

Chapter 12 of Civil Society's Input to the PRSP: Poverty reduction – provincial perspectives

Background

As part of its participation in the PRSP process, civil society identified 10 thematic areas and produced, with the assistance of Facilitators, Civil Society Position Papers (CSPPs) in each of these themes. These papers form Chapters 1 to 11 of this document. The process that led to the formulation of the position papers involved consultations among civil society organisations from various parts of the nation. In addition, to ensure that the views of the grass roots are incorporated in the PRSP, through CSPP civil society organised itself to reach out to a number of provinces of the nation in line with the PRSP principle of wide consultations. This was done through a series of poverty reduction workshops in the provinces. The civil society provincial workshops were conducted to complement the government's provincial workshops.

The main reason for involving civil society in the PRSP is that it is a conditionality of the IMF and the World Bank that civil society and other stakeholders must be involved in the process of formulating a nationally-owned PRSP. Civil society works among the vulnerable members of society who are affected most by poverty, and hence can provide a voice for the voiceless in society. The strong advocacy and lobbying skills that have been built up within civil society provide a base for checks and balances to government programmes and activities. The role of CSPP is to develop the capacity of communities to enable them directly deal with the institutions assigned to undertake poverty reduction. For example, communities should question how government resources are used by setting up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at their own levels. The CSPP would also like to enhance the participatory and consultative process in the local communities in addressing poverty issues.

The objectives of the provincial workshops were to:

- ensure that input from the poor (“grass roots”) in the various provinces was taken on in the PRSP;
- complement the government provincial consultations, to ensure that wide consultations are carried out in the various provinces.

The expected outcomes were that after completion of the provincial workshops, participants would have better understood the PRSP process and its intended outcomes, the role of civil society and the various stakeholders in the process, and that vital information would have been gathered from the poor themselves on concrete ways of reducing poverty.

Participation

Poverty reduction workshops were conducted in May 2001, in the provincial centres of the selected provinces; however, participants were drawn from the various districts, with the poorest districts being given higher priority. Approximately 50 participants in each province attended the workshops. Two members of the CSPR Steering Committee facilitated the workshops in each province. In a number of cases, participants were unable to attend, due to such constraints as transport.¹

Given that the CSPR initiative is made up of representatives from a wide variety of civil society organisations, most of which are established even at grass roots level, these organisations should help to disseminate information at the smallest level, the family. The CSPR is also an initiative to create a think tank of individuals drawn from different backgrounds, right from the community level, to engage government structures at policy making level. In addition, although the workshops were held in urban centres, participants were drawn from districts where poverty is rampant. It is recognised, nonetheless, that the workshops needed to be replicated in the remotest parts of the province if the poverty battle is to be won.

Contacts and other practical arrangements were made through local NGOs. Participants were drawn from all walks of life, including the very poor and illiterate. The participants came from a cross-section of society; thus there was diversity in terms of representation. To enhance the level of participation, the workshops were conducted in the local Zambian languages. Gender participation was high; in some cases 60% of the participants were women.

Targeting

CSPR targeted the four poorest provinces of Zambia and the respective districts. Beginning with the most deprived region and taking into account both income and several non-income aspects, these provinces and districts are:

Table 12.1: The poorest provinces and districts of Zambia

Province	District
Western	Shang'ombo; Sesheke; Kaoma; Senanga
Eastern	Chama; Petauke; Katete; Chadiza
Luapula	Milengi; Samfya; Mwense; Kawambwa
Northwestern	Chavuma; Kasempa; Mwinilunga; Kabompo

Source: V. Seshamani (2000), *Deprivation in Zambia: District-level Profiles and Rankings Based on an Index of Deprivation*, UNICEF, Lusaka.

Table 12.2 below gives the rankings, presenting only the incidence of extreme income poverty (with figures in brackets showing incidence of extreme income poverty).

¹ In the Western Province, for instance, the Lukulu-Mongu bus only travels once every fortnight due to the very poor condition of the road; this, coupled with the poverty levels, has forced people not to travel as often as they used to in the past.

