

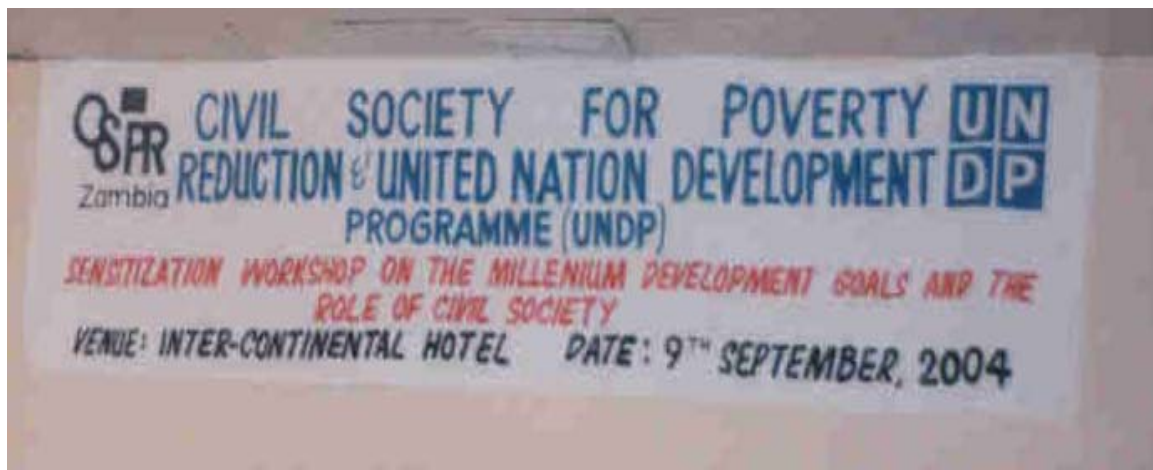
**CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (CSPR) IN
COLLABORATION WITH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME (UNDP).**

**CIVIL SOCIETY SENSITISATION WORKSHOP ON THE MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)**

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA.

09th September 2004

WORKSHOP REPORT



**CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (CSPR) AND UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP).**

**WORKSHOPS REPORT ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, HELD
ON 09TH SEPTEMBER 2004 AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA.**

Introduction

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) organised the sensitisation workshop on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the role of civil society, which was held on 9th September 2004 at Intercontinental Hotel Lusaka. The workshop was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Reuben Lifuka facilitated the workshop and was documented and compiled by Angela Mwape Mulenga.

The objective of the workshop was to sensitise and broaden the knowledge and understanding among civil society on the MDGs and the role that civil society can play in attaining them.

The MDGs are the outcomes of various UN International Conferences, culminating in the Millennium Summit of September 2000. In the Millennium Declaration, the international community set itself a number time bound and measurable key development goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, all to be achieved by 2015. The eight Goals, together its targets and indicators, have been agreed upon by 190 countries and international organisations as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), placing the Millennium Development Goals at the heart of the development agenda.

To monitor and sensitise the public on progress towards achievement of the MDGs in Zambia, the UNDP in collaboration with Government has been focusing on raising awareness of the MDGs among government, civil society, parliamentarians, the private sector, academia and other development partners. It was in this regard that the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), as facilitator, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning and UNDP has organised the said workshop.

1.0 Start of workshop

The facilitator, Mr. Rueben Lifuka welcomed the participants and invited Mr. Abdoulie Sireh -Jallow, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Economic Advisor, to give welcome and introductory remarks.

2.0 Welcome and introductory remarks – Abdoulie Sireh- Jallow (see annex 1)

3.0 Official opening remarks. James Mulungushi Director Planning, Ministry of Finance and National Planning. (See annex 2)

4.0 Civil societies and the Millenniums Development Goals – Aeneas C. Chuma Resident Representative UNDP – Zambia (see annex 3)

5.0 How realistic are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Zambia: Challenges being faced in meeting them and the way forward, Dr. Fredrick Mutesa, University of Zambia (see annex 4)

6.0 PLENARY – QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION

During the plenary participants raised a number of issues to which presenters responded. Below is an outline of the deliberations during the plenary session.



6.1 First question and answer session

Question: Dr. Mutesa's paper talks about broad based growth and pro- poor growth. I want to say that the two are not the same. What we mean by pro-poor growth is that the poor must be specifically targeted. Broad based growth on the other hand can take place without improving the situation of the poor.

Comment: Methodologically, the question of how realistic the MDGs are is too general. The 8 MDGs are not uniform. Some are difficult to achieve some have the potential.

In terms of resources, each goal requires different resources. The presenter has created the impression that all the goals require financial resources. A lot of money has, for example gone to improving maternal mortality without any improvement. For this goal, money is not the main

problem. The presenter should have taken one target and explained it fully instead of generalising.

Comment: In order to increase sensitisation on the MDGs, there should be inclusion of other stakeholders like the media and the members of Parliament.

Question: To Mr. Mulungish, my question is on resources. It is so cumbersome to acquire these resources; I feel we need to streamline the process of acquiring and utilisation of MDGs resources.

Question: What is in place for person with disabilities? There is so much emphasis on gender and women discrimination than people with disabilities.



Answers session

Response: Point is taken on the question of discrimination. The MDGs can and should be broadened. UNDP will be available to work with your organisation of the Persons with Disabilities to see how we can deal with the issue of disabilities.

Response: On more sensitisation, we have already planned for the workshops and a date is yet to be announced for the media and Parliamentarians as well.

Response: I was moved with professor's comment on the kind of growth with regard to pro-poor approach. There can be economic growth but without creating jobs for the people. We need emphasis on the sectors that create growth with jobs.

Pro-poor growth must, for example, find out about the situation of people in the informal sector. We should concentrate on empowering the local entrepreneurs.

There has been growth and our growth is coming from Agriculture, we have a fertilizer programme that is targeting small-scale farmers under the Programme Against Malnutrition. Secondly, Tourism is also growing. We have provided funds in this sector and growth is on the way. Another source of growth is in the non-traditional exports. We again have growth in the service sector such as restaurants.

Response: On the question of methodological approach, the scope of work and the time allocated as well as the fact that other speakers will deal with the specific MDGs prevented me from isolating the individual MDGs in my presentation.

Response: On the issues of organizational capacity and difficulties to access funds, yes, it is true there is a problem but we have to balance accountability and transparency.

Response: On people with disabilities, we have an opportunity now to include persons with disabilities as we review and update the PRSP and TNDP. Let us include them in the PRSP.

6.2 Second Question session

Question: In your remarks, Your Excellency, you mentioned that the next step is to engage the CSO. While this is welcome we would like you to consider financial support to CSOs.

Question: There was an item on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news this morning that the EU is subsidizing their cotton farmers while they are restricting us Africans from doing the same. What is your comment?

Question: It is generally accepted the world over that ICT is cardinal in achieving the MDGs. ICT includes community radios, television and newspapers. I am saying this because I am wondering how ICT will be engaged in the sensitisation process on the MDGs. The United Nations office in New York has requested One World Africa to provide an online database on MDGs.

Observation: When I look at the first and second goals of the MDGs, to me they look very specific in terms of what needs to be achieved. When it comes to gender, the terms used are less specific. It is my hope that the activities should be more specific than is stated in the goal.

Question: Having a background from the rural community, agriculture is key to national development. Why then do we fail to provide proper services to the farmers such as marketing and input supply? The people are really in trouble. Is there a plan put in place to help the situation?

Question: There is an issue, which is being over looked by government. This is the payment of retirement benefits. This problem is adding a lot to the poverty situation in Zambia. What is government doing?

Question: My question is on the budget building process on the MDGs. Members of Parliament know less on allocation and utilisation of resources than

those who do not represent the people. The PRSP and the MDGs have a thin line in terms of activities, objectives and goals. For CSOs to make an impact, they need a lot of tools to monitor the exercise.

Answer session

Response: The issue of subsidies is difficult, as I cannot answer on behalf of other nations. But Zambia removed the subsidies as far back as 1991. However, we realised we needed to help farmers so we reintroduced subsidies to small scale farmers. We need to build capacities to negotiate at the World Traded Organisation (WTO) and other trade fora.

Response: With regard to ICT, Government with assistance from UNDP and UNICEF, has trained provincial staff and provided them with computers. We are more than willing to work with any other organisation.

Response: On agriculture, as I indicated earlier agriculture contributes a lot to our economic growth. We have a programme under Programme Against Malnutrition targeting small farmers. The growth is in agriculture but, may be, we are not targeting the actual poor people. As government our first priority is agriculture.

Response: Regarding payment of retirement benefits, we need an entire reform in our finances and institutions. People who are supposed to move resources are not doing so apart from paper work. There are a lot of problems in this area. Government has now ensured that each sector is monitoring the monthly finances. We really need a long term plan and strategy to deal with these issues. We are paying about one billion Kwacha every year.

Response: Previously, the budget process was not completely consultative. Participation of all Zambians was insufficient. Activity Based Budget (ABB) means we are classifying the priorities better so that we can follow up the issues. We have been to cabinet, Members of Parliament and to all Provinces to explain the ABB. We are training our staff and have decided to embark on an annual profile of the budget implementers. It is a question of organisational procedure. In the last two years we have released funds which have ended up where they are supposed to.

Response: The United Nations Development Programme does not pay for salaries but pay for services when engaged with civil society organisations. It is up to CSOs to include an administrative charge on their quotations to us.

Response: Subsidises in the rich countries disturb trade patterns in the poor countries. It is important to deal with this issue through the WTO. There is need for a broad based approach to the issue of subsidies. Trade can help developing countries have resources necessary to achieving the MDGs.

Response: Information Communication Technology ICT has a very important role in achieving the MDGs. We have been working with government on ICT Policy and would be interested in working with you as civil society organisations in this area.

Response: On Gender equality the Zambian situation is on track. We need to apply the goal in all sectors of society.

7.0 WRAP UP (Mr. Rueben Lifuka)

- Zambia recognizes the challenges of poverty and hence the need to meet the MDG. We need to refocus our strategies, know where the resources would come from, how we can reorganize ourselves and the roles that each player has to play at all stages.
- On MDGs current status, Zambia has done well on very few issues but the rest need attention.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty. From 2002 attempts were made through the PRSP. 400 Billion Kwacha was allocated to poverty reduction programmes. Other elements in the budget which have gone towards poverty reduction so far amounts to two trillion Kwacha.

- Experience shows that certain macro economic indicators have stabilized although the benefits have not yet accrued to the poor.

Goal 2: Here we have not done as much as expected

Goal 3: Gender current standard – 30% - there is need to re-strategise on how to achieve this 30%.

Goal 4: Child Mortality – movement has been made although insignificant.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health –this is still a disaster. There is much needed to be done in this area.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/ AIDS – Govt policies and strategies are in place to address the situation.

- As at 1990, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty was 58.2% and only reduced to 58% in 2002.

7.1 Summary of Presenters

7.1.1 Mr James Mulungushi- Director Planning, Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP)

- Indicators give us a big challenge as we race towards 2015
- Big Challenge is resources – 2% of GDP in the budget is insufficient.
- In terms of structure of spending, these resources are not accurate. 90 % of the resources in the budget do not go to development but to other areas such as consumption.
- The question of debt relief poses a big challenge as well. The pressure on the budget is huge hence need for Zambia to find a solution.
- There is needed to look for resources to deal with MDG issues.
- We as Zambians need to organize ourselves & implement these issues.

- Co- operating partners should have a new mindset as the challenges present new dimensions.
- Govt would like to get more NGOs involved at the planning, implementation and monitoring stages. There should be more emphasis on the implementation.
- Input into the budget is also cardinal from members of the public and civil society organisations.

7.1.2 Mr Aeneas C. Chuma-Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- CSPR is commended for working in constructive partnership with the UNDP
- The MDGs are time bound unlike the previous international Development Goals which were open ended and the power of the MDGs lies in their simplicity
- MDGs represent a global consensus of what needs to be done by when and by whom.
- MDGs are equally important for both northern countries and southern countries.
- Goal 8 is important. For developed countries to contribute to the achievement of MDGs, they ought to attain the 0.7% of their GDP commitment in aid to developing countries.
- Goal 3 On Universal Primary Education, there is optimism that this can be achieved by the year 2015.
- The MDG status report highlights areas that require further attention. There is also need to improve on the budget process. Zambians should use this as a basis for negotiation.
- In Sub Saharan Africa the trend in terms of extreme poverty has worsened and requires new strategies.
- There are several instruments for implementing the MDGs
- There is need for conducive policy environment
- PRSP and TNDP are the operational framework for achieving the MDGS
- On linking MDGs to the PRSP, UNDP is working with Government on this issue.
- MDG Campaign will include the following:
 - Costing will take place in 2004 until early 2005 and would take into account the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
 - Monitoring will be at national level and provincial levels.
- Sensitisation on MDGs is very important and UNDP and MoFNP will work with CSPR to sensitise civil society members.
- Localising will start in September 2004 while financing would require the MoFNP
- Annual MDGs race is also planned for October 2004.
- MDGs are not the responsibility of Government alone. Everybody has a responsibility.
- Civil society organisations should act as social watchdog to achieving MDGs.
- Implementation of civil society's programme should systematically and consciously link MDGs to the use of your own programmes.
- There must be ownership of the MDGs by CSOs in Zambia
- CSOs should exert pressure on political leadership to meet their commitment
- CSOs should provide alternative ways of budgeting
- Mr. Chuma also gave examples on what CSOs in other countries have done in other countries on MDGs sensitization

7.1.3 Dr. Fredrick Mutesa- Department of Development Studies, University of Zambia

- Has the Zambian Government prioritised expenditure in dealing with poverty?
- PRSP in relation to three issues is crucial. These are: allocation, disbursement and proportion of this allocation as a percentage of the overall national Budget.
- The Budget structure also needs to be reformed.
- Need for all Zambians to prioritise on what government is spending money on.
- What is it that needs to be done to prioritise social spending?
 1. Government needs to lead the way in self sacrifice such as reducing the size of Cabinet while bold decisions and structural reforms would be necessary to re-orient the budget in a manner that will increase social spending.
 2. Improve the management and utilization of public resources. Leadership by example is important on public resources management.
- Partnership is vital on the issue of conditionalities. When Government slips on agreed benchmarks; the ones who suffer are the poor. Is there a possibility to guarantee that the poor do not get punished for the misdeeds of their Government?
- MDGs are a welcome shift from the usual focus of development thinking on statistics. The challenge is in translating these MDGs into implementable actions.
- Dr. Mutesa presented the following scenario:
 1. Economic growth must be broad based and pro-poor. This growth should come from a diversified base and should exceed population growth rate
 2. The performance of the Zambia economy still leaves much to be desired. The current 4.2 percent growth rate should go up to 6 or 8% economic growth to make deference in the poverty situation.
 3. For the economy to grow at that rate we need to make capital investments and reduce both inflation and interest rates to affordable digits.

Annex 1



Opening Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Sireh- Jallow: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Economic Advisor.

- I. I wish to join the facilitator in **Welcoming** you all to this MDG sensitisation workshop for Civil Society Organisations
- II. **My task** this morning is to put **this Workshop in perspective** within the **2004 MDGs Campaign by the MDG Taskforce**
- III. This is the **first of three-planned workshop** of this kind for Civil Society Organisations in 2004 and they are:
- IV. part of the **2004 MDG Campaign activities** which are divided into **three categories:**
 - a. **(The first is) Further Sensitisation** – in which the information on the MDGs is disseminated as widely as possible to:
 - i. Civil Society Organisation
 - Three workshop in Lusaka, Luapula and Western Provinces in October/ November 2004
 - CSPR will facilitate these workshops
 - ii. Private Sector
 - Three workshops (Lusaka, Southern Province and Copper Belt)
 - Facilitation by Global Compact
 - iii. General Public
 - MDG Quiz Competitions on Radio
 - v. **Annual MDG Race**
 - Commemorate the Signing of Millennium Declaration on September 30th 2004 (Zambia inclusive)
 - Race on 2nd October 2004. About 10 kms from Arcades and back will be covered. Details will be made available through television
 - Building- up Activities
 - a. TV Programme
 - b. Planting of MDG tree in Lusaka and Copperbelt
 - c. Official launch of MDG Logo. Evelyn Hone College students of Graphic Arts and Design are participating in the logo competition.

b. The second category of the campaign activities is localizing the MDGs.

