of resources aside to meet this obligation. Zambia will have to put aside an average of US\$100m – US\$150m every year as debt service! At the current rate of economic growth, incomes from exports and the development challenges of HIV/AIDS and poverty in general, this will rob Zambia of resources that would otherwise be used for critical national needs.

**c) Debt Relief Resources:** The use of debt relief resources in Zambia leaves a lot to be desired. As you know, cases of misuse and mismanagement of previous HIPC relief resources were common. So what measures have we put in place to ensure that we do not repeat this problem. Misuse of relief resources is not just an issue of theft, but is a dent on economic governance and a draw back for the debt cancellation campaigners. The US\$3.89b HIPC debt relief will not come all at once. This relief has been spread over a period of 22 years from the year of the Decision Point – 2000.

**d) Debt Sustainability:** It important to note that debt sustainability for Zambia was primarily based on exports than on our government revenues, poverty or HIV/AIDS challenge faced by Zambia. The export criterion is rather misplaced because Zambia’s economy largely depends on foreign investors who have the right to repatriate 100% of their profits! This money is not re-invested in the economy. The big question is: What does Zambia need most – debt sustainability or development sustainability.

**e) Conditionality:** The package of conditionality must be revisited and reviewed. For a long time now, the international community has continued to impose policies – especially on the economic and social sectors that actually erode the whole fight for debt sustainability in Zambia. We are not against structural and economic reform but Zambians need to decide and participate in how the reforms are implemented to reflect the real interest of the nation. We know that the policies of liberalisation and privatisation have benefited the external world at the expense of majority Zambians.

## THE SUSTAINABILITY OF DEBT SITUATION AFTER HIPC

It will be impossible to maintain sustainability of Zambia’s debts especially if the following issues are ignored

- Ø The social challenges faced by the country: We need to find lasting solutions to the pandemics of HIV/AIDS and poverty. Failure to combat these problems will result in major losses of human resource – a pre-requisite and key ingredient for sustainable development. Zambia needs huge amounts of funds to overcome these problems. Poor productivity might lead to more external borrowing by government.
  - Ø Poor external trade: Zambia's external trade portfolio needs to improve on the regional and international market levels. Low prices and unfavorable terms of trade have often resulted in more external borrowing.
  - Ø Lack of quality national leadership: The aim to resolve Zambia's current financial problems can only be achieved if the technical and political leadership are committed to implementing policies that promote accountability, participation and transparency in the use of public resources. Therefore, it is important to put effective budgetary and external loan contraction regulatory frameworks in place.
  - Ø Lack of motivated and well skilled technocrats: A well-trained and motivated technocratic system is important in the fight against external debts. We must ensure that those who are in charge of representing this country before external agents are well informed and committed to the development of this country. They must have the skills to critically analyse the implications of the agreements offered to Zambia.
- b) It will be possible to maintain sustainability of Zambia's debts especially under the following conditions:
- Ø We put an effective budget and loan and debt management system supported by Constitutional provisions
  - Ø We implement a more development-oriented policy framework – trade and investment
  - Ø We improve our levels of fiscal discipline and truly fight corruption in all forms
  - Ø We share and disseminate important information on economic and financial issues affecting the development of Zambians
  - Ø We challenge political commitment to the fight against external indebtedness across all political parties.

## WAY FORWARD – WHAT CAN WE DO?

### a) Lessons to remember:

#### 1. **To the International Community:** Four Major lessons:

- Ø Design, develop and implement development initiatives that are based on the realistic economic, political and cultural situations found in poor countries.
- Ø More importantly, practice real partnership and partnership ethics in development – which calls for the involvement of the voices of poor countries in the design, implementation and evaluation of development initiatives. This is the hallmark of good governance and democracy.

Specifically in relation to the issue of debt, two key issues –

- Ø Partial cancellations will never lead to sustainable debt levels for countries with high poverty levels, poor terms of trade and poor investment policies.
- Ø Solutions to the debt crises in poor countries must go beyond economic growth calculations to include the social challenges that poor countries face.

#### 2. **The Government of Zambia:** Four major lessons:

- Ø Importance of putting in place an effective loan and debt management system that will avoid “a 4<sup>th</sup>” HIPC for Zambia.
- Ø Need to critically analyse and negotiate the conditions attached to the loans acquired.
- Ø Involve the public, especially organised civil society and institutions such as Parliament and academia in lobbying and negotiating for fair conditions of borrowing.
- Ø Provide correct and timely information to the public, civil society and other stakeholders to facilitate effective national debates and discussions around issues of debt and conditions. This will help create the realistic picture of challenges faced by Government, as a representative of the country to the outside world.

#### 3. **The People of Zambia**

- Ø We must develop an alert and politically active attitude towards issues of financial and economic development in Zambia.
- Ø We must demand access to information pertaining to our Government's agreements with the international community. We must analyse this information – from the angle of asking the relevance and implications of these agreements on our development.
- Ø We need to join in the campaign and processes that aim to promote fair and effective development programmes for this country.

## **b) Recommendations**

1. **Demand for the establishment of an effective Loan and Debt Management System** - The system must be anchored on the following

- Ø Policies that will promote accountability, transparency and public participation. The system must make a constitutional provision for Parliamentary consensus to review any new loans.
- Ø Timely provision and accessibility to information on loans and conditionality attached to these loans. Local communities and civil society must be provided with adequate information on the loans contracted in order for them to monitor and evaluate the utilisation of these resources.
- Ø Institutionalisation of independent monitoring and evaluation systems on the utilisation of borrowed resources. For example, the independent HIPC Expenditure Monitoring Team should be re-instituted.

2. **Call for the development of long term strategies on fiscal discipline** – That must result into a framework with solutions to the following questions

- Ø How can we ensure that we do not fall into deeper debts?
- Ø How can we ensure that public resources are properly utilised?
- Ø How can we ensure that debt relief translates into better living conditions for the poor people?

3. **Develop and practice stronger political and government will** - That will be evidenced by the following:

- Ø Set priorities correctly
- Ø Strengthen negotiating skills with the International Community
- Ø Implement both short and long term strategies against economic and political corruption

4. **Encourage and support greater public alertness** - The people of Zambia must develop greater interest in policy and development issues especially those focusing on the economic development and the role of international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, and European Union etc. The following are key in developing this interest:

- Ø Role of Civil Society - Must enhance their economic literacy programmes especially amongst the local communities. This knowledge must be disseminated in simple but properly analysed forms that will enable these groups to take the right action.
- Ø Action Oriented Public - We must begin to look for sustainable ways of cultivating stronger and politically sensitised communities that will effectively participate in national discussions and debates on the economic and financial issues affecting Zambia.

For further information, contact: Jubilee-Zambia, Debt Cancellation for Poverty Eradication (Hosted by JCTR) E-mail: [debtjctr@zamnet.zm](mailto:debtjctr@zamnet.zm) Web: [www.jctr.org.zm](http://www.jctr.org.zm)

## **JUBILEE' S POSITION**

**As part of the Jubilee movement 2000, Jubilee-Zambia has always argued that the HIPC initiative 1 and 2 were not the right solutions to Zambia's debt and poverty problems. Instead we have continued to call for total debt cancellation for poverty reduction in Zambia.**

Based on the main premise that the HIPC Initiative was a creditor's initiative primarily designed to ensure that poor countries such as Zambia met their debt service obligations without default when due, the Jubilee movement observed the following:

The HIPC initiative was based on a narrow premise of economic growth as a means of reducing poverty. Yes, economic growth is important but it is not sufficient – We must ask the questions: Who participates in the growth and who benefits?

The HIPC debt sustainability criteria were primarily based on exports – what about human development needs and government revenues, current investment policy of Zambia and unfair international trade systems, poor prices etc?

The HIPC initiative was a creditors' initiative to assure debt repayment – not resolving the debt trap that poor countries found themselves – colonialism, neo-colonialism, corruption and poor economic policy etc. The HIPC initiative was closely linked to the continuation of the Structural Adjustment Programme – “conditionality” that has social consequences.

It was upon these observations that the Jubilee Movement worldwide has continued to promote a vigorous campaign for total debt cancellation.

## **THE HIPC BENCHMARKS**

The following are the Conditionality/Benchmarks to Zambia's attainment of the HIPC Completion Point:

### **Poverty Reduction - Adoption of the PRSP**

- *Presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> PRSP Annual Progress Report*
- *Improvement of Poverty database*
- *Improvement of Poverty Monitoring Capacity*

### **Education Sector-Education Sector Reform**

- *Increase share of education in the discretionary budget (23%)*
- *Increase the annual growth rate of enrolment in primary schools*
- *Establishing education boards at the district level to foster Decentralisation*
- *Restructuring the pay and benefits of teachers to encourage location in rural areas*
- *Output indicators for a programme of rehabilitation of substandard school structures*
- *Increase the book to pupil ratio in primary schools*
- *Reform the basic curriculum to improve literacy, numeracy and Communication skills*

### **Health Sector**

- *Implementation of the strategic framework for HIV/AIDS*
- *Adoption of a strategic framework for HIV/AIDS*
- *Implementation and scaling-up of the Action Plan for Malaria*
- *Progress in Health Sector Reforms*
- *Adoption of comprehensive guidelines and procedures for procurement of drugs*
- *Increase the share of health expenditures in the Budget*
- *Progress in rehabilitation of substandard rural and urban health centres*

### **Water Sub Sector - Rehabilitation of deteriorated urban water supply systems**

### **Macroeconomic -stay current on debt service to foreign creditors**

- *Finalise the privatisation of ZESCO and ZANACO*

### **Continue with the Targets of the PRGF**

**A Comment on the Conditions:** *Even though these seem to be comprehensive on paper, much of the international focus was more on the macroeconomic and PRGF issues than meeting the social and poverty related conditions – one asks: are some conditions more important than others? The implementation of some macroeconomic economic conditionality has had a negative impact on the fight against poverty: Who set the priorities and why?*

## **CIVIL SOCIETY IS A GOOD PARTNER FOR POVERTY REDUCTION ADVOCACY**

Government recognizes that civil society and in particular, CSPP, is a good partner in advocacy for poverty reduction.

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), Mr. Ronald Banda said this during the official opening of a two day civil society consultative workshop on the World Bank led Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) study. The workshop was hosted by CSPP on behalf of the World Bank (WB) and Department for International Development (DFID) on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide civil society and other invited participants an opportunity to discuss a number of background papers that had been prepared as part of the World Bank's PVA for Zambia. It also provided an opportunity to share information and views on the situation regarding poverty and vulnerability in Zambia.

Hon. Ronald Banda explained that the Conference was important to his Ministry because the PVA hinged on the most pressing problem that Zambia was currently facing – poverty.

“The PVA consultations must be taken as a platform to enhance dialogue and strengthening partnership aimed at fostering a clearer understanding of these links between nature and the extent of poverty in Zambia. It should also foster the interplay between evidence and policy which are necessary in building consensus on issues of poverty reduction,” he said.

Mr. Banda informed the workshop that Zambia's vulnerability levels have reached alarming levels mainly because of three shocks namely, HIV/AIDS, recurring drought and macro-economic shocks.

He said based on the realizations, the MDCSS has formed a new Sector Advisory Group (SAG) on Social Protection to make recommendations and develop a strategy on social protection policies and programs, which will be contributed to the broader framework of the next PRSP.

And World Bank Deputy Country Manager, Mr. Mohammed Taji Sharif, said the workshop was important as it provided an opportunity to debate pertinent poverty related issues. “It is an important workshop because it provides an opportunity for us to debate issues that must continue to occupy our minds until we have achieved the eight MDGs including eradication of extreme poverty and hunger,” he said.

Mr. Sharif assured the workshop that the debates would inform the World Bank around issues of alignment with the PRSP as outlined in the Country Assistance Strategy. He emphasised that the mission of the World Bank was ‘to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results’.

And DFID Head, Ms Beverly Warmington stressed that the PVA provided a recent, broad and comprehensive picture on poverty in Zambia. She explained that there had been so much focus on the macroeconomic sector such as the trade imbalances and the HIPC Completion Point.

“Development activists have paid little attention to issues looking at people's perceptions of their lives, the reality of life for the poor and whether what we are doing is making a change,” she said.

Ms. Warmington also explained that the PVA analysis of the nature of poverty would only be useful if it helped to inform policy and practice in Zambia. She thus encouraged the participants to make good use of the findings of the PVA in development processes.

The Zambia PVA was launched in 2004 by the World Bank and focuses on poverty diagnostics with the objective of updating knowledge about the extent and nature of poverty in Zambia, as well as identifying key constraints, opportunities, and challenges that Zambia faces in reducing poverty.

#### *The broad themes for the workshop were as follows:*

- Ø Economic growth
- Ø Zambia's poverty profile
- Ø Rural poverty (including the incapacitated poor and rural markets/labor)
- Ø PRSP in Zambia
- Ø Urban poverty and;
- Ø Links between HIV/AIDS and Poverty

Discussants to the papers included Professor Venkatesh Seshamani (UNZA Economics Department), Mr. Muweme Muweme (JCTR – Basic Needs Basket), Mrs. Maria Nkunika (Steadfast Action Foundation) and CSPR Network Co-coordinator, Mrs. Besinati Mpepo.

After the presentations and discussions, participants were divided into four (4) groups and asked to make recommendations to the Zambia PRSP review and 5 recommendations for the PVA. The following were some of the submissions from the groups:

## Recommendations for the PVA

- (i) Address the unacceptable living conditions – lighting, managing accommodation, and good size for plots
- (ii) Government should work hand in hand with civil society and communities
- (iii) Measures to ensure that funds trickle down to the grassroots should be put in place
- (iv) The PVA must focus on reducing poverty in rural areas by concentrating on the following issues: provision of capital, promotion of land ownership, supply of inputs, improvement of road infrastructure, provision of water and sanitation, ensuring of food security, provision of health services, shelter, education and caring for the environment
- (v) Statistics should assist in guiding policy formulation. Therefore, there is need to harmonise the different figures highlighted between Government and the PVA
- (vi) There is need to ensure that poor are given space to share their experiences of poverty

## Recommendations for the PRSP

- (i) Implementation of PRSP must be transparent and effective financial management system and there must be strong commitment from co-operating partners and Government to finance and implement the PRSP
- (ii) Public resources must be expended in rural areas in order to create opportunities to rural communities through the councils
- (iii) Promote the participation of the private sector in poverty reduction
- (iv) Government should establish more VCT centers and emphasis on confidentiality and strengthen the skills of health workers and counselors
- (v) There must be a policy on rural infrastructure development – markets, roads, demand and supply
- (vi) Government should put in place a good policy that will promote access to quality social services such as health, education and water
- (vii) Need for economic growth rates targets of 8-10% and this growth should be sustainable
- (viii) The type of growth should be one that will not be sectorised but rather broad-based and pro-poor, as well as macro and economic stability

There were over 150 participant to the workshop mainly from civil society but also included some Government officials, cooperating partners and members of the academia.

## CSPR Signs Agreement with Cooperating Partners

In order to continue and further enhance active participation and full ownership of poverty reduction in Zambia, CSPR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its Cooperating partners, on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2005, in order to reaffirm partnership.

Representative of the Cooperating Partners, Dr. Markus Nuding said that the CSPR Network allowed members across Zambia to enhance their active and full ownership of poverty reduction in Zambia, as well as play an active role in influencing and shaping the future development of the country.

He encouraged civil society and government to strengthen partnerships in order to ensure poverty reduction in Zambia. He thanked the Government for its willingness to allow representatives from the CSPR Network to sit on the various Government Development Coordinating Committees.

“As cooperating partners, we would like to encourage the development of this partnership between the CSPR and the Government of Zambia through further close cooperation and the sharing of information in order to work together to ensure a poverty free Zambia,” he said.

And Secretary to the Treasury, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane remarked that having been present at the birth of CSPR five years ago, observing the growth of the Network brought him pleasure, satisfaction and pride. He reaffirmed that government would work towards strengthening partnerships with non-state actors as it was vital for national development.

And in her remarks, CSPR Network Coordinator, Besinati Mpepo stated that the international community had clearly supported the work of CSPR since its inception in 2000. She said they have since inception supported Network’s mission of ensuring effective participation of civil society in poverty eradication in Zambia, and its mission of a poverty free Zambia.

“The UNDP and OXFAM were core players in the 2001 Civil Society consultations for the PRS: GTZ and DFID facilitated the organisation of the network and its secretariat and KEPA provided a platform for discussions. Today, these institutions have continued to support CSPR and have been joined by Diakonia, Cordaid, Dan Church Aid, MS-Zambia and the Royal Netherlands Embassy,” she said.

Mrs. Mpepo also thanked the Government, through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, for embracing the network on issues of development and poverty reduction

## MEDIA IMPLORES CIVIL SOCIETY TO INVOLVE THEM IN POVERTY REDUCTION RELATED ACTIVITIES

The media fraternity has called on civil society organisations to engage them in poverty reduction activities if maximum publicity and interest on such issues is to be attained.

The advice was given at the CSPR media round table meeting which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2005.

The media organisations represented at the meeting observed that most Civil Society Organisations do not take a step further to make allowance for journalists in their activities.

It was suggested that CSPR, in particular, should consider taking journalists along during their poverty monitoring and budget tracking exercises so that they see for themselves the conditions under which people live. Also, Civil Society Organisations should be able to factor media training for poverty monitoring in their budgeting.

It is only when reporters are well trained in covering issues that they can become specialized. This would cultivate in the journalists the passion to bring out in-depth issues on behalf of the poor.

The representatives at the meeting also called on CSPR to involve the media at all stages of the PRSP review and formulation process through press statements and informing them of available research reports.

On the other hand, they confessed that media organisations were understaffed while at the same time there were too many issues to cover. It was therefore incumbent upon organisations such as CSPR to be proactive by giving the information to the media.

Media representatives felt that there was a big challenge on civil society and the media to explain the decline in statistics of poverty levels and other related issues to the public.

At the same event, Dr Frederick Mutesa in his presentation observed that the seemingly decrease in poverty statistics was mainly due to the change of methodology used by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) from the Rico to the Diary methodology, which is more comprehensive in determining people's pattern of expenditure. Consequently, the figure of 67% recently released by the CSO is very difficult to compare against the preceding one of 73% due to difference in methodology.

During the discussion, it was observed that government's definition of poverty only took into account the caloric requirements, which exclude meats, chicken and fish. This definition does not even factor in other basic needs. It also does not measure the lack of security and political freedom. It was felt that these requirements needed to be brought together in order to have a holistic definition of poverty.

It also came to light in the meeting that the perceived jump from almost 7% allocations to PRPs in the National Budget to 42% was attributed to the reclassification of the programs to include emoluments and other non-direct poverty reducing interventions.

The meeting concluded that as much as CSPR needs to step up on the dissemination of information to the media, the media should also be proactive by constantly following up Civil Society and taking interest in researching on poverty issues. The role of the media and civil society is to be watchdogs to ensure that poverty reduction is prioritised on the national agenda and money allocated thereto is well utilized.

CSPR organised the meeting out of recognition that the media has proved to be a key player in getting information out to relevant stakeholders.

## Research could Help Alleviate Poverty

There is need to demystify research so that it takes care of the needs of the poor people in Zambia, says Prof. Mubanga Kashoki, of the University of Zambia (UNZA) Institute for Economic and Social Research (INESOR).

Prof. Kashoki says researchers should generate information that can easily be understood by ordinary Zambians.

Panos Southern Africa (PSAf) recently organised a workshop that brought together media practitioners and researchers in Lusaka with the objective to discuss the role of the media and researchers in informing the public through research.

"We want to explore opportunities and challenges for researchers and the media and see how they can work together", said PSAf Media Pluralism Officer Simon Mulumbi.

Dr. Neo Simutanyi of INESOR says there is need for interface between researchers and the media in Zambia.

"Both the media and researchers thrive on information. They have something in common as they are in the business of gathering and disseminating information", said Dr. Simutanyi.

Another re-known researcher Mr. Chitaku Mucheleng'anga agrees that research results should be presented in less technical jargon. "The challenges are enormous but are not insurmountable. We need to work together so that research can benefit poor people in our communities", he said.

A Senior Journalist Ms. Zarina Geloo called on researchers to talk to journalists to avoid distortion of research information.

"Journalists have been treated as nuisance by some researchers. We have also realised that journalists and researchers don't communicate in the same way", said Geloo.

Ken Makungu, Head of Department of the Mass Communication at the University of Zambia, says media practitioners in Zambia are not well read in as far as development information is concerned.

“The media is supposed to interpret statistics, but our reporters do not read enough”, he said.

Mr. Makungu noted that research information was readily available, but the media seemed not to go for it.

He called on researchers to conduct research on matters that enhance and contribute to national development or issues affecting society.

Panos Southern Africa’s vision is to cultivate an informed Southern African community that has sufficient capacity to drive its own development agendas in the next decade.

To achieve this vision, the organization seeks to provide and support platforms for inclusive dialogue and debate, especially for the marginalized communities.

## REVISE YOUTH POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES - NYCA

**The National Youth Constitutional Assembly has urged the Government and other stakeholders in youth to revise their strategies in combating poverty among the young people.**

In its poverty sector report to the United Nations on the evaluation of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) in Zambia, NYCA has revealed that a number of youth poverty alleviating strategies in Zambia, have not achieved intended goals due to a number of inconsistencies.

WPAY is a global commitment by member nations of the UN to develop strategies addressing the welfare of young people. It is currently under review by both governments and civil society, to establish its achievements since its development 10 years ago. Each country has since produced two reports, one by government, the second coming from youth NGOs. In Zambia, NYCA coordinated the NGO review and was responsible for the poverty sector.

Among the cited strategies include the Youth Enterprise Promotion Fund, a Government initiative to enable young people become more aware of self-employment as a potential and viable career option. Its main aim has been to provide loans to various youth groups and individuals.

In its first year, the fund through the loan programme, fared very well. The problem was with the low capacity to monitor due to inadequate funds. In several cases it has been difficult to trace the beneficiaries. Agriculture extension officers did the monitoring. There was also lack of demonstrable entrepreneurship skills among the beneficiaries, as a result most of them found it difficult to repay the loans.

Another cited strategy is the Constituency Youth Fund scheme by the Office of the President in 1996. It was felt that the distribution of funds at the constituency level would ensure balanced universal availability of funding opportunities for youth entrepreneurship.

Young people have complained that the fund is inadequate and has been highly politicised, alleging that most beneficiaries are party cadres or those close the party in leadership in that constituency. Further they say the current distribution system of the fund lacks strong accountability.

“Government should not spend any more money on the youth constituency development fund in its current form because we are not benefiting anything at all,” commented a youth representative from Eastern Province during the review.

Several initiatives in form of funds face the same problem as the above mentioned.

NYCA coordinator Emmanuel Kamwi says the shortfalls in fighting poverty among the youth need urgent attention more especially in rural areas. He says most young people tend to fall for desperate survival measures such as crime, prostitution and hire for political violence.

“As NYCA, we are ready to involve our membership in supporting the revision of these poverty strategies through research on the best methods to effectively implement them. The failure of the early initiatives point to lack of consultation of the beneficiaries,” he says.

NYCA has since sent the Zambia Report to the UN Headquarters in New York after a stakeholder’s consultative meeting. The country WPAY reports will be the basis of the September Ministerial meeting.

The recommendations by the young people in Zambia have also been submitted to the government through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development (MYSCD).

## CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN WORLD BANK POLICY DISCUSSIONS

On April 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005, over 200 participants gathered for a World Bank Civil Society Global Policy Forum in Washington DC. The forum was called to, among other things, promote substantive and thoughtful dialogue on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, to analyse World Bank and Civil Society engagement at the global level over the past years and discuss new ways to improve it, and to foster a greater level of understanding and collaboration between the World Bank and Civil Society Organisations.

The forum took place amidst protests by some civil society organisations over the appointment of the new President of the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz, and about the failure of the Bank to take seriously and implement civil society recommendation arising from similar fora in the past. Indeed, some civil society organisations boycotted the meeting and accused the World Bank of trying to court civil society in the midst of its many scandals.

Nevertheless, a good number of civil society groups from both the North and the South felt that engagement is the most effective way of putting its case on the table and participated in the meetings, not hesitating to raise the concerns of the civic groups that had chosen not to attend the meeting during the deliberations. The Civil Society participants opted to present a communiqué to the outgoing World Bank President, James Wolfenson, on their views and recommendations on World Bank - Civil Society relations.

The communiqué read in part;

'We do not seek to endorse the policy and practices of the Bank, nor do we support the processes by which the new President of the World Bank was selected,.....we understand and respect the decision made by some of our colleagues not to participate in the Forum because previous engagements with the Bank have not had the impact nor led to the changes expected, ... we demand for meaningful and effective participation..'

Among the 15 recommendations from civil society were that the Bank should;

- Engage all affected stakeholders in an open dialogue on macroeconomic framework and structural reform proposals in order to achieve national ownership and coherence between the PRS and the PRGF.
- Establish a policy for Civil Society participation in all Bank policy and project work which provides a legal framework for partnerships (not just strategy or a set of guidelines).
- Promote the Millennium Development Goals and;
- Promote Civil Society engagement in all phases of the policy and project cycles including PRS formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

The Civil Society participants to the meeting ended the communiqué by requesting that both the World Bank Management and its Board respond to the specific points in the communiqué in written form and in direct communication with Civil Society by the Annual Meetings of 2005. For full reports of the forum and the full communiqué, see the World Bank website – [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

## Rural women still land insecure

**A recent study has shown that rural women still face land tenure insecurity. Preliminary findings of a baseline study carried out by the Gender and Development Division (GIDD) of Cabinet Office and Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA) in 2004 found that although most women have access to communal land, they rarely control the land which they farm. Women also rarely access land in resettlement schemes.**

The study interviewed 357 women from selected village and agricultural resettlement/settlement schemes in Eastern, Lusaka and Southern provinces of Zambia.

Married women access land through their husbands but lose the right to the land upon divorce, separation or when widowed. The study also found that although historically, women in matrilineal cultures such as among the Chewa speaking people of Chadiza District enjoyed land ownership and tenure security, their rights to land have been eroded over time.

Men control use of most of the land and proceeds from the land. This contributes to women's food insecurity especially for those who are separated, widowed or divorced.

The study also shows that Zambia's land policies and laws are not gender sensitive in that they do not take into considerations women's needs and that most rural women and men know very little about land policies, laws and formal dispute resolution mechanisms in existence.

Most of the women interviewed thought it was necessary for women to have their own portions of land on which they would exercise full control and make final decisions on land use and on the use of income raised from the sale of produce.

The study recommends changing national land policies and laws to make them gender sensitive, sensitizing communities on women's land rights, enabling women access to farm inputs and markets for their produce. The report of the study is due to be published.

For more information contact the Coordinator, Zambia Land Alliance, [land@coppernet.zm](mailto:land@coppernet.zm)

## ZCSD Holds Consultative Meeting on NGO Draft Bill

In pursuit of an exploratory process in the development of a successful and acceptable Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Code of Conduct, the Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) has made an appeal to the stakeholders for both technical and financial support.

The council has in the same vain called for submission of comments on the NGO draft policy and bill, as this would help the Technical Committee consolidated the NGO position on the drafts for submission to Government.

In response to the recent Government efforts to solicit for comments and contributions on the Draft NGO Bill from a selected number of NGOs, ZCSD, with support from the Commonwealth Foundation, held a consultative meeting on the NGOs Draft Bill and Code of Conduct on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2005. Specifically, the objectives of the Consultative Meeting were as follows:

- a) Establish a common position from all the NGOs on the appropriate NGOs governance framework.
- b) Establish an effective mechanism and measures to engage government to incorporate the views of NGOs in the draft Bill.
- c) Establish a mechanism and measures for coming up with an appropriate governance framework to present to government.
- d) Explore the role of the ZCSD in the whole process.

Following the thorough deliberations that ensued during the Consultative Meeting, a number of resolutions arising from the 36 NGOs that participated were made. These are as follows:

- a) That a Technical Committee be established to spearhead the process of reviewing the NGO governance framework and that ZCSD provides secretariat functions for the Technical Committee, and further that the Committee should review and assess the role of an umbrella NGO in administration of the NGO code of Conduct.
- b) That government embraces a holistic, synchronized and instantaneous approach to the formulation and implementation of the three tenets of governance framework for NGOs that include a National Policy on NGOs, the NGOs Legislation, and a NGOs Code of Conduct.
- c) That government adopts the draft National Policy on NGOs that was drafted in 1996 as a working document.
- d) That a Code of Conduct for the NGOs, which the current draft policy has provided for be drafted by NGOs themselves for presentation to government by August 2005.
- e) That ZCSD establishes contact with NGOs in the country and solicit for their input in the review process of governance framework and specifically in the drafting of the Code of Conduct.
- f) That the draft Bill be presented to Parliament only after input from the entire NGOs sector.

Historically, the NGO sector in Zambia has been experiencing questions of transparency, accountability and legitimacy. Their governance structures and the legitimacy of their work has been a contentious basis for alleged abuse of resources, bad practices and procedures in their work. In response to, and in order to mitigate the afore-going, a seminar on NGO Policy Development was hosted in May 1992 soon after introduction of plural politics in the country, by the ZCSD, the then officially recognized umbrella organisation for the few NGOs that were operating in Zambia. The seminar aimed at;

- a) Providing a forum for NGOs to reflect on and contribute towards a National NGO Policy Framework;
- b) Exploring ways of improving contact and cooperation between NGOs, government and other organizations.

The NGOs and government representatives also met at Kafue Gorge with a series of meetings that culminated in the formulation of a draft National Policy on Non-Governmental Organizations alongside the draft Non-Governmental Organizations Bill in 1996. The drafts of both the National Policy and Bill on Non-Governmental Organizations were later submitted to the NGO-Government Contact Point who in this case were the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and Ministry of Justice (formerly Ministry of Legal Affairs), for purposes of inputting legal technicalities in the draft document jointly designed and agreed by NGOs-Government representatives.

When the draft NGO Bill emerged from Government for presentation to Parliament, the NGOs who alleged the proposed bill did not reflect the original draft that they had worked on, fiercely contested the document. They alleged that the document was heavily "doctored" by government and therefore NGOs refused to associate with it. This has in the last decade led to the stalemate of the process in formulation of the NGO national policy and legislative framework.

Both Government and NGOs however, see the need for some form of regulation or mechanism that would promote accountability, transparency and legitimacy in the NGO sector. However, the contentious issues still remain – who drives this process. How this is going to be done to allay fears of NGOs has been based on the previous experience. To this end, Government has recently decided to revive the stalled process by making amendments to the original Draft Bill before it is submitted to Parliament tentatively in the second half of 2005. The Government has remained mute on the need to adopt the earlier draft National policy on NGOs as complementary to the draft NGO Bill. Further, it has included a provision in the Bill that requires government to make regulations for a Code of Conduct for organizations registered under this Act. To this end, the government has invited commentaries from a selected number of NGOs, specifically those that are active in promotion of gender issues, on the contents of the draft Bill.

In spite of not being invited to make submissions, many other NGOs including those affiliated to the ZCSD, are agreeable in principle with the Government efforts being put in place to provide a holistic legislative framework to ensure consistence and orderliness in the general governance and operations of NGOs in spite of their diverse areas of interest. NGOs resolved to find tangible ways of ensuring that their views are considered in the Draft Bill which government intends to submit to parliament before enactment.

By Malawo Matyola – ZCSD - [zcsdsecretariat@yahoo.com](mailto:zcsdsecretariat@yahoo.com)

## SADC-CNGO Calls for Constructive Dialogue on National Problems

*As Civil Society networks locally, it does so regionally. This can be seen from the communiqué arising from a meeting of the SADC Council of NGOs that was held between 2nd and 4th May, 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was attended by The Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD).*

The SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO), constituted by member organisations from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, met in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005 to develop strategies for engaging with broader SADC agenda and to ensure a more systematic and substantive civic participation and involvement in the economic, social and political development in the region.

Observing that the SADC region is faced with a number of challenges, particularly the increasing levels of poverty, deprivation and hunger, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, governance and democracy, unsustainable debt, unequal world trade regime, slow pace of regional economic integration and gender disparities. These challenges require a concerted effort from governments, civil society, business and other stakeholders.

Noting however, the deteriorating operating environment of civil society organizations in some member-states, as evidenced by, among others:

- The rapid enactment of legislation that restricts fundamental freedoms of expression, association and assembly of the citizens of the region;
- Increasing suspicion between civil society organisations and national governments;
- Declining levels of funding both nationally and internationally, affecting operating capacity of development NGOs;

Further noting with concern the situation in Zimbabwe where civil society is still under the threat of the NGO Bill and under constant harassment; Swaziland where citizens do not enjoy constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms, and the DRC where civil society is operating under precarious political environment.

We therefore call on our national governments and SADC as a collective to:

- Engage in constructive dialogue with SADC-CNGO and other stakeholders at both national and regional level to ensure a collective and effective response to the problems facing the region;
- Strengthen SADC institutions to develop a unified position on international political and economic influences in the region, and effectively engage with multilateral institutions and WTO;
- Adhere and enforce SADC Principles on electoral processes;
- Establish national and regional Social Development Funds to support civil society and reduce dependence on international donors;
- Ensure and guarantee enabling environment for civic participation, freedom of expression & association and the repeal of all legislation contrary to this objective;
- Seek urgent resolution to the crisis in Zimbabwe and acceleration of constitutional democracy in Swaziland;

The SADC Council of NGOs calls on the people of SADC to actively participate in the operationalisation of the SADC structures and programmes. We further call on all civic organisations in SADC to join us in supporting DRC civil society during the upcoming general elections.

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## Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction

Although CSPR is most renowned for monitoring the implementation of poverty reduction programmes and advocating for pro-poor policies, capacity building is central to its poverty reduction efforts. Indeed, the success of both the Monitoring & Evaluation and Information Dissemination & Advocacy Programmes of CSPR largely rely on the capacity built through the Capacity Building Programme. The overall objective of the Capacity Building Programme is: To develop the capacity of civil society organisations to enhance their active participation and full ownership of poverty reduction.

During extensive planning sessions in November last year capacity building activities for 2005 were developed.

In April and May **Poverty Monitoring Training** was carried out for members of civil society in Lusaka, Eastern, Luapula, North-Western, Southern and Western Provinces. The poverty situation in Zambia has for years been assessed by CSPR through poverty monitoring exercises. In recent years the methodology has been refined and decentralised, so that members of CSPR residing at provincial and district level now carry out the monitoring. Poverty monitoring will continue to be a major thrust of the Network.

However, an important lesson learned in recent years is that an inadequate number of civil society members possess the skills to effectively carry out CSPR poverty monitoring exercises. Also, high staff turn-over means that some monitors are no longer with civil society while others have re-settled to other parts of Zambia or even passed away in the time since they were trained. This has meant a shortage of trained monitors. Training of additional members of civil society was thus deemed necessary to ensure that CSPR at all times have sufficient human resources to effectively monitor the implementation of the PRSP and other policies, programmes and strategies aimed at poverty reduction.

The four-day poverty monitoring training courses equipped participants with skills and methods to conduct Participatory Rural Assessment with community members and assess changes in the poverty situation in accordance with the CSPR Poverty Monitoring Training Manual. The Manual was up-dated and issues of Gender and HIV/AIDS incorporated into the training. Field exercises added to the practical comprehension. A total of 90 members of civil society underwent the training and are now certified to undertake poverty monitoring on behalf of CSPR. Interlinked to poverty monitoring is budget monitoring. At national level a shortage of skilled members of civil society to undertake this exercise has been identified. Therefore, **Expenditure Tracking Skills Training** was conducted for 15 members of civil society in Lusaka in April 2005. The three-day training course was guided by the CSPR Budget Tracking Manual and sessions equipped participants with understanding of the Budget Process, skills to analyse and present poverty data and methods to track expenditures for Poverty Reduction Programmes (PRPs). Members of CSPR in five provinces have been trained in budget monitoring in early 2004. In order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the budget monitoring exercises the same members needed to have their skills updated and refined. Therefore in April and May, 50 members of civil society at the provincial and district level underwent a one-day training session to **refine Expenditure Tracking Skills**.

A core activity for the Capacity Building Programme in 2005 has been to undertake **Provincial Role Clarification**. The CSPR Provincial Programme Management Teams (PPMTs) are found in five of the poorest provinces of Zambia, namely in Eastern, Luapula, North-Western, Southern and Western Provinces. The PPMTs play a vital role within the Network and their importance will increase as more thrust is put into monitoring the implementation of poverty reduction programmes coupled with information dissemination, advocacy and capacity building at provincial, district and community level. Also, the PPMTs are key to CSPR's efforts at effectively participating, advocating and contributing to pro-poor provincial and district development plans. Nevertheless, it has been noted that since their inception the full potential of the provincial groups has not been realised. In order to build institutional capacity so that the PPMTs become more effective a role clarification process for the PPMTs has been engaged upon. The role clarification exercise is aimed at ensuring that the PPMTs better understand their roles and responsibilities both internally and within the Network, identify challenges and up-date and develop better guidelines for their operation.

The role clarification is comprised of two-day workshops in the five PPMTs. These have been facilitated by In-Service Training Trust (ISTT). Representatives from Secretariat and the national Capacity Building Programme Management Team accompanied ISTT to the provinces. The provincial workshops were followed by a consensus building workshop where

members of the PPMTs, Secretariat, Capacity Building PMT and the Network Steering Committee together reached consensus on key issues relating to the PPMTs and the developed operational guidelines.

The CSPR has for the past three years been operating within the framework of a strategic plan. The current strategic plan comes to a halt at the end of 2005. CSPR has therefore embarked on a planning process to develop a new *Strategic Plan* to shape its future direction.

It is proposed that the new **Strategic Plan** covers a five year period running from 2006 to 2010. The Plan will define and guide CSPR's future role and contribute to the achievement of the CSPR's Vision, Mission and Objectives in the short and long term. The Strategic Plan is expected to take into consideration among other things poverty reduction and development initiatives both within and outside Zambia specifically within the context of the National Development Plan, MDGs, NEPAD and/or any other relevant poverty reduction activities. The strategic planning process involves the different structures of the Network i.e. the Network Steering Committee, the Programme Management Teams, the Provincial Programme Management Teams and Secretariat.

A wise person once claimed that knowledge is a key to any success and that learning is a never-ending process. This certainly underscores the Capacity Building Programme of CSPR. And as CSPR next year embarks on a new strategic plan, capacity building will be a key to its efforts at fighting poverty.

### NORTH-WESTERN PPMT MAKES HEADWAY IN CSPR ACTIVITIES

The residents of Solwezi District have applauded the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) North-Western Provincial Program Management Team (PPMT) for its continued efforts in fighting the ugly face of poverty in the province. The PPMT, which has carried out a number of activities in the past, has built a very good relationship with the general populace.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2005, the PPMT and other Civil Society Organizations in the company of Dr. John T Milimo visited Kyabankanka area, 20km east of Solwezi on the Solwezi – Mutanda Road. During the interaction, it was discovered that the community was wallowing in severe poverty despite being situated on the main road. Some of the common problems expressed included:

- Lack of accessibility to better health facilities and services as the nearest health post is 17kms away.
- Understaffing at the local school leading to teachers doing more than two jobs thereby lowering the quality of education offered.
- Early marriages among the young people and school going children.
- Lack of recreational facilities for the young people.
- Late arrival of farming inputs during the farming season.

In another development, residents at Kichikwe in Kakombe area along the Solwezi – Chingola Road are happy as the construction of Kichikwe Rural Health Post is almost reaching completion. A team of PPMT members visited the site late last year and discovered that nothing was going on despite the allocation and disbursement of the project fund. The PPMT later engaged in a series of meetings and dialogue with the relevant authorities to see the way forward as the situation was retarding development and impacting negatively on the surrounding community who desperately needed the service.

Due to the intervention, the project resumed and has almost reached completion level. The North-Western PPMT is dedicated to delivering the best service in its capacity to ensure that the living standards of the people of North-Western Province and indeed Zambia as a whole are improved through the much needed attention to clearly defined poverty reduction programs and the legally ring fenced poverty reduction funds.

### WESTERN PPMT EXHIBITS AT MONGU SHOW

Western Province 79<sup>th</sup> Agricultural and Commercial Show was yet another landmark in publicizing the works of Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR). The show that kicked off on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 was characterized by a number of activities, and among the exhibiting organization was CSPR Provincial program Management Team (PPMT) occupying stand number 3. Western Province Provincial Minister Dr. Sipula Kabanje who graced the occasion visited CSPR stand and thanked the organization for its tremendous efforts in lobbying government to reduce poverty and rank poverty eradication 1<sup>st</sup> for Zambia.

Western Province PPMT Chairperson Mrs. Josephine Malumo hailed government for having accomplished the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) completion point, but also challenged relevant government authorities to channel resources freed by the HIPC towards Poverty Reduction Programs (PRPs).

And we believe as a network (CSPR) in partnership with government can share a commitment to eradicating poverty and achieve more for the Zambian people.

“We feel Zambian Civil Society Organizations have very strong networks capable of pressuring government to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), though it will require substantial investment of resources by donor countries, I therefore attach great significance to civil society organizations to engage and take an active role in monitoring the (MDGs).”

## CSPR URGES GOVERNMENT TO URGENTLY ADDRESS CONCERNS AROUND EFFECTIVENESS OF SAGs

Undoubtedly, civil society acknowledges that multi stakeholder forum such as those of the government Sector Advisor Groups (SAGs) provide good platform for different stakeholders to engage on Zambia’s development issues. These have been especially important around the processes of the PRSP and more recently around those of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan. However, there have been concerns that some of these SAGs have not been performing effectively. This lack of effectiveness has had a spill over effect on the level of effectiveness that civil society representatives can have in these fora.

To contribute to remedying this, the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) felt it important to make known the various concerns and begin advocacy around the performance of the SAGs with the understanding that they are a strategic forum that could be of great benefit to the process of developing, implementing and monitoring Zambia’s National Development initiatives.

After some correspondence with the Secretary to the Treasury, a meeting took place between seven organizational representatives of the CSPR network namely Operation Young Vote (OYV), Program Against Malnutrition (PAM), Water Aid, Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection (JCTR), Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP), National Association for Peasant and Small Scale Farmers of Zambia (NAPSSFZ) and Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) and officials from the Ministry of Finance on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2005, at the Ministry of Finance’s planning department. The meeting allowed for some worthwhile discussions on the functioning of the SAGs and has led to CSPR putting forth the following recommendations to the Secretary to the Treasury and the various Chairpersons of the Sector Advisory Groups;

1. To address the concern on the inconsistencies in calling for SAG meetings and lack of clear preset SAG meeting agendas, we recommend that;
  - i. Permanent Secretaries be fully involved in calling for SAG meetings.
  - ii. The SAG meeting guidelines should be adhered to.
  - iii. The SAG guidelines should clearly stipulate an alternative to chair the SAG meeting in the absence of the Permanent Secretary (PS). The suggested alternative is the Director and in the absence of both PS and Director, the SAG meeting should be rescheduled.
  - iv. At the end of a SAG meeting, key issues for the next meeting should be outlined to allow members to prepare input adequately.
2. On the issue of the SAG conferences, it is recommended that;
  - i. There should be improved communication around invitations to non state actors for the SAG conference.
  - ii. Participation to the SAG conference should be beyond the SAG members.
  - iii. SAG reports presented to the conference must, as a requirement, be discussed and debated in a SAG meeting before it is presented, allowing for various stakeholder input.
  - iv. As much as it is appreciated that the costs of holding a SAG conference are large, the conferences themselves are important forum to review progress in achieving national development objectives and as such should be allocated more time for meaningful discussions and debate on each of SAG reports. The debates should feed into improved sectoral implementation and better SAG performance.
3. To clarify stakeholder participation on the SAGs, it is recommended that;
  - i. The guidelines should make it clear that there is no restriction to participating/sitting on the SAGs.
  - ii. There should be a deliberate effort ensure appropriate representation of key constituencies on the SAGs i.e. Youth groups, women’s groups, child groups etc.

4. On the link between the district and provincial structures and the SAGs, we recommend that;
  - i. There should be a stronger and coordinated link between Provincial and District Development Coordinating Committee, and the SAGs at National level.
  - ii. The relationship should be looked at in the context and implementation of the decentralization policy
  - iii. The planned capacity building of the SAGs should include the provincial and district structures.

It is the expectation of the civil society representatives that attended the SAG meeting that the Government should take these recommendations seriously and feed them into the capacity building programme for the SAGs that is scheduled to be undertaken with the support of GTZ and other donors.

## Commission for Africa Stance to Spend More on Social Services Applauded

CSPR is pleased with the Commission for Africa (CfA) Report's call to spend almost half of the proposed new aid on social sectors such as education and health, including the balancing of emphasis between basic education on one hand and higher/tertiary education on the other.

This is a notable paradigm shift from the current emphasis on basic education. While the importance of attaining basic education cannot be overemphasized, it can be argued that tertiary education provides the greatest potential of lifting majority citizens out of poverty.

In a press statement commenting on the CfA, CSPR further reiterated its call for government to institutionalize the participation of non-state actors in the development process as opposed to ad hoc or public relations inclined measures of participation. It was noted that internally designed policies would not be a reality if citizens are not taken on board.

"It is in this light that for meaningful poverty reduction to take root, CSPR recommends that Africa must design its own policies and endeavor to alleviate the suffering of its peoples through internally generated resources first before looking for assistance from outside. In other words, the resources being solicited for Africa by the CfA ought to be taken in the context of complementarities rather than as solely responsible for solving Africa's economic problems," reads the statement.

At the international arena, CSPR notes that there is need to break the current economic, political and social systems which are currently skewed against Africa. The role of the World Bank and IMF, as an example, needs to be re-looked at so that the two institutions could serve as agents of development rather than underdevelopment.

Total (100%) debt cancellation for poor countries must be delivered sooner rather than later.

The statement also observed that the debate on causes of Africa's stagnation and poverty has long been concluded and what is required are concrete steps to tackle the identified root causes of the continent's backwardness by governments of both Africa and rich nations.

## Open Letter to the G8

18<sup>th</sup> May 2005

Dear G8 Leaders,

*RE: Make Poverty History for Zambia*

*I write from a country in which two thirds of the population live in unacceptable poverty situations, lacking almost everything but their breathe. With the current high levels of poverty, many of us can not imagine how our children and their children will live tomorrow. While many of our brothers and sisters take turns to have meals, others lack shelter, basic health care, water, sanitation and education.*

*YOU have an opportunity to change things for Zambia. You have an opportunity to ensure that Zambia has more resources to pump into improving the lives of its people. At the G8 summit in 2002, you promised to bridge the financing gap for countries like Zambia to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that would result in less poverty and improved lives for our people. We urge that let 2005 see the translation of your promise into action so that Poverty in Zambia could be Made History.*

*Prove that there is a human face and moral thinking in the G8 and that the cries of our mothers for better health care and education for their children are not falling on deaf ears. **CANCEL ZAMBIA'S EXTERNAL DEBT** so that our Government does not have to choose between debt repayment or investing in health and education. **DOUBLE AID** to Zambia so that the MDGs are not just unattainable fantasies, but a possibility for decent living for many Zambians.*

*Your actions can determine the future of millions of poor people around Africa and this makes you very powerful. **Use your power wisely!!***

Besimati P. Mpepo  
Network Coordinator  
CSPR

## FSP Has Little Impact on Poor Farmers – CSPR Study

The Fertilizer Support Programme (FSP) has made very little impact in reducing food shortages, increasing household income and reducing poverty.

This is according to the recently launched Fertilizer Support Programme Study Report by the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) entitled, “Targeting Small Scale Farmers in the Implementation of Zambia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) – An Assessment of the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Fertiliser Support Program”.

CSPR commissioned the study to assess the operations and effectiveness of the FSP.

FSP is a Government of Zambia program to service smallholder farmers in an effort to improve farm level productivity, enhance food security and ultimately reduce poverty. The FSP report highlights a number of factors reducing the effectiveness of the program:

Poor crop marketing and lack of a synchronised system of maize marketing is one of the constraining factors. This is because in most cases farmers receive their money very late and inputs are in short supply or not available at all. In some cases, input and fertilizer supplies arrive earlier than seed.

Another factor reducing the effectiveness of the programme is the inadequate supply of input. It was discovered that majority of beneficiaries of the program get less than what is recommended thereby reducing the produced yield.

The long distance between collecting points and the rural farmers, who are usually located in remote areas, has caused constraints on their part to collect their fertilisers and this acts as a limiting factor to access the fertilizer.

The use of local transporters for fertilizer distribution has been very effective. However, these focus on areas along the line of rail, avoiding the remote areas where the majority of the targeted smallholder farmers are found. Both farmers and transporters feel that the poor feeder roads are worsening the transport problems.

Another factor cited for the dissatisfaction is the inadequate satellite depots. The report states that currently some of the remote areas have depots, but they are not in use as farmers have to travel more than 80 Kms to the districts to collect their fertilizer consignment.

Due to inadequate funds, poor record keeping and Monitoring and Evaluation were also cited for the ineffectiveness of the FSP. Because of this, District Agriculture Committees (DAC) no longer meet to consider farmers’ applications and this has necessitated District Agriculture Coordinators (DACO) to make decisions on their behalf. This has led, in some cases, to wrong beneficiaries of the programme.

As remedy to the problems constraining the effectiveness of the program, the report makes a number of suggestions: The report suggests that mechanisms be put in place to ensure that input supply is done at the right time. It also suggests that seed and fertilizer be supplied at the same time.

Further the report suggests improvement in marketing arrangements for key farm produce and synchronising input supply with agriculture marketing season. Also, payment to farmers for farm produce should be in time to allow them plan for input purchases.

Other suggestions are that depots be established in remote areas; local transporters ensure that they deliver farm inputs at the farmer’s nearest point; introduction of an effective monitoring system for the programme and ensuring good record keeping.

The full report is on our website: [www.cspr.org.zm](http://www.cspr.org.zm)

From 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 representatives from civil society and government institutions in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia convened in Lilongwe, Malawi to contribute to the development of a joint InWent & DED regional plan aimed at enhancing civil society participation in poverty reduction strategies. The planning meeting was part of the two German Development Agencies' support to poverty reduction strategies through capacity building in Africa. The overall aim was to discuss the current state of and challenges to civil society participation and identify capacity building measures to enhance civil society participation in the three countries.

The CSPR delegation consisted of Mrs. Theresa Chewe (SACCORD) who attended in her capacity as Chairperson of the CSPR Capacity Building Programme Management Team, Mr. Kabika Kakunta (FODEP) from CSPR North-Western Province and Mr. Rasmus C. Dawes, Capacity Building Advisor to CSPR.

### Challenges to participation

Among the challenges facing civil society, CSPR raised the following during the meeting in Malawi:

No institutionalised civil society participation in the government process of poverty reduction.

Difficult to engage and feed findings of poverty & budget monitoring into the PRSP implementation process due to few entry points to government process of poverty reduction.

- Insufficient advocacy skills within civil society.
- Inadequate capacity among civil society to engage in macro economic policy discussions such as pro-poor growth, budget cycle, and MTEF at various levels.

### Capacity building for participation

Based on the challenges identified the CSPR stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to actively participate in formulation, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies and intensify the communication, active dialogue and coordination between governments and civil society institutions.

CSPR highlighted at least four broad areas that need to be improved for better civil society engagement. Interestingly, these to a large extent cut across the three countries attending the meeting. Indeed, it was clearly revealed that several challenges for civil society in Zambia are also concerns for civil society in Malawi and Tanzania.

Firstly, there was consensus to the need for an institutionalised framework for civil society participation in the process of poverty reduction strategies. This would ensure better links/collaboration between governments and civil society and, hoped CSPR, ensure that knowledge, monitoring findings and concerns could feed into poverty reduction plans to ensure better formulation and implementation.

In Zambia, institutionalised civil society participation would mean better engagement in the government process of poverty reduction at national, provincial, district and community levels not least through the SAGs, PDCCs and DDCCs.

Secondly, and a condition for effective engagement, was the need for building capacity in civil society to understand macro-economic & budget issues and better skills to analyse policy issues. This would ensure quality input in policy discussions.

Thirdly, and coupled with the above, the need for improving skills to effectively engage with government was highlighted. Herein lay the need for capacity building to enhance advocacy, presentation and negotiation skills.

Finally, the need for improved information flow between government and civil society and vice versa was highlighted.

## CSPR's Statement on Debt Cancellation

**The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) wishes to commend the Group of Industrialized Nations (G8) on their decision to have multilateral debts for 18 underdeveloped countries cancelled. It is most gratifying to note that Zambia is one of the first countries to benefit from this landmark decision.**

CSPR recognizes that debt cancellation campaigns have been at the centre of progressive civil society groups' work such as the Jubilee movement. We therefore wish to express our strong appreciation for their good works and encourage them to continue until total debt cancellation is achieved.

CSPR would like to encourage the Zambian government to put the unlocked resources to growth stimulating and poverty eradication areas of the economy. We further call for the full disclosure of all resources that will be saved from this initiative as well as remnants of the debt burden by both the Zambian government and Cooperating Partners. CSPR calls on government to establish more transparent, broad based and credible mechanisms of monitoring the utilization of all resources to be saved from this relief.

These measures will enhance transparency and accountability and thereby contribute to the rapid lifting of the over 80 per cent citizens currently living in inhuman and unacceptable conditions.

In addition, we call on government and the international community to go beyond debt relief and scale up the resources for poverty eradication to ensure that Zambia is enabled to attain all targets relating to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

## ANTI-VOTER APATHY: FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH GOVERNANCE

The Anti-Voter Apathy Project (AVAP) has taken the centre stage in informing the general public on issues of governance. This is in line with what the people should demand as their right and it can only be achieved through informed choices.

A V AP has initiated a number of Civil and governance programmes in 11 eleven districts of Zambia where its managing democracy information centers, used as libraries to disseminate information. A V AP realised that for any development to take place, citizens themselves must have information on issues of governance especially on the constitution, corruption, the electoral process, the responsibilities of local and elected representatives.