Table 12.2: The poorest provinces and districts of Zambia, ranked according to incidence of extreme poverty

Province	District
Western	Lukulu (97%); Shang'ombo (89.6%); Senanga (80.1%); Mongu (77%)
Eastern	Chadiza (75.6%); Katete (74.8%); Chama (74.4%); Petauke (72%)
Luapula	Samfya (83.1%); Mwense (80.9%); Milengi (77.4%); Kawambwa (65.1%)
Northwestern	Chavuma (84.3%); Kasempa (76.4%); Zambezi (69.7%); Solwezi (60.9%)

Source: V. Seshamani (2000), *Deprivation in Zambia: District-level Profiles and Rankings Based on an Index of Deprivation*, UNICEF, Lusaka.

Findings from the provinces

The findings presented below were synthesised from the reports on each of the provincial workshops. Table 12.3 gives the poverty-related factors that were commonly identified. These factors, pertaining to Zambia, were identified on the basis of:

- manifestations of poverty;
- the causes of poverty and the reasons for its increase;
- obstacles to poverty reduction.

Table 12.3: Poverty-related factors in Zambia: provincial perspectives

Category	Factors	
	Manifestations of poverty	Causes of poverty and its increase, and obstacles to poverty reduction
Agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ negative attitude towards agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high cost of agricultural inputs; ▪ lack of information for small scale/peasant farmers on crop markets; ▪ poor policies on land acquisition; ▪ overly expensive farming inputs; ▪ poor financial capacity of farmers; ▪ poor utilisation of agricultural training institutes; ▪ poor marketing policy for agricultural products; ▪ few or no trained farming personnel to make field trips; ▪ lack of processing industries for agricultural produce; ▪ inadequate processing to add value to primary products; ▪ damage to crops by pests; ▪ inadequate food storage facilities; ▪ environmental degradation; ▪ inadequate agriculture extension staff; ▪ inadequate labour saving devices; ▪ poor animal husbandry practices; ▪ low levels of mechanisation in agriculture; ▪ harmful agricultural practices; ▪ declining soil fertility; ▪ political interference in the distribution of agricultural inputs; ▪ delays in the provision of agricultural inputs, especially fertiliser; poor input distribution;

Behavioural and cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ corruption (the <i>n'chekeleko</i> syndrome); ▪ nepotism; ▪ early marriages; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ property grabbing; ▪ heavy labour burden on women; ▪ inertia; ▪ corruption; ▪ gender discrimination; ▪ tribalism; ▪ early marriages; ▪ negative traditional beliefs and customs; traditional myths; ▪ laziness; ▪ negative work attitude; ▪ reluctance to adjust to alternative occupations after retrenchment;
--------------------------	--	---

Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high levels of unemployment; ▪ low per capita income; ▪ failure to raise money for school fees; ▪ failure to access educational and medical services because of user fees; ▪ extremely low incomes; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high cost of living; ▪ the brain-drain from the country; ▪ capital flight brought about by foreign “investors”; ▪ poor conditions of service; ▪ the sale of the mines; ▪ high school fees; ▪ failure by government to support small mining industries; ▪ non-payment of redundancy packages on time; ▪ lack of capital investment; ▪ exorbitant interest rates; ▪ unfair competition; ▪ uneven terms of trade; ▪ uneven distribution of national wealth; ▪ insufficient resources for production; ▪ lack of capital investment; ▪ lack of formal employment; ▪ donor dependency; ▪ huge external debt; ▪ lack of resources on the part of government; ▪ over-dependence on copper - which is a diminishing asset, rather than on agriculture - which is a renewable asset; ▪ poor industrial base; ▪ closure of industries; ▪ lack of understanding of liberalised economy; ▪ retrenchments, forced retirements, voluntary separation; ▪ capitalism; ▪ medical, education and other user fees; ▪ production limitations to add value to either produce or to existing resources such as mangoes, timber, cassava, etc.; ▪ privatisation; ▪ poor employment opportunities; contracted job market; ▪ low incomes;
----------	---	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ unfavourable debt conditionalities set by the IMF and other institutions, including the World Bank; ▪ inappropriately designed and implemented structural adjustment programmes; ▪ lack of credit facilities; ▪ high interest rates; ▪ unfavourable marketing conditions;
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high school drop out rates; ▪ lack of education; ▪ widespread illiteracy;² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ low investments in education; ▪ lack of sensitisation programmes; ▪ shortage of teachers; ▪ inconsistent curriculum policies; ▪ negative attitude towards education; ▪ lack of trained human resources; ▪ limited school places; ▪ high levels of illiteracy; ▪ ignorance; ▪ high school drop out rate; ▪ lack of business management skills;
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lack of respect for human rights; ▪ lack of accountability; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ poor governance; ▪ inadequate civic education and information on developmental issues; ▪ lack of consultation on developmental issues; ▪ political interference in the running of governmental agencies/institutions; ▪ inadequate representation of women in decision-making organs; ▪ lack of commitment, especially on the part of politicians; ▪ lack of political will; ▪ political interference in development programmes; ▪ diversion of resources to a few individuals; ▪ lack of participation; ▪ selfishness and greed among political and civic leadership;

² See Appendix 1.

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ inability of government to provide adequate health services; ▪ reduced life expectancy; ▪ high infant mortality rate; ▪ high maternal mortality; ▪ malnutrition; ▪ high death rate; ▪ high rates of disease; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high mortality levels; ▪ lack of family planning; ▪ high medical costs; ▪ inadequate health care facilities; ▪ the HIV/AIDS pandemic; ▪ malnutrition;
Legal and institutional		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bureaucracy; “red tape”; ▪ misappropriation of funds in government departments and NGOs; ▪ poor policy formulation and implementation; ▪ poor planning and lack of priorities; ▪ mismanagement of resources – human, financial, natural;
Other social factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased number of orphans; ▪ streetism; ▪ alcohol and drug abuse; ▪ lack of proper housing; ▪ lack of safe drinking water; ▪ decline in the provision of social services; ▪ high levels of crime; ▪ high levels of prostitution; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ poor social amenities; ▪ poor water and sanitation; ▪ child abuse; ▪ negative attitude towards poverty reduction; ▪ high levels of crime; ▪ poaching; ▪ excessive alcohol consumption; ▪ weak family bonds; ▪ the extended family; ▪ the drift to the urban areas; ▪ negative attitudes towards economic activities; ▪ vandalism; ▪ high population growth; population explosion;

Other factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lack of clothing; ▪ poor infrastructure; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lack of maintenance management mechanisms on existing projects and infrastructure; ▪ long walking distances; ▪ lack of planning; ▪ high transport costs; ▪ lack of professionalism; wrong placement of personnel; ▪ influx of refugees into the country; ▪ poor communication; ▪ poor energy distribution; ▪ poor employment policy; ▪ poor government policies; ▪ over-dependence on government; ▪ natural calamities (e. g. drought); ▪ poor information flow; ▪ poor road network; ▪ lack of electricity in rural areas; ▪ poor marketing policies and inadequate linkages;
---------------	---	---

Table 12.4 below presents the required achievements over the next 3 to 10 years, the required guidelines to accompany the achievements, and the required safeguards for transparency and accountability.

Table 12.4: Required achievements; required guidelines; required safeguards

Sector/theme	Required achievements	Required guidelines	Required safeguards
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promotion of a positive attitude towards agriculture; ▪ review of the agricultural policy through the re-introduction of subsidies on farming inputs; ▪ improvement in the agricultural marketing policy; ▪ more funding to be directed towards agriculture training centres; ▪ a clear policy on agricultural finance; ▪ increased trained human resources in agriculture, especially at community level; ▪ decreased soil acidity through the introduction of lime; ▪ crop diversification; ▪ creation of agro-processing industries; ▪ early distribution of farming inputs at affordable prices; ▪ establishment of effective farmers' co-operative committees; 		
Behaviour/culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reduction of women's work load; 		
Donor aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IMF and the World Bank should be more flexible in future negotiations; 		

Economy/industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ formulation of policies that will support local industries, especially in manufacturing; ▪ a sound industrial, manufacturing and agricultural base; ▪ improved standards of living; ▪ broadening opportunities for women to access loans and property ownership; ▪ revamping of abandoned/closed industries/mines (e. g. Kansanshi Mine); ▪ establishment of factories to support the mining industry; ▪ strictly following the correct procedures in the sale of the mines; ▪ abolition of user fees; ▪ formulation of an investment policy; ▪ development of science and technology to aid the ability to convert raw materials into finished products; ▪ revamping already existing industries and attracting genuine investors. The investors that come to the country should not use existing structures but should add to development through new construction; ▪ salaries and wages should be increased to enable workers sustain their livelihoods; ▪ there should be a ready market for products made from industries; 		
------------------	---	--	--

Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ stable and consistent syllabuses in the education sector; ▪ improvement of schools and tertiary institutions using profits from the mines; 		
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ an environmental policy that would be adhered to, as well as sensitising the public on the importance of the policy; ▪ awareness campaigns on environmental conservation and management; ▪ mainstreaming environmental issues in all programmes; 		
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ enhancement of the promotion of women's rights; ▪ creation of equal employment opportunities for women and men; 		
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ inclusion of more women in decision-making positions; ▪ government to take a more consultative approach, which should include stakeholders from the onset; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ proper management of human, financial and material resources; ▪ citizens identifying and articulating their needs; ▪ citizens participating in decision-making, including planning and implementation; ▪ citizens keeping abreast with civic issues; ▪ formation of committees at every level; ▪ ensuring community participation and involvement; ▪ identification of committed persons to spearhead programmes that will yield results; ▪ stakeholders should be treated equally when committees are formed. The responsibilities of everyone involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ involvement of stakeholders throughout the important processes; ▪ formation of committees that will report constantly on progress, problems, etc.;

		<p>should be clearly defined from the onset;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ communities should be involved in all the processes; ▪ visitation programmes should be conducted by all stakeholders for the purpose of accurate data collection at each stage; ▪ there should be free flow of information and good record keeping; ▪ local people should be empowered to be able to monitor, co-ordinate and evaluate programmes; ▪ participation by all stakeholders should be ensured; 	
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ availability of cheap medical remedies; ▪ successful health reforms; ▪ increased civic awareness on the causes and effects of HIV/AIDS; ▪ intensification of HIV/AIDS campaigns by learning institutions, churches, communities, government, etc.; ▪ provision of adequate drugs in hospitals; ▪ intensification of the awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS among farming communities; 		
Infrastructure/ communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improvement of road network; 		
Legal/institutional		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ planning by mandated ministries or institutions should include stakeholders; ▪ boards should be appointed from a cross-section of stakeholders, including government and communities, to ensure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ availability of financial reports and audited accounts for public perusal;

		<p>wider input;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders should be clearly defined at every level; ▪ school accounts should be audited by independent firms; ▪ there should be formulation of sound and achievable policies; ▪ there should evaluation of whole programmes to measure effectiveness; ▪ an effective monitoring and evaluation system should be established; 	
Poverty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ formulation of sound policies that will ensure effective reduction of poverty in such critical sectors as education, health, and agriculture; ▪ general public awareness on the need to change attitudes towards poverty reduction through hard work; 		
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ an even, fair and equitable distribution of national resources; 		
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ more indigenous Zambians should participate in the tourism sector. The funds realised in the tourism sector should be used for the benefit of the surrounding communities, i. e. where the tourist sites are situated; 		
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ proper and strict implementation of policies that have been formulated; 		

Table 12.5 below gives the institutions and organisations that were understood to have a role to play in poverty reduction, as well as their respective roles.

Table 12.5: The roles of institutions and organisations in poverty reduction

Institution/ organisation	Role(s) in poverty reduction
banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of credit facilities ▪ introduction of low interest rates
co-operative societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of credit facilities ▪ sharing of knowledge sharing on economic activities ▪ raising of capital for economic activities, through members' contributions
co-operating partners (donors) and international agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of financial assistance/loans ▪ creating employment opportunities ▪ facilitating favourable conditions in their provision of assistance ▪ promoting a demand driven approach to assistance
government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of sound policies ▪ reducing gender imbalances ▪ formulating policies that can widen opportunities for women in education and employment ▪ provision of life training skills ▪ provision of skilled human resources ▪ mobilisation of resources ▪ provision of technical support ▪ formulation and implementation of capacity building programmes ▪ provision of required materials for basic and higher educational institutions ▪ financing of mining projects ▪ constructing more schools to cater for the increasing population of boys and girls ▪ introducing stiffer punishment for those interfering with girls' education ▪ practice good governance ▪ ensure the effective use of resources ▪ ensure civil society participation ▪ improved policy on tourism ▪ adhere to the policies formulated ▪ maintenance of good governance ▪ provision of an enabling environment to foster development ▪ provision of credit facilities ▪ provision of effective and efficient government programmes ▪ provision of social security to the community ▪ provision of guidance on health education ▪ provision of health facilities ▪ provision of adequate and appropriate agricultural services ▪ provision of agricultural inputs and techniques ▪ provision of education on modern agricultural technologies ▪ eradication of illiteracy in the country ▪ provision of adequate educational facilities ▪ dissemination of information needed for developmental programmes ▪ disbursement of funds to developmental projects ▪ provision of resources for rightful programmes ▪ provision of sound labour and social policies ▪ conservation of natural resources ▪ provision of advisory services on environmental issues ▪ initiation of projects in constituencies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ effective monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programmes ▪ improving conditions of service for public service workers ▪ provision of incentives for public service workers in order for them to execute their duties effectively
NGOs/civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of civic and human rights education ▪ participation in management, implementation and co-ordination ▪ participation in sensitisation on the importance of tourism ▪ provision of credit facilities ▪ facilitation of community based economic programmes ▪ promotion of gender education and participation ▪ provision of health and education infrastructure ▪ lobbying for a better business environment that will enable growth in agriculture, industry and commerce ▪ provision of funding for projects ▪ participating in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes ▪ Should carryout community awareness campaigns ▪ providing reproductive health services ▪ providing agricultural inputs and loans ▪ empowering women in society by teaching them how to initiate and implement projects ▪ providing skills training ▪ providing technical advice ▪ providing loans ▪ providing boreholes ▪ adopting and assisting orphans and other vulnerable children ▪ promoting agriculture ▪ assisting refugees ▪ distribution of relief supplies ▪ lobbying against inappropriate policies ▪ sensitising the masses ▪ supplementing government ventures
politicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lobbying for community needs in Parliament/Councils ▪ initiating community economic activities ▪ sourcing funds from donors and government ▪ providing facilitation and guidance to government developmental activities ▪ promoting a non-partisan approach to developmental activities ▪ developing sound policies based on proper budgetary prioritisation ▪ laying down guidelines for foreign investors that will benefit Zambians
the churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ initiating community economic activities ▪ provision of credit facilities ▪ provision of social services ▪ provision of financial assistance to the poor and the needy ▪ reducing gender imbalances ▪ provision of civic education ▪ lobbying for church members' needs from other agencies ▪ discouraging negative cultural practices, e.g. witchcraft, polygamy ▪ complimenting the awareness campaigns on the importance of good governance ▪ providing spiritual guidance
traditional rulers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ educating subjects on developmental issues ▪ organising villagers for developmental projects ▪ discouraging non-developmental practices, e .g. excessive alcohol

	consumption, witchcraft, polygamy
business communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ mobilising themselves in developmental activities ▪ provision of credit facilities to members of the community ▪ providing financial assistance to organisations that can reach the grass roots ▪ lobbying for a better business environment that will enable growth in agriculture, industry and commerce
schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ imparting appropriate knowledge to pupils, especially survival skills ▪ intensifying the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign
universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improving the working and learning conditions for both lecturers and students
health institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improving working conditions in order to enhance efficiency ▪ applