



CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

VISION: A POVERTY FREE ZAMBIA!

MISSION: To promote the effective participation of civil society in poverty eradication in Zambia, through poverty monitoring, information dissemination and advocacy, and capacity building, in partnership with government and other stakeholder.

2004 ANNUAL REPORT AND FORWARD LOOKING PLANS FOR 2005

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1. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

This report presents the activities implemented by C SPR during the period January to December 2004. The report merely highlights implementation issues around the core activities under the three C SPR Programmes - C SPR Poverty Monitoring; Information Dissemination and Advocacy; and Capacity Building and Institutional Development. The full reports for the various activities presented in this report can be requested from the C SPR Secretariat.

Following a suggestion made during the C SPR Cooperating Partners' meeting of February 2004 that the Secretariat can reduce on the number of documents sent to our partners by merging the each annual report with plans for the next year, the latter part of this report is forward look plans for 2005.

2. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report was prepared in the context of various economic, social and political issues of interest to the C SPR and its work. On the economic front, Zambia is reported to be doing reasonably well in the area of economic stability according to macroeconomic indicators and expectations under the PRGF and the HIPC initiative. Similarly the recent Living Conditions Monitoring Survey of the Central Statistics Office is reported to state that poverty levels are on the decrease in Zambia - information that has not been disputed by many in Zambia.

In the second half of the year, Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP) prepared a second PRSP progress report and held a National Sector Advisory Group (SAG) meeting to which civil society was invited. The feedback from civil society and some other stakeholders on the two issues is that the government should show progress by reporting more on outcomes and impacts rather than the current focus on inputs and outputs. The information in the PRSP progress report can lead one to question what constitutes Poverty Reduction Programmes (PRPs) and their resultant expenditures. Civil society hopes that the 2005 budget will reflect holistically expenditures that are in line with the strategies in the PRSP rather than the limited resources under PRPs. Civil society has maintained that efforts need to be stepped up if the PRSP is to achieve the much sought after results. In line with the budget, the government published the 2005 to 2007 green paper on Zambia's 2nd Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to seek feedback from civil society. C SPR has since prepared and forwarded comments.

During the course of 2004, civil society was anticipating the start of the PRSP review process. This has since been rescheduled to 2005 due to government's extension of the current PRSP by a year.

There has also been a lot of discussion around the Millennium Development Goals and progress towards these. Clearly, the MDGs need to be cost and linked tightly to national development engines.

On the political front, the constitution review process has received much attention from Zambians. Despite loud calls from civil society and political parties on adoption of the

constitution through a constituency assembly and by 2006, Government has remained adamant in suggesting the adoption through parliament and by May 2008. Many construe the latter to be a political plot by the current Government to use the existing weak constitution during the 2006 elections.

Later in the year, the lack of a legal framework for civil society operations in Zambia proved to be a threat when the government deregistered a local civil society organisations, Southern African Centre for Conflict Resolution and Dispute (SACCORD), who later challenged the Government to court and won the case that resulted in a nullification of the deregistration.

3. CSPR PROGRAMMES IN 2004

3.1 Poverty Monitoring Programme

Objective: *To effectively monitor the implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and plans aimed at reducing and eradicating poverty by government and other stakeholders.*

The 1st result under the Poverty-Monitoring programme aims at having an effective poverty monitoring system in place. To achieve this result, CSPR undertook the follow;

- a) **Strengthening the CSPR Poverty Monitoring Tool:** CSPR commissioned a consultancy to strengthen its monitoring system and mainstream it with gender and HIV/AIDS. This has since been done and the monitoring tool is ready for use during the subsequent poverty monitoring exercise. The indicators reflected in the monitoring system attempt to address the different types of monitoring indicators and are based on the promises laid down in Zambia's PRSP. *Once put to use, it is anticipated that CSPRs poverty monitoring will be more focused while deliberately addressing issues of gender and HIV/AIDS.*
- b) **2004 Poverty Monitoring Exercises:** In June 2004, CSPR's poverty monitors conducted a Rapid Poverty Assessment in five provinces in selected districts. In order to track changes, the monitoring took place in Eastern Province (Petauke), Western Province (Senanga), Southern Province (Kalomo), Northwestern Province (Mwinilunga) and Luapula Province (Samfya), thus the same sites as in previous assessments. Prior to the assessment, the poverty monitors participated in a two-day refresher course to ensure up to date skills of the monitors as well as to agree on indicators and report writing procedures. Each tracking team was made up of five participants (4 provincial + 1 national level). The reports are posted on the CSPR Website.

Initially, CSPR planned to conduct two poverty-monitoring exercises in a year to take into account data seasonality. The CSPR monitoring team has since assessed the effectiveness of this and concluded that it would be more effective to conduct only one thorough poverty monitoring exercise per year due to possible consultation fatigue on the communities visited, the possibly low levels of meaningful changes from the first to the second assessment and the high costs associated with conducting the assessments. It was felt that budget tracking should be conducted more and prior to the poverty assessments to feed into the latter. *The exercises are combined with sensitisation on the PRSP and other government policies, thereby taking much needed information to the communities visited. Information collected is analysed and used in CSPR poverty*

focused advocacy. The Poverty Monitoring is feeding C SPR with information that is slowly elevating it to an 'authority' on poverty matters.

- c) **Budget Tracking of Poverty Reduction Programmes;** to better focus the poverty monitoring work, C SPR embarked on budget tracking exercises at national level and in the five poverty-monitoring provinces. The aim of the tracking is to track poverty reduction resources from national level to final utilisation and thereafter outcomes and impacts through poverty monitoring. An exercise was conducted in November/December 2004. The results of these exercises will feed into 2005 poverty monitoring work and advocacy efforts. *Resulting from this work, some representative from the C SPR provincial teams (Luapula and Eastern) have been asked by government to join government teams to track government resources at the provincial level.*
- d) **Post 2004 and Pre 2005 Budget Analysis:** C SPR continues to provide input to the budget process in Zambia through pre and post budget analyses and advocacy. In February, C SPR prepared a statement entitled, 'Does the 2004 Budget Address Poverty Reduction?' which was well captured by the media. C SPR is preparing a pre-2005 budget statement that will call for the 2005 budget to address comprehensively the poverty crisis through the PRSP priorities. At the close of 2004, a statement on the 2nd MTEF had been prepared for Government, the media and other advocacy purposes. *Since the start of PRSP implementation to date, government has been increasing budgetary allocations to the PRSP – C SPR advocacy may have contributed to this.*
- e) **Civil Society Thematic Groups:** C SPR has set up thematic groups similar to the time of the PRSP formulation. These thematic groups are to interact and influence the civil society participants of the government Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs) to ensure a stronger civil society voice on the SAGs. *The thematic groups are also expected to provide an initial platform for civil society's input to the next PRSP as well as provide sectoral analysis to poverty monitoring information.* They include Agriculture and Food Security; Industry and Mining; Water, Sanitation and Low Cost Housing; Education, Child and Youth; Health and Nutrition; Environment; HIV/AIDS Macroeconomics; Governance; Gender; and Employment.
- f) **Pro-Poor Policy Research:** C SPR had set itself to conduct one pro-poor policy research in 2004. The agreed upon research will focus on agriculture input distribution and its impact on food security. This is an important strategy in the PRSP. Though the research has been commissioned at the end of 2004, the larger part of it will be done during the first quarter of 2005 in three agricultural ecological zones. *The research will be the basis of PRSP advocacy in the agriculture sector and can contribute to key issues for discussion for the next PRSP. The research could also build strong recommendations for the on going fertilizer support programme.*
- g) **Programme Monitoring system;** in 2003, C SPR set up a programme monitoring system to be able to monitor progress on the activities of the network. This year, the programme monitoring system has been strengthened to ensure that performance against the goals laid out in the strategic plan 2003 to 2005 is measured. *The new programme-monitoring tool also ensures that the monitoring responsibilities are clearly outlined as well as the processes to which the performance reports should feed.*

- h) **Southern Province focal Group:** In March 2004, a Southern Province focal group was set up with the help of GTZ CABUCO project. The focal group is made up of organizations in Monze, Choma and Kalomo and coordinated by the Law and Development Association (LADA). Like other focal groups, the team prepared an action plan for the province under the three programme areas of CSPR and is expected to *carry out CSPR activities in the province including the regular monitoring of poverty reduction programmes in the province.*
- i) **Regular Committee Meetings:** From January 2004, the various committees within the CSPR have been meeting on a regular basis. The previous steering committee continued to meet on a monthly basis with some of the meetings being extraordinary as they were part of the development of the network's constitution. The task forces met regularly and on an ad hoc basis to see through the implementation of programmes and activities as laid down in the annual work plan. *The meetings contributed to ensuring that member organisations continue to participate actively in the CSPR's activities and thus enhancing the networking and members ownership of the programmes.*
- j) **CSPR Annual Evaluation Meeting** - The 2004 annual meeting took the form of the 1st CSPR Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was held on 2nd and 3rd December 2004 with approximately 60 participants from the national level and the six provincial teams. Resources could not accommodate more participants. The AGM received the 2004 activity implementation reports of the network and the proposed 2005 plans. Additionally, the AGM ushered in a 9 organisation Network Steering Committee (NSC) whose members include the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR), Operation Young Vote (OYV), Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM), SACCORD, Water Aid, Catholic Rural Youth Movement (CARYM) - Luapula Province CSPR, Commonwealth Forest Association (CFA), FAWEZA, and Foundation for Democratic Progress (FODEP) - North-Western Province CSPR. The NSC is the executive arm of the CSPR. The AGM also saw the symbolic handover of functions from JCTR, the current hosts, to the NSC.
- k) **CSPR Impact Evaluation** - the programme had planned to conduct an impact evaluation of CSPR from birth to date. This evaluation has been rescheduled to 2005 to allow the results of the evaluation to feed into the 2006 to 2008 strategic planning for the network.

3.2 Information Dissemination and Advocacy Programme

Programme Objective: *To promote awareness and increase understanding on poverty issues in order to advocate and influence policies aimed at poverty eradication.*

The 3rd result area of the CSPR aims at having poverty information accessed and disseminated by civil society. In line with this, the following activities were undertaken;

- a) **Survey on the use and comprehension of simplified PRSP;** in 2002, CSPR simplified the PRSP in the hope that many Zambians can have information on the contents of the plan and be able to lobby government to adhere to the promises laid down. The simplified document was also to provide guidance on what programmes different stakeholders can monitor under the PRSP. The simplification exercise was well received by many and the network agreed to continue

simplifying poverty information for access by many. *To guide further simplification work, the CSPR commissioned a survey on the use and comprehension of the simplified PRSP, which was completed in early December 2004.* The majority who participated in the survey reported to have found good use of the information including in advocacy, sensitisation work, meetings, monitoring etc. The survey has also brought out useful information on the type of information that is on demand and the need to break down technical language e.g. the macro economic chapter of simplified PRSP was reported as the most difficult to understand.

- b) **Popularizing the Letter of Intent:** In an attempt to increase the levels of awareness on Zambia's international agreements that may directly or indirect influence on the depth or breadth of the poverty levels in the country, CSPR popularized issues around the IMF/Government of Zambia Letter of Intent in a small booklet entitled, 'Understanding the Letter of Intent'. The booklet was printed in June 2004 and is currently being distributed widely. CSPR's expectation is to have civil society and ordinary Zambians engage with the Government, from an informed basis, on issues that may affect the lives of the majority, before international agreements are signed.
- c) **Launch of Poverty Reduction Resources Tracking Report and the Simplified Letter of Intent:** On 2nd July 2004, CSPR launched a report entitled 'Tracking Poverty Reduction Resources under the PRSP: An Analysis Of The 2002 & 2003 Budgets'. The report brought out the discrepancies between PRSP resource requirements, PRP allocations, classifications of PRPs and PRP resource disbursements. The report has been well received and distributed to government departments dealing with the PRSP. Further, the report has been quoted widely by both local and international organizations. CSPR used the launch to raise awareness on the 'Understanding the Letter of Intent' booklet.
- d) **Management of CSPR information outlets:** *CSPR has 3 main information outlets.* The CSPR *poverty resource room* has proved to be a good source of poverty data for different users including academics, local and visiting NGO staff, students from the university and others. The resource room stocks information generated by the network through research, poverty monitoring and popularizations as well as literature and reports from local and international sources. The resource room is maintained by a part time Library Studies intern from the University of Zambia. *The resource room is fulfilling the expectations of the network in providing access to up to date and relevant poverty information in one place.* In addition to the resource room, CSPR has been producing its Bi Annual Newsletter that is a *good source of information on CSPR key events and advocacy work.* At the time of preparing this report, the December 2004 biannual newsletter was far under way and ready for printing in January 2005. Lastly but not least, the CSPR Website was redesigned to better *package materials and enable easier downloads* for web browsers. The secretariat has received feedback from users locally and abroad on the wealth of up to date materials on the Website.

The fourth result area aims at having a well-refined poverty focused advocacy. The Poverty focused advocacy is the outlet for influencing change based on CSPR research, monitoring and information gathering.

- e) **CSPR 2004/2005 Advocacy Campaign - "Rank Poverty Eradication 1st for Zambia":** The CSPR 2004/2005 advocacy campaign which was launched on 30th September 2004 at Mulungushi

International Conference Centre aims at raising the profile of poverty eradication on the national agenda. Prior to the launch of the campaign, a study was commissioned to provide a solid basis for the campaign that seeks the protection of resources meant for poverty reduction in Zambia. Campaign activities have included an oral submission to the Constitution Review Commission (CRC), production and distribution of campaign materials, a campaign walk, airing of documentary and taking the campaign to the provinces. Petitions have been distributed and are being signed in line with the advocacy campaign for presentation to key targets including the President. The campaign is responding to concerns that there is no legal protection for resources meant for the poor resulting in a level of misdirection of these already inadequate resources to non-poverty reducing expenditures.