- i. Consultants have been hired to start work on discussion papers.
- ii. Consultative forums of which civil society organizations are members will start one- day retreats on September 27th to discuss these papers. Your participation in this activity is very important
- iii. National stakeholders' workshop will be held in October to validate the draft report from the forums

c. (The third category) is costing the MDGs

- i. Starts in October / November
- ii. Three stages
 - A needs assessment study will have to be undertaken
 - Developing a long term policy framework for achieving the MDGs
 - Construct PRSP based on MDG plan.
- iii. The campaign will continue in 2005

Meanwhile you are encouraged to share the information and knowledge you have gathered with your colleagues and as UNDP, we are ready to support your efforts.

Annex 2



Official Opening Remarks by Director Planning: Ministry of Finance and National Planning on civil society sensitization workshop on the millennium Development Goals held at Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka on 9th September 2004.

Let me conclude by acknowledging the fact that implementation of programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs has been with strong partnership between the Republic of Zambia and the United Nations System as shown in the collaborative effort that has

been put in the fight against poverty, hunger and diseases in Zambia, as well as the collaborative effort in organizing this workshop.

It is now my privilege and honour to officially open this very **Mr. Chairperson**,
Your Excellency the Resident Representative of the UN System in Zambia,
Members of Civil Society Organisation
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a delight for me to officially open this civil society sensitisation workshop on the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, as you may be aware by now, the first Zambian Millennium Development Goal Report of 2003 highlighted a number of main challenges in various sectors that need to be overcome if Zambia is to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The highlighted challenges are important pointers to areas that government and all stakeholders need to concentrate their efforts on in the planning of interventions.

Mr. Chairman I wish also to state that the report is important in that it has given us the baseline information on where we are as a country vis a vis the MDGs. With this background, the role of various stakeholders in the achievement of the MDGs cannot be overemphasized. As government we believe that each sector of the society has a part to play in the achievement of the Goals and ultimately bring about the reduction of poverty levels. The PRSP is one of the vehicles that Zambia is using to monitor progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. Government, through the PRSP consultative process has ensured that all stakeholders are involved in both the preparation and monitoring of the PRSP.

In this regard, successful implementation of the MDGs calls for strong partnership and collaboration among all stakeholders, who indeed include Civil Society Organisations.

Mr. Chairperson, Government has however already put in place policies and programmes, which will contribute towards the achievement of each of the Millennium Development Goals and their attendant targets and indicators.

In Eradicating extreme poverty and Hunger which is the first Goal, Government has for the last two years, stepped up efforts to revamp the agriculture sector not only as a mainstay for achieving a higher economic growth but also as a main strategy for reducing poverty through increased food security.

The second goal of Achieve universal primary education has been adequately addressed through both a clear Government policy provision as well a prioritization of resource allocation towards the achievement of this goal. To this effect, Government has introduced free education policy and a number of measures and incentives to promote increased access to education such as bursaries, education infrastructure development improved terms of access of education by the poor and the vulnerable children.

The performance of child mortality, which is the fourth goal, has improved. In this respect, under five Mortality ratios has dropped from 191 in 1991 to 163 in 2002 against a 2015 target of 63 while Infant Mortality Ratio has also dropped from 107 in 1991 to 95 in 2002 against a target of 36 in 2015. The performance is certainly attributed to the implementation of Child Survival Programmes that include Expanded Immunization (EPI), nutrition and the Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses (IMCI).

With respect to the fifth goal of improving maternal health, government has put in place such programmes as the training of the traditional birth attendants and generally encouraging mothers to attend antenatal clinics and development and integration of various reproductive health programmes into voluntary testing and counselling for HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen, Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases have received a lot of attention from government, stakeholders and particularly cooperative partners in terms of funding and intensified implementation of programmes in combating these major health problems.

Government has equally made strides in the provision of supportive policy, institutional and legal frameworks to ensure that environmental sustainability and quality is achieved. However, the indicators for measuring progress on the environmental goal are not yet fully developed. Hence, progress reporting on this goal is still weak.

The last goal on the efforts of the international community to assist Zambia in achieving the MDGs through Official Development Assistance (ODA) may improve with the reaching of the HIPC completion point.

**Mr. Chairperson, Your Excellency, the UN Resident Representative
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Important Sensitisation Workshop on the Millennium Development goals.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Annex 3



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Speech delivered by: Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma Resident Representative UNDP-Zambia

Format of Presentation

- Answers five questions
- What are the MDGs?
- Current status and prospects to 2015
- Links of MDGs with other planning documents
- MDG campaign (localizing, costing, monitoring, sensitisation)
- What role for civil society in MDGs?

The MDGs

- In September 2000, 189 world leaders at UN Millennium Summit adopted the Millennium Declaration containing the MDGs
- MDGs are **8 mutually reinforcing time-bound goals**, with 18 related targets to be achieved by 2015
- MDGs **re-specify and build on goals and targets** of 1990s global UN conferences
MDGs at **forefront of global development agenda** and a unifying tool for entire UN system
Coherent framework for action:
- There is focus, acceptance/agreement and endorsement of the MDGs across all groups and sectors
- They present ends, not just means and are people centred, the essence of development
- They are holistic and integrated, covering environment, social, economic, health- there is a beautiful synergy
- They are simple, measurable, time bound – they can be monitored
- They are balanced – equally important for North and South

MDGs

- MDG 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- MDG 2 Achieve universal primary education
- MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- MDG 4 Reduce child mortality
- MDG 5 Improve maternal health
- MDG 6 Combat HIV-AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- MDG 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

- MDG 8 Develop a global partnership for development

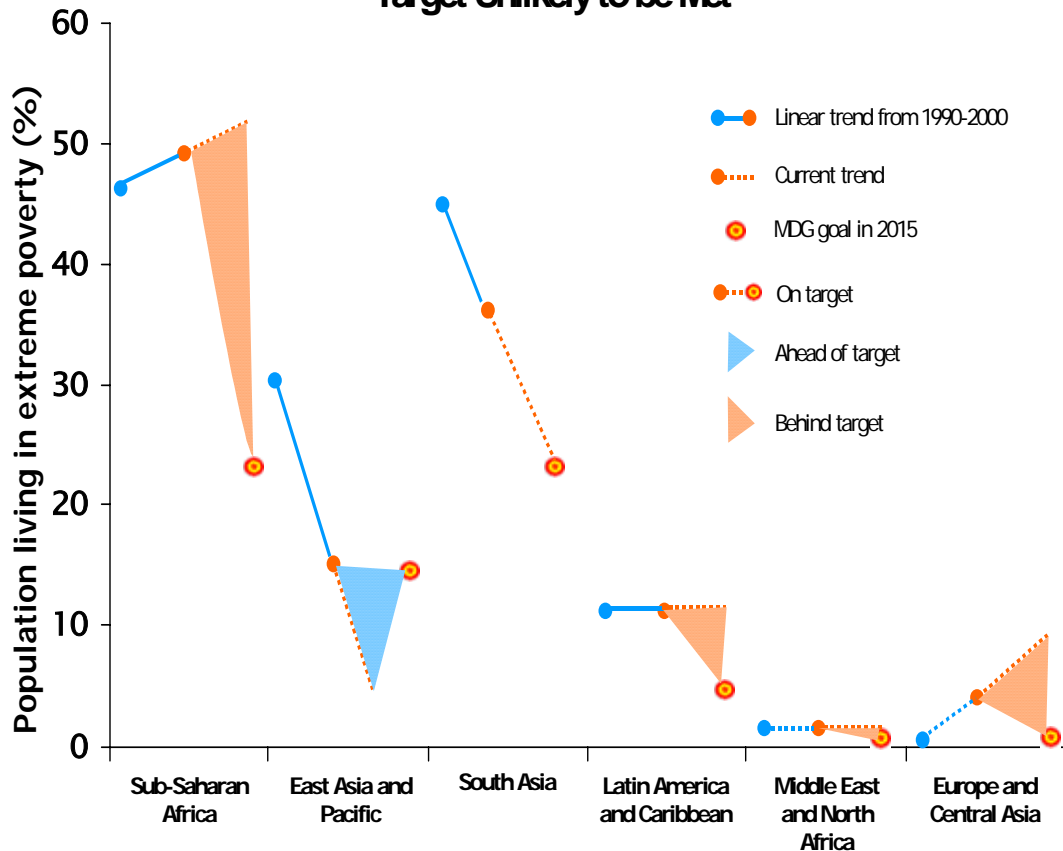
Status of the MDGs in Zambia (global targets)

Targets on	Will target be met?
Extreme Poverty	Unlikely
Extreme Hunger	Unlikely
Unversal Primary Education	Potentially
Gender Equaity and women empowerment	Probably
Child Mortality	Potentially
Maternal Health	Unlikely
HIV/AIDS	Potentially
Malaria	Potentially
Enviornmental Sustainability	Potentially
Water and Sanitation	Potentially

MDGs & TNDP / PRSP

- PRSP and TNDP (short/medium term plans) are the operational framework for achieving the MDGs.
- MDG indicators are included in the list of PRSP indicators.
- Including MDGs in the next PRSP as Goals for 2015

Some of World's Regions Have Reduced Extreme Poverty: In Others Poverty is on Rise and 2015 Target Unlikely to be Met



MDG campaign-I

- Localizing
- Previous report used global targets
- Next report ambitious and realistic targets for Zambia
- Localisation of the MDGs Ú September 2004 Costing
- What does it take to achieve the localised Goals by 2015?
- Contacts have been established with the Millennium Project (Jeffrey Sachs) to assist in costing the MDGs.
- Costing Ú end '04 / early '05

MDG campaign-II

- Monitoring
- National level: 2003 MDG progress report
- Provincial level: 2005 MDG progress reports
- Sensitisation

- Civil society: Lusaka, Western Province, and Luapula Province (2004)
- Private sector: Lusaka, Livingstone, Ndola (2004)
- Media (?)
- Parliamentarians (?)

Role of Civil Society

- CSO's must be strongly involved in order to join the MDG campaign.
- Involvement of CSOs in the MDG campaign:
- Localization. CSPR will be invited to participate in the working groups that localize the MDGs in September.
- Sensitization. MoFNP and UNDP sponsor CSPR to sensitise their members to use the MDGs in their daily work
- Monitoring. Civil society has a role as the “social watchdog” of the nation. CSPR will be invited when the next progress reports are written.
- Implementation of Civil Society's programmes: link the MDGs with your programmes
- NGOCC è MDG 3 “empowerment of women”
- WWF è MDG 7 “environmental sustainability”
Etc.
- Role for CSO's in “bottom-up demand for change”
- Ownership of the MDGs by CSO's in Zambia is crucial (see role of civil society in the MDG campaign)
- Put pressure on political leaders to live up the commitments that they signed onto at the Millennium Summit
- Outside the MDG campaign:
- Civil society should be more than “social watchdog”
- USD MDGs as framework with clear objectives and analyze, evaluate and provide inputs on national priority setting.
- Provide alternative budgets
- Examples from around the world (WFUNA report “we the peoples”)
- Regional workshops to educate local leaders and MP's (Ghana)
- Advocating for new education system to make it more relevant and reduce youth unemployment (Children's organization – Cameroon)
- HIV/AIDS education programme with youth and women's organizations (DRC)
- Capacity building for increased water and energy supply to rural Communities (Nigeria)
- Linking tourism and sexual trafficking, and the rights of indigenous groups and women (India)

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaks to the Civil Society Forum in São Paulo, Brazil, June 13, 2004

So we urgently need you to do what you do best... political will shifts only if there is national and local mobilization by the public, and only when leaders are held accountable.... [What

would really make a difference is if, at the local level, the goals achieve a critical mass of support and even become “vote-getters”. You can and must help make that happen. If we do not, millions of people will die, prematurely and unnecessarily. That...should be a call to action.”

Annex 4



Presentation by Dr. Fredrick Mutesa- Department of Development Studies –University of Zambia.

INTRODUCTION

To begin with, I would like to state that the Millennium Declaration which Zambia together with 190 other countries signed in September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit represents progressive thinking about development by the international community. In a world in which more than half the population of humanity are wallowing in abject poverty nothing can be more nobler than the undertaking by world leaders to ease the plight of the suffering masses by focusing the attention and energies of governments on achieving the eight goals enunciated in the Declaration. Indeed, world leaders, and our own government, are to be commended for this noblest of moral undertakings that expresses concern for the less privileged in our midst. The eight millennium development goals we are reviewing today, represent a welcome shift in our discussion of development from the usual focus on abstract statistics, to looking at development, to use a popular euphemism, as if people mattered. In other words, nobody can dispute that development should not just be viewed in terms of production, exchange of goods and services, and similar other related indices, but more importantly, our measure of development should lie in improvements to the quality of life of all inhabitants of the globe.

However, unless world leaders translate the eight Millennium Development Goals into realistic and implementable strategies, the Millennium Declaration will just amount to high sounding intentions with no real impact on the condition of those who are in urgent need of climbing out of a life of grinding poverty. To the discomfort of those who think that they are fortunate not to be touched by poverty, the truth is that there can be no peace and stability in our world if

poverty continues to hold the majority captive. Violence, epidemics and environmental degradation, are no respecters of social status or national boundaries.

In the rest of this paper, I discuss four interrelated questions which I think are critical to the success or failure of the Zambian Government's attainment of the eight Millennium Development Goals. The four questions are:

1. Is the Zambian economy growing at a rate and in a manner that is supportive of the attainment of the millennium development goals?
2. Do the levels and patterns of social spending by the Zambian Government support the attainment of the millennium goals?
3. Is the Zambian Government managing and utilizing public finances in a manner that would lead to achievement of the millennium development goals?
4. Is there an appropriate resolve and adequate commitment from international development partners to help Zambia attain the millennium development goals?

I believe answers to the above questions will provide us with some realistic indications regarding whether or not Zambia will be able, by 2015, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; attain gender equality and empowerment of women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop global partnerships for development.

IS THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMY GROWING AT A RATE AND IN A MANNER THAT IS SUPPORTIVE OF ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

Firstly, experts agree that for there to be any appreciable impact on poverty in Zambia, economic growth must be broad-based and pro-poor.¹ This can be interpreted to mean many things but our understanding is that, among other things, growth must come from a diversified base, be regionally balanced, have strong inter-sectoral linkages, exceed the population growth

¹ See, for example, Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2002) Zambia Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2002-2004

rate, produce internationally competitive goods, generate mass employment and empower local entrepreneurs, and increase personal incomes and government revenues.

Unfortunately, the performance of the Zambian economy still leaves much to be desired. Indicators, be they economic or social, are far from impressive. No statement can be so authoritative than Finance Minister Ng'andu Magande's own admission that the 4.2 percent growth rate experienced over the past two years falls short of what is required to achieve the millennium development goals.² The forecast for 2004 indicates an even lower growth of about 3.5 percent³, which is likely to be dampened further by the soaring world oil prices. Unsurprisingly, the target for end of year inflation has now been revised from 15 to 20 percent. Moreover, growth seems to be coming from sources that are relatively capital intensive and therefore not generating employment in quantities that would make a serious dent on poverty. The resurgence of mineral exports as a result of the opening up of new mines, important as it may be, means that Zambia is yet to achieve the desired diversification of its economy. In the informal sector where the majority of our people are employed, stagnation and mere survival appear to be the order of the day. It is not surprising that Government revenues and personal incomes have stagnated. Statistics compiled by the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection to measure the cost of living for a family of six in Lusaka, consistently show that incomes of many workers in the capital fall far below what is required for maintaining a decent standard of living.

Secondly, for the Zambian economy to grow at rates and in a manner that will deliver the millennium development goals, there will be need to make investment capital available by reducing interest rates to affordable digits, eliminate cumbersome administrative procedures, further reduce and contain inflation, and work on other structural barriers that stifle the business environment. More importantly, the pattern of development must galvanise and harness the creative potential of all our people in all the nine provinces of Zambia.

² See The Post, June 17, 2004.

³ Ministry of Finance and National Planning, National Budget Address 2004

DO THE LEVELS AND PATTERNS OF SOCIAL SPENDING BY THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The above question is related to the issue of having a realistic and implementable strategy for attaining the millennium development goals which I alluded to in my introductory remarks. It is a truism that the national budget everywhere is the clearest expression of the development priorities of any Government. It is not enough to formulate policy documents such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP). The PRSP and the TNDP, supported by other sectoral plans, are Zambia's main strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The key question, however, is: what proportion of the annual national budget goes to realising the aims and objectives of these strategies? The unfortunate answer is: very little! Civil Society for Poverty Reduction has observed, for example, that allocations for Poverty Reduction Programmes (PRPs) as a proportion of total government expenditure is still insignificant:

in 2002, K450 billion was allocated to PRPs in the national budget of which K110.7 billion was released, representing 24.5 percent of the total allocation.⁴ Moreover, the K450 billion allocated to PRPs only represented 8 percent of the total national budget. In the 2003 National Budget, Government allocated K420.7 billion to PRPs, indicating a decline of K29.3 billion in nominal terms over the 2002 allocation and much more in real terms. Due to the anticipated budget over-run, this allocation was reduced further, resulting in a total disbursement of K212.9 billion at the close of the year. This disbursement represented 50.4 percent of the allocated amount and is higher than the 24.5 percent spent in 2003. The apparent increase in the amount does not mean much because had Government maintained the allocation for 2003 at the same nominal level of K450 billion, the actual expenditure of K212.9 billion would have stood at 47.3 percent of that allocation. In 2004, PRP activities have been allocated K521.7 billion

⁴ The statistics in this section of the study are taken from CSPR (2004), Draft CSPR 2004 Advocacy Campaign

which represents 15.9 percent increase over the K450 billion. This percentage, however, is offset by the 17.2 percent 2003 end year inflation.⁵

This tells us that Government is yet to align its spending with its profession of commitment to achieving the millennium development goals. As long as allocations to poverty eradication remain low and their disbursement erratic, it will be difficult to achieve the set targets. Like the saying goes, Government must begin to put its money where its mouth is.

We must ask ourselves the question: what is it that has to be done to prioritise social spending in our budget, particularly allocations to education, health and eradication of extreme poverty and hunger? Overtime the budget structure comes to reflect entrenched social interests, even when such interests cease making a productive contribution to the wellbeing of society. For instance, it makes a mockery of government commitment to poverty reduction if government is spending US\$1,800 per month for each of the 14 deputy ministers staying at Mulungushi Village Complex⁶, when 9000 trained teachers cannot be deployed. Many have already voiced out that Government needs to lead the way in self-sacrifice by, for example, reducing the size of its cabinet. It means therefore that bold decisions, self-sacrifice and structural reforms would be necessary if the budget is to be re-oriented in a manner that will increase social spending and prioritise the achievement of millennium development goals.

IS THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT MANAGING AND UTILISING PUBLIC FINANCES IN A MANNER THAT WOULD LEAD TO ACHIEVEMENT OF MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

Sadly, the record of the Zambian Government on the above score has been far from exemplary. The setting up of the Task Force on the plunder of national resources is a telling indictment as to how those in key decision-making positions have managed the public purse. And we are not

⁵ See CSPR, (2004), Consultancy Study on CSPR 2004 Advocacy Campaign, Lusaka

talking only about what is alleged to have happened before the New Deal administration came into office. Almost on a daily basis the public is treated to shocking revelations of on-going financial improprieties despite the on-going campaign against corruption. The nation is awash with financial scandals: K1.9 billion kwacha meant for roads in Luapula province diverted with no explanation; K2 billion spent on beverages at State House; curtains costing US\$8000 each for the House of Chiefs; K400 billion required for the dissolution of the Central Board of Health (CBoH); and many other such scandals. To this one must add the revelations of gross abuse of public finances by the reports of the now suspended HIPC External Tracking and Monitoring Team based on audits and physical inspections carried out in the four provinces of Central, Lusaka, Northern and Copperbelt. Then there are the reports from the Auditor General's office that document widespread misapplication and misappropriation of funds, unauthorized and unconstitutional expenditures, improper accounting for revenue collections, poor record keeping, failure to submit expenditure returns and rampant disregard for financial and stores regulations and tender procedures in the procurement of goods and services.

To improve the management and utilization of public resources, those in power must demonstrate a conviction that goes beyond being merely prodded by Development partners who want to see better accountability of the assistance they extend to the country. Again, nothing short of leadership by example will convince the nation that there's genuine commitment to prudent management of public resources. This nation needs to evolve new ethos regarding management of public property.

IS THERE AN APPROPRIATE RESOLVE AND ADEQUATE COMMITMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO HELP ZAMBIA ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

In answering this question we must proceed from a clear understanding that pursuance of the millennium development goals is something on which the Zambian Government should be focusing its attention and energies even if there was no international consensus on the need to

⁶ The Post, August 28, 2004.

do so. In other words, the millennium development goals should not be seen as an international development strategy which can be implemented only with the assistance of development partners. Having said that, it also needs to be pointed out that, there's a moral obligation which the developed world should shoulder to improve the lot of the less privileged, the majority of whom live in developing countries. Such concern is what defines our common humanity and is the only sure way of combating the growing threats to global peace such as, HIV/AIDS, terrorism, environmental degradation and social discrimination.

In the Millennium Declaration, developing global partnerships for development is predicated upon actions in three areas, namely, (i) substantially increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and taking measures to improve its effectiveness; (ii) dealing comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries to make their debt sustainable in the long term; and (iii) enhancing the access of developing countries to global markets, including through the reduction of agriculture subsidies in developed countries.

Firstly, the Zambian Government has had a long history of reliance on external aid flows in various forms including grants and loans for balance of payments support and programme funding. There's no doubting that much of this aid has proved very handy to our almost bare national coffers. The problem, however, is that external financial support has been erratic, unpredictable and disbursed with conditions that are sometimes too difficult to observe. It is to be observed, for example, that when the Government of Zambia fails on some of the benchmarks agreed upon with the development partners resulting in the withholding of external assistance, it's the ordinary people of Zambia whose suffering is prolonged and sometimes worsened. The question is: isn't it possible to arrive at some kind of agreement that would guarantee that the poor do not get punished for the misdeeds of their government? Or that programmes that are performing well do not suffer lack of aid just because Government has slipped on some of its commitments? Couldn't it be possible, for example, when there's a rift between Government and development partners, to continue funding programmes related to the targets of the Millennium Development Goals through credible civil society organizations with credible track records in the area of poverty reduction?

Secondly, it is apparent that current creditor arrangements to deal with the problems of external debt faced by countries like Zambia do not provide far-reaching solutions that would contribute to attainment of the millennium development goals. The HIPC initiative, for example, has become an obsession whose long-term impact on development problems appears to be not so promising. In the first place, reaching the HIPC completion point in Zambia has become an elusive goal. The longer the date for attaining debt relief promised by the HIPC initiative, the more the Zambian economy will continue to channel its meagre resources to debt servicing at the expense of education, health, and productive investments.

Thirdly, lack of progress on reforming the international trading system to promote access to the markets of developed countries by developing countries, particularly through elimination of subsidies on the agricultural products by the former, and removal of non-tariff barriers, will constrain economic growth in the latter countries. Countries like Zambia stand to gain from exports of products like sugar to developed countries.

CONCLUSION

To conclude my contribution to our discussion, I would like to reiterate that Zambia's progress towards the millennium development goals hinge on factors which are currently far from being positively predisposed to our society. Firstly, the 4.2 percent growth rates of the economy that we have seen in the past two years fall far below the 6 to 8 percent that experts have calculated to be necessary for making decisive inroads in the fight against poverty⁷. Moreover, this growth is not broad-based and pro-poor, conditions which are necessary to achieve the millennium development goals.

Secondly, the levels and patterns of social spending in the annual national budget do not reflect that Government has prioritized attainment of the millennium development goals on its national development agenda. This bespeaks of lack of political will, commitment and seriousness to dealing with the plight of the poor. Thirdly, and closely connected to the second point above, poor accountability in the use of public resources is an indication that the Government lacks an

⁷ Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2002) *ibid*.

effective, efficient and transparent institutional mechanism to deliver resources to their intended beneficiaries. This situation can only improve if there is enhanced participation of the local people in the design, implementation and monitoring of government programmes.

Fourthly, the system of global governance is yet to change in a manner that would promote the kind of cooperation between developed and developing countries which is needed for the attainment of the millennium development goals.

Finally, the Zambian Government needs to take the following urgent steps if it is to stay on course towards the millennium development targets:

- Invest in activities that will not only generate employment but also improve the livelihoods of the poor
- Increase social spending, particularly in education, health, combating HIV/AIDS and empowerment of women.
- Come up with effective mechanisms for tracking and monitoring public expenditures, especially those related to poverty eradication, in which local communities and civil society organizations have an increased say.
- Participate actively in international campaigns to redress the iniquities of the current international economic system
- Negotiate with cooperating partners to devise mechanisms which would safeguard external aid resources against debilitating conditionality.

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Annex 5

THE WORKSHOP SAID IN PICTURE



Members of the audience during a presentation



Audience during question & answer session



Listening to the official opening remarks



Besinati Mpepo C SPR Coordinator listens

Annex 6

CIVIL SOCIETY SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

9th SEPTEMBER 2004, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

PROGRAMME

Workshop Facilitator: Mr. Reuben Lifuka

08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:20	Welcome and Introductory Remarks Mr. Abdoulie Sireh-Jallow, Economic Adviser, UNDP
09:20- 09:35	Official Opening Mr. James Mulungushi, Director MoFNP
09:35 - 10:00	MDGs in Zambia and the Role of Civil Society Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma, Resident Representative UNDP
10:00- 10:30	How Realistic Are the MDGs For Zambia, Challenges Being Faced in Meeting them and the Way Forward. Dr. Frederick Mutesa, University of Zambia
10:30 -10:45	TEA BREAK
10:45 - 11: 45	Plenary
11:45 – 12:00	Key points of the workshop & wrap up Mr. Reuben Lifuka, Workshop Facilitator
12:00-12:30	Refreshments and Snacks

Annex 7

Workshop Participants

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction and UNDP Sensitization Workshop On Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

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