These programmes are managed through community radio stations especially in Luapula and Northern provinces, whilst in Lusaka the Democracy Information Centre along Cairo road pulls a lot of people who debate issues of democracy and human rights. In all these centers A V AP stocks a lot of literature from different organisation and cooperating partners.

At the moment A V AP says that there is no law which guarantees a Zambian citizen to take government to task if one of the rights is breached. On human rights, A V AP realises that Zambia is a signatory to a number of international treaties but these have not yet been domesticated these instruments so that they are enshrined in the Zambian constitution as the supreme law of the land.

Only until such a time when these instruments are domesticated will citizens be able to take government to task. All these are issues that need citizens to know and discuss in their communities with local or traditional leaders. Community mobilization helps chiefdoms achieve development because consensus can be reached. It is through groupings and discussions that A V AP believes that even issues of poverty can easily be addressed.

In addition, A V AP also has been involved in the fight against voter apathy. A V AP believes that people's participation in decision making process is critical and people should be involved at all levels of decision making so that they are part of the movement. This entails that through debates people can open up and be able to break the culture of silence so that they can hold their elected representatives accountable to their actions and promises.

AVAP encourages that citizens know their rights and power.

For details, contact Anti Voter Apathy, [avap@zamnet.zm](mailto:avap@zamnet.zm).

## US COTTON SUBSIDIES DECLARED ILLEGAL AGAIN

September 2003, in Cancun, Mexico, rich countries made a promise to African cotton farmers at the WTO ministerial meeting that they would solve the problems being caused by the United States (US) subsidies. Despite the promise made by the US Trade Secretary Robert Zoellick, nothing has changed for African Farmers. It seemed the US put cotton on the WTO negotiation table only to buy time and should the negotiations go on, it would take a very long time to implement the agreement.

Brazil realised it did not have time to wait that long and with the support of Chad and Benin sued the US. In September 2004, the WTO dispute panel found that \$3.2 billion in annual cotton subsidies and US\$1.6 billion in export credits paid by the US in cotton and other commodities were illegal under the WTO rules. After losing the case in September 2004, the US made an appeal in October. The overwhelming case against the US cotton dumping was yet again confirmed by the World Trade Organisations (WTO). The US was given up to 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2005 to comply or face possible trade sanctions by Brazil.

After the decision, West and Central African governments asked for compensation for the losses incurred as a result of cotton subsidies. This did not receive a favorable hearing at the WTO's Cancun meeting, which totally ruled it out.

With the final decision the US must become aware that developing countries have rights in the global trade systems, because the implications of the case are beyond cotton.

According to Oxfam, an estimation of \$400 million has been lost between 2001 and 2003 for poor African cotton-producing countries, where 10 million people depend directly on cotton.

Zambia is one of the victims of the unfair cotton subsidies. The poor cotton farmers are getting poorer because of the low prices being offered by the commodity buyers. It is evident that cotton is a survival crop for most farmers even in Zambia. Currently, cotton prices are at their lowest levels - down by 30%.

There is need to closely monitor the progress of the Zambian cotton farmers so that they too can benefit from the fruit of their labour by supporting various campaigns to make trade fair.

Welcome to the Network!!!

As the CSPR Network continues to grow, more members have joined the network to share the vision of A Poverty Free Zambia. Below are some of the new members whose applications were recently approved by the Network Steering Committee.

### **Honorary Members:**

*Individuals who are neither full nor associate members, but who are considered by CSPR to bring additional value and credibility to the Network.*

**Professor Venkatesh Seshamani** – Academician and CSPR founder member

**Dr. Fred Mutesa** – Academician

**Mr. Kasote Singogo** – Private Consultant and CSPR founder member

### **Full Members**

*Zambian civil society organisations registered under the Laws of Zambia who apply for membership and pay the relevant fees.*

**Initiative for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (ISRL):** Based in Lusaka. Working with rural communities to improve their livelihoods thus reducing the prevalence of poverty.

**Disability Initiative Foundation (DIF):** Based in Lusaka. Promoting the interest and welfare of persons with disabilities through awareness raising, influence and advocacy programs.

**World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Miombo Ecoregion Conservation Program (MECP):** Lusaka based. Developing an enabling and conducive policy and legal environment for the facilitation of conservation activities.

### **Associate Members:**

*Individuals, regional and international civil society organisations and cooperating partners working in Zambia who apply for membership and pay the relevant fees.*

**Zambia National Association for the Physically Handicapped (ZNAPH):** Based in Ndola. They are focused on ensuring that persons with disabilities lead independent lives free from oppression and discrimination.

**Zambia Education and Development Advocacy Organisation (ZEDAO):** Based in Mufulira. They do advocacy in education, HIV/AIDS, gender and livelihood in vulnerable communities.

**Dan Church Aid: Based in Lusaka.** Focus on monitoring of the PRSP through partner organisations.

### **Application for membership**

- a) All CSO, individuals, international NGOs and cooperating partners intending to join the Network shall be required to apply through Secretariat.
- b) All members who shall sign the MoU will be referred to as Signatory Members (SMs)

## **ALPE Maps Out Strategies for Engagement**

The Alliance for Poverty Reduction, met in Nicaragua from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 to discuss and reach consensus on aspects that contribute to the achievement of ALPE and its network's objectives, initiatives and operational aspects. CSPR is the Zambian member of the Steering Committee.

At the meeting the structure of the network was discussed and concretised. From the initial arrangement of having the two networks operating in isolation – Gender in Nicaragua and Empowerment in Ghana - it was decided that the two coordinators work on a regional basis, coordinating both the Gender and Empowerment networks. Initially, the gender network was being coordinated from Nicaragua, while the Empowerment was coordinated from Ghana. This created a lot of problems in terms of project approval due to the language barriers, which meant all proposals submitted in English would have to be translated into Spanish and vice versa. With the new arrangement, however, the Coordinator in Ghana will be able to approve all English proposals from Ghana, Zambia and Nepal regardless of whether it is in gender or empowerment. The Coordinator in Nicaragua will also be able to do the same for the Spanish speaking countries (Nicaragua and Honduras).

The meeting also discussed and approved some project proposals from Nicaragua, Ghana and Honduras on both gender and empowerment. Altogether, fifteen projects were approved for the current phase of the ALPE program. There were no projects from Zambia as it had not yet been decided at what level the Zambian members would want to engage at the time of the meeting. Zambia was thus given until end of September, 2005 for project proposals to be sent to the Ghana Coordinator. Nepal had not sent in proposals and did not attend the meeting because of political tension in that country. They had however indicated willingness to stay on the Alliance.

ALPE is a programme of eleven Danish Non-Governmental Organisations funded by DANIDA, the Danish government's office for international aid. The Alliance connects civil society organisations working with and for the poor involved in national poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs), through monitoring, advocacy, formulation and implementation.

The ALPE programme is the second phase of the North South program, whose objective is that poor men and women and civil society organisations are strengthened in their active influence on official and alternative initiatives for poverty eradication and PRSP. The international Secretariat is based in Denmark.

Under the program, each Steering Committee member country is allowed five projects (two gender, two empowerment and one research). The activities should not be more the US\$10,000 and should end by July, 2006.

Under the North South Program, CSPR had carried out the mapping exercise of civil society organisations working around poverty reduction in Zambia, a sensitisation workshop on the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and their effect in poverty reduction, and provincial PRSP sensitisation workshops.

## ABOUT CSPR

### 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 centered 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.

### 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 !

The **PEN** is published bi-annually, in order to provide information of activities of the Network and its member organisations. We are open to suggestions on how to improve future publications. Contributions and other correspondence in regard to the Newsletter should be addressed to: **The Information and Networking Programme Officer**, Post Net Number 302, Private Bag E891, Lusaka. Phone: (01)290154, Fax: (01) 293489, E-mail: [cspr@zamnet.zm](mailto:cspr@zamnet.zm) . **Editor/layout:** Ivy Mutwale. Visit our Website: [www.cspr.org.zm](http://www.cspr.org.zm)