- f) **Television Documentary on rural poverty;** CSPR commissioned and broadcast a television documentary with a focus on rural poverty. The documentary which has scenes from Petauke (Chikuse and Nyanje) and Kalomo (Kandanzovu) brings out the many faces of poverty as outlined in the PRSP. The documentary entitled 'Ranking Poverty Eradication 1st for Zambia' concludes by *raising awareness around PRSP and questions its impacts and the possible monitoring roles that the viewers can play in these programmes*. The documentary was broadcast on 27th November and 15th December 2004.
- g) **Stakeholder meetings on PRSP monitoring:** four stakeholder meetings were held in October 2004 to discuss the results of CSPR's poverty/PRSP monitoring exercises. The meetings were for civil society, government, donors and Members of Parliament (MPs). It was rather challenging to get the government and MPs to meet but later took place with reasonable turn out and engagement. The donor meeting was poorly attended, contrary to expectations that the international community had a keen interest in the monitoring work of civil society. The civil society meeting was the first of the four and was mainly for peer review and initial dissemination before other stakeholder engagements. Apart from disseminating the reports, the meetings allowed for useful feedback to CSPR for future monitoring work and preparation of reports.
- h) **Quarterly press releases:** CSPR has continued to receive good media coverage - both electronic and print. During the period under review, press statements were made on the 2004 Post Budget analysis, the PRGF negotiations, the Poverty Monitoring reports and as the year closed, the MTEF 2005 to 2007.
- i) **Community Radio Programmes:** Community radio programmes were recorded during the 1st quarter visits to the provincial focal groups. The programmes were mainly aimed at increasing awareness on CSPR activities in the province and information around the PRSP. A total of four programmes were recorded and included recordings in the local languages. At national level, CSPR participated in radio programmes on stations such as UNZA radio, Radio Phoenix, Q-FM, and ZNBC Radio.
- j) **PRGF Advocacy:** In June 2004, Zambia qualified for a new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) with the IMF. Prior to this, CSPR wrote a letter to the Minister of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP) calling for participation, transparency and accountability in the PRGF process. Further, CSPR released a press statement in the Daily Mail and Post Newspapers

on 14th June 2004, to urge the Government and the IMF to 'Rank the Poor first in PRGF negotiations'. The impact of this statement was an invitation to CSPR members from the Minister of Finance to attend a press conference, which provided for some engagement around issues of the PRGF and the 2004 Letter of Intent. Members of CSPR have viewed this as a first step towards civil society's engagement in future PRGF negotiations. Prior to this, selected members of CSPR underwent some training to understand and analyse the role of the IMF and their programmes in Zambia. *This was an unplanned for but important activity.*

- k) **Civil Society's Reflection on the PRSP Workshop:** On 18th April 2004, CSPR hosted a one-day workshop for civil society to reflect on the PRSP in Zambia. The call for such a workshop was to allow civil society to reflect of the PRSP process and content and what this meant for civil society. As part of its reflections, civil society revisited the concept of the PRSP as well as the process of its formulation, monitoring and implementation in Zambia. Participants at the workshop concluded that by and large, the 'concept' of a poverty reduction strategy, prepared in a participatory manner, is not a bad concept and could provide results. However, they noted the need for the next round of PRSPs to be more bottom-up rather than top down. Further, the whole concept and process of a PRSP should be domesticated to the Zambian set up to ensure that it is used to meaningfully fight the poverty in which majority of Zambian's live before it is used for any conditionality.

3.3 Capacity Building Programme

Programme Objective: *To develop the capacity of CSO's to enhance their active participation and full ownership of poverty eradication in Zambia.*

Result 5 aims at enhancing the capacities of civil society;

- a) **Training in Advocacy for Provincial focal groups:** in September 2004, CSPR held a three day training in lobby and advocacy for 15 participants from the 5 CSPR provincial groups. In addition, the workshop introduced networking skills to the participants. *It is expected that the skills will be used for local level lobby and advocacy work by the provincial teams.*
- b) **Economic Literacy Seminars:** CSPR has felt it important to impart critical skills on economic issues to civil society at various levels. Seminars were conducted in Lusaka, Mansa and Mongu and were aimed at giving participants an understanding of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the national budget process and routes for civic engagement in these at various levels. The provincial seminars were linked to the MDGs sensitisation campaigns conducted by UNDP and facilitated by CSPR. Participants felt that such workshops provided important information and should have been held sooner. *It is expected that the participants understand better the budget process and can begin to explore routes for engagement.*
- c) **Decentralised Training in Expenditure Tracking:** In March 2004, 15 members of CSPR were trained as trainers in expenditure tracking techniques. Facilitators from IDASA of South Africa and the Uganda Debt Network conducted the training, which was held for a week. CSPR later domesticated the information and prepared a civil society budget-tracking manual, which was used in July 2004 for subsequent training sessions at the provincial levels. *Approximately 60 civil*

society representatives have been trained in budget tracking techniques and are expected to engage in periodic budget tracking and monitoring work.

- d) **Decentralisation of Poverty Monitoring to PFGs:** Prior to the May/June 2004 poverty monitoring, the CSPR poverty monitors participated in a two-day poverty monitoring refresher course with Participatory Assessment Group (PAG). Part of the refresher course was aimed at imparting skills and increasing the capacity of the provincial focal groups to plan and implement the poverty monitoring exercises with less supervision from the national office. *It is expected that future poverty monitoring exercises will be planned for by the provincial teams and only coordinated and overseen by the national secretariat and the poverty monitoring task force.*
- e) **International study tours:** In October 2004, members of CSPR participated in study tours in Malawi and Uganda. The teams were made of three representatives each including provincial participants. The NGO Forum of Uganda and the Malawi Economic Justice Network in Malawi hosted the teams. Various lessons have been documented from the tours and will be used in strengthening the CSPR strategies. *Lessons were drawn around Networking, Advocacy, Civil society and the PRSP etc.*
- f) **Civil Society Day:** CSPR held its second Civil Society day on 30th September 2004. The official opening was by the Deputy Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Honorable Ronald Banda. This time, CSPR invited participants for the provinces. The Civil Society Day, characterised by exhibitions and presentations, recorded less external viewers than the previous one. This has been attributed to low publicity of the event. The capacity building task force therefore commits to begin raising awareness early for the 2005 event.
- g) **Training for Transformation:** CSPR partnered with GTZ on the training for transformation and development of a 'Training for Transformation' manual in Southern province. This approach is a mind set approach that looks at how individuals can focus on improving their livelihoods. CABUCO worked with facilitators from Women for Change.

Result 6 supports the CSPR Institutional Capacity Strengthened

- h) **Finalization of CSPR role clarification:** During the year, the network completed its role clarification process. *A constitution was formulated and adopted by network members, a Network Steering Committee has been ushered in, formal registration process is underway and an assessment of the secretariat conducted with a new structure adopted for 2005. The proposed structure for the secretariat includes full time Finance and Administrative Officer and a Programme Officer for each core programme area (see annex). The exercise however did not fully address the concerns of the provincial focal groups and their role in the CSPR structure as these were not explicitly stated in the TORs for the exercise. This will be done in 2005.*
- i) **Training for Provincial Focal Groups in finance procedures:** The JCTR/CSPR Finance Officer conducted training in finance procedures for all five CSPR provincial focal groups. This training provided an opportunity for the provincial teams to receive skills and guidance in managing the resources that are channeled through for CSPR activities. *The focal teams received the training*

well and reported that clarification were made on the use of CSPR finances for programmes and report requirements, thus improving the financial report of the teams.

3.4 Provincial Focal Groups (PFGs) activities: The capacity building programme has an important element of support to CSPR provincial focal groups. The focal groups are in Eastern Province (Chipata), Luapula Province (Mansa), Western Province (Mongu), Southern Province (Monze) and Northwestern Province (Solwezi). Each focal group recently welcomed more participation of civil society organisations in their localities. However, the focal groups face many challenges as they perform the outreach arm of CSPR and these are presented in section 4 below.

This year, the secretariat channeled an increased level of resources to the PFGs than last year for the activities and administration of the provincial focal groups. This has resulted in more outputs from the local levels. A number of the focal group activities are linked to the core national activities and have thus been reported on under the core programme areas in section 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the report. The secretariat has the individual focal group reports for full information on provincial activities. Please see below some specific highlights on core issues under each programme;

- **Poverty Monitoring Programme;** Members of the provincial focal groups were the majority of participants to the July *rapid assessment surveys* and the *November/December budget tracking exercises*. In addition to these monitoring exercises, some representatives of the focal groups participate in the *government monitoring structures* at provincial level. Each focal group has a good pool of trained members in budget tracking and poverty monitoring. These skills, however, need to be refreshed on a regular basis, while those of analytical report writing need to be developed.
- **Capacity Building;** The PFGs were instrumental in the *national role clarification process* up to the development of a constitution for the network. In addition, all focal groups participated in the focal group trainings in *lobby and advocacy, finance procedures* and budget tracking (training of trainers and decentralised training). The southern province focal group is the newest addition to the PFGs. Despite this, it has been able to find its place in the network as an arm of the CSPR in Southern Province. The focal groups have also been having some governance challenges that need to be addressed through a provincial role clarification exercise.
- **Information Dissemination and Advocacy:** The provincial focal groups spend a lot of efforts in the area of *sensitisation* of the communities and other stakeholders on PRSP issues, results from monitoring and possibilities for stakeholder engagement in these. The sensitisation activities are not only focused in the surrounding areas of the focal groups but also in other districts within the provinces. Apart from physically sensitizing the communities, the PFGs have also used *radio programmes* to get the information out. They have resultantly provided some groundwork for the next PRSP consultations that will be held during 2005, by enabling more stakeholders to understand and thus participate in the development of the national strategy. In addition to PRSP sensitisation, two of the focal groups organized the *UNDP MDG sensitisation workshops* and the *CSPR provincial economic literacy seminars* on the local budgeting process.

Most focal group representatives have continued to sit on the *Provincial and District Development Coordinating Committee* (PDCC and DDCC), forums that could provide useful avenue for advocacy around PRSP implementation and other critical issues. Some focal groups were able to organise other stakeholder forums/NGO days at provincial level to engage with various stakeholders on critical poverty issues.

4. CSPR CHALLENGES IN 2004

CSPR has faced a number of challenges in doing its work, most of which can be overcome.

- Access to information continues to be a large blockage to effective budget tracking work. Government offices are still highly bureaucratic where information is concerned and the usual statement of 'the one in charge is not in today' is heard in almost all ministries visited. To address this, CSPR aims to support organisations engaging in advocacy in the area of freedom of information.
- Good but over ambitious annual plans that have been supported by a small secretariat have been strenuous on the latter to the extent that not all activities could be implemented as planned. This is to be overcome through prioritization of plans and a restructuring of the secretariat in 2005.
- There are always very important meetings, activities, and workshops that are unavoidable for CSPR in the area of poverty focused advocacy. Previous annual plans did not make room for these resulting in additional pressure on already ambitious work plans. The 2005 planning sessions attempted to prioritise activities to ensure that consideration is given to these.
- Ensuring consistency of network members especially that each organisation may also have an equally demanding workplan. As such, CSPR has to manage better the number of meetings for implementing its activities by forming small sub committees for the various activities.
- The focal groups have faced various challenges that need to be addressed if they are to be effective in their outreach role. These include issues around office space, basic furniture and equipment, communication, and provincial centre focus. They have also been inadequately supported by the secretariat due to staffing capacity at the secretariat. In the course of the year, the secretariat was fortunate to be placed with a development worker from MS Zambia who has since supported CSPR in this area.
- There is no legal framework for civil society in Zambia. This becomes a threat to advocacy organisations like CSPR whose role is to be a watchdog and challenge government to be accountable and effective in delivering of essential services to its people. Civil society is committed to address this in 2005.

5. CSPR FINANCES IN 2004

A full report of CSPR receipts and expenditures will be ready in early 2005 as well as the annual audit of accounts. In brief, CSPR received all the funds expected from its five funders (Cordaid, Diakonia, DFID, GTZ and OXFAM) in the course of the year. The utilization of resources was almost at full capacity with the exception of a few activities that were either cancelled or carried forward to 2005 for strategic reasons. These have included the impact evaluation of CSPR, television discussion on PRSP.

On the other hand, there were a few unbudgeted activities that were financed through the much-appreciated contingency budget line. These have included the workshop for civil society's reflection on the PRSP, the CSPR secretariat assessment and a top up to the pro-poor study (under budgeted). Other expenditures from contingency included topping up on those budget lines that were unintentionally under budgeted.

More specific details can be found in the full financial report that was not yet finalised at the time of preparation of this report.

6. CSPR FORWARD LOOKING FOR 2005

The CSPR 2005 plans are presented in this section in summary and in full as appendices. The planning is based on the 2003 to 2005 strategic plan and log frames. 2005 marks the end of the current strategic plan and the network will begin working on the next strategic plan towards the end of the second quarter of 2005. It is anticipated that we can begin sharing it with our partners for possible commitments in the third quarter of 2005.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2004, CSPR underwent one day planning sessions for each of the three core programme areas. The planning sessions were based on reviews of the 2004 plans, the problem tree analysis in the strategic plan, and the objectives and result areas under each programme as laid down in the current strategic plan. The provincial focal groups conducted their planning sessions and these have been merged under each of the core programme areas. There was an attempt to ensure that planning is more realistic and that time is put aside for unplanned but essential activities.

6.2 PROGRAMMES FOR 2005

The three CSPR programme areas continue to exhibit close ties and dependency. CSPR is a poverty advocacy network. The advocacy programme is fed by the outputs from poverty monitoring programme and the information generated from the information generation component of the programme. However, both poverty monitoring and advocacy require solid capacity that is generated through the capacity building programme of the network. Please see the specific programmes below;

6.2.1 *Poverty Monitoring Programme:*

The objective of the programme remains to effectively monitor the implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and plans aimed at reducing and eradicating poverty by government and other stakeholders. The two result areas under this programme look at effective civil society poverty monitoring and effective monitoring of CSPR programmes.

6.2.1.1 Result 1: Effective Poverty Monitoring System

Under result area one, Poverty Monitoring and Budget Monitoring/Tracking remain regular activities and are the most expensive single activities due to their human intense nature. *Poverty monitoring* will be held in the five districts and sites previously monitored to allow comparison with previous year's exercises so as to track changes in poverty conditions. Similarly the *budget tracking* exercise will be conducted from national level to the same sites as the poverty monitoring in order to be able to triangulate the flow of resources for poverty reduction with the actual status of livelihoods on the ground. The budget tracking and poverty monitoring will be held once in a year with the former preceding the latter in the 2nd and 3rd quarter respectively. The outputs of this work will be *poverty monitoring analytical reports* that will feed into the CSPR advocacy programme. In addition to the budget tracking work, the network will continue its *budget analysis* on both post 2005 and pre - 2006 budgets and will resultantly engage in various ways on these.

2004 was to mark the end of the current PRSP (2002 to 2004). To the contrary the current PRSP was extended to the end of 2005 to allow alignment with other development plans of the country. CSPR was born through the PRSP process and is keen to follow the formulation of the next plan in whatever form it will take. To do this, the network has planned to commission a *civil society evaluation of the current PRSP*, which could guide the approach and emphasis that civil society should take in the next plan. It is anticipated that the next PRSP should be drafted in the course of 2005 and as such civil society will commission its evaluation in the first half of the year so as to guide its work for the next PRSP. Civil Society's input to the next PRSP will also utilize the *CSPR thematic groups* and provincial focal groups.

Finally, the network aims to finalise the *pro-poor study on the agriculture* that can also guide the next PRSP's priorities in the sector.

6.2.1.2 Result 2: Effective Programme Monitoring System

The importance of programme monitoring cannot be too emphasized and to ensure this, the network will *institutionalize the programme monitoring system* at both national and provincial levels. Further monitoring of activities will continue to be through the task forces and provincial focal groups (renamed as *Programme Management Teams and Provincial Management Teams*) that will further continue to play the critical role of programme implementation. The *Network Steering Committee* will provide the overall policy direction and oversight of CSPR programme implementation and resource utilization.

Programme monitoring will also be through a *mid year programme review* to measure mid year progress and performance and also through reports to the *Annual General Meeting* of the network membership. Representatives from secretariat and the programme management teams will also endeavor to ensure greater support and *visits to the provincial teams* at least twice in a year.

The network will commission an *evaluation of CSPR from 2000 to 2005* to assess the impact of the work of the network to highlight areas in which the network is making a difference and where it may need to redirect efforts and focus more. The evaluation will provide critical information that can feed into the 2006 to 2008 strategic planning process.

6.2.2 Information Dissemination And Advocacy Programme

The objective of the network is to promote awareness and increase understanding on poverty issues in order to advocate and influence policies aimed at poverty eradication.

6.2.2.1 Result 3: Poverty Information accessed and disseminated by civil society

CSPR has strengthened its 3 key information outlets that can be more utilized for poverty-focused advocacy. The outlets are the *CSPR Website* on www.cspr.org.zm, the *Poverty Resource Room* housed at the secretariat, and the *CSPR Newsletter* that is prepared on a bi-annual basis. These have been well received by members and various stakeholders as a wealth of poverty information for various uses.

CSPR has opted not to simplify a new document in 2005 but rather disseminate more the booklet on *understanding the letter of intent*, especially to civil society at provincial levels through mini launches. Further, the network will *launch the report on the agriculture pro-poor study* and *publish the poverty monitoring reports* that are both commissioned under the poverty-monitoring programme.

6.2.2.2 Result 4: Well refined poverty focused advocacy

Under advocacy, CSPR plans to make headway in its *advocacy campaign* to 'Rank Poverty Eradication 1st for Zambia' according to the advocacy campaign strategy and that the impact of this campaign should be seen through inclusions of CSPR's recommendations in the draft constitution, increased allocations in the 2006 budget and 100% disbursements of poverty reduction resources by end 2006. Additionally, government should commit to some sort of institutionalized civic participation in the budget process. CSPR will also support *advocacy around freedom of information*, which if legally granted, would enhance the effectiveness of CSPR poverty monitoring work.

CSPR continues to recognize the importance of Members of Parliament in the poverty discussion and will work to strengthen the advocacy partnerships that have begun in 2004 by *setting up a CSPR-MPs committee* of a few MPs that will partner with CSPR on critical issues. Other stakeholders are targeted mainly during the *stakeholder round table meetings* on PRSP monitoring.

The network will continue to use the media for advocacy. In line with this, it plans to *re-air the two poverty documentaries* that were prepared in 2003 and 2004 in readiness for the PRSP review. *Radio programmes* will be drawn up in collaboration with the CSPR provincial programme management teams and will be aired on national and community radio stations. An idea could be to have a series of national phone in programmes to seek contributions to the *PRSP review*. However, the relationship with the media personnel needs to be cultivated and will be done through *media round table meetings* with editors and reporters. The network plans to continue featuring regularly on key poverty issues in the print media through *press releases*.

6.2.3 Capacity Building and Institutional Development

The objective of the third programme is to develop the capacity of CSO's to enhance their active participation and full ownership of poverty eradication in Zambia. The Capacity building Programme is key in supporting the other two programmes of the network.

6.2.3.1 Result 5: Capacities of civil society enhanced

The effective participation of civil society in poverty issues requires the development and strengthening of appropriate capacities. *Poverty monitoring and budget tracking skills* need to be refined in some cases and newly built in others to ensure a sustainable and effective pool of poverty monitors. This will be done both at national and provincial levels in workshop style.

CSPR has committed itself to conducting *economic literacy* for civil society as one of its core activities and services under capacity building and result five of the network. The proposed mode is to package four key economic issues that are of necessity and relevance for civil society engagement in a two-day economic literacy seminar. The issues should of a timely nature and

will be agreed upon in early 2005. In addition to the facilitated capacity building, CSPR continues to see capacity building through the sharing of experiences and best practices through the annual *Civil Society day* in September.

6.2.3.2 Result 6: CSPR institutional Capacity Strengthened

The CSPR network must have adequate capacity to deliver the programmes outlined in sections above. Through a review at the planning sessions, members agreed to provide better support to the provincial programme management teams, including the possibility of office space, basic equipment and part-time provincial administrators to be housed in the CSPR offices. CSPR will continue to *support the activities of the provincial teams* as an extension of the networks work to the provincial and district levels. Other support to the focal groups includes more *training in networking and other identified needs from the 2003 training needs assessment*, that will enable them better implement their plans. In addition, it is essential to conduct a *provincial role clarification exercise* to allow the provincial teams to understand their role in the network, position themselves, clarify governance issues, relationship with the secretariat and other issues that have been unclear in the past.

The assessment of the secretariat that was conducted in 2004, led to the development of an agreed upon structure of the secretariat. The assessment also recognized the current understaffing of the secretariat to fulfill its role. To fulfill this structure, the *current staff in the secretariat will have to reposition in appropriate positions*, while the *vacancies* that cannot be fulfilled from existing staff will have to be filled. The necessity of additional staff will lead to a considerable **increase in the operational budget** of the network. This is to take place in the first quarter of the 2005.

Finally, given that 2005 is the final year of the current strategic plan, CSPR will have to invest time and resources in the development of a *new three or even five-year strategic plan*. This will require participation of the various network structures and support from a strategic planning facilitator. The planning is to begin in the second quarter of 2005 for completion and dissemination in the third quarter.

6.2.4 2005 Budget and Finances

At the close of the year, a draft budget based on review of expenditures and planned activities had been prepared and are appended to this report for initial discussion with out partners. The 2005 budget is considerably higher that the 2004 budget due to increased but essential staffing and more realistic budgeting for some activities based on a realised under budgeting in 2004. The draft budget thus overshoots CSPRs expected income from the partners that had pledged to support the strategic plan. The network will attempt to source the shortfall through discussions with our current partners and others that have shown interest in supporting CSPR programmes and activities. The outcomes of these discussions will determine whether programmes will be cut, personnel hire put on hold or whether we continue as planned.

7. CONCLUSION

The report has outlined the work of the network in 2004 and its plans for 2005. 2004 was largely a fulfilling year for the network in implementing its work plans. The network members showed a high level of commitment as could be seen through the levels of participation during the AGM.

The network has also clearly found its feet and is becoming more and more a civil society mouthpiece on poverty issues. This will have to be sustained, especially in the sight of the high levels of poverty that many Zambians are facing.

The networks move towards full independence has covered considerable ground with the ushering in of the Network Steering Committee to provide the executive support to the network, the development of a constitution with a civil society code of conduct and the formulation of appropriate operational procedures. Additionally, registration process began in August but has been considerably delayed by a Registrar of Society's request for a recommendation letter from the Ministry working on poverty issues, in this case the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. At the time of preparing this report, CSPR was awaiting the letter for close to three months amidst reassurances that the delay is not political but rather a capacity constraint on the part of the over stretched Ministry staff.

CSPR's partners have continued to provide essential and much appreciated support - financial, technical and moral - to the cause of the network. In addition, GTZ has provided valuable support and advise in the CSPR registration process.

In terms of forward looking, valuable lessons have been drawn from 2004 on the impacts of over planning, which has helped shape and focus the plans for 2005. The plans for 2005 continue to revolve around the important objectives laid down in the 2002 to 2005 strategic plan and a new strategic plan is expected to be developed in the course of 2005.

CSPR maintains that civil society has a key role to play in poverty eradication both individually and united. The network supports both these ways and anticipates that its work is contributing to the network's vision of a 'Poverty Free Zambia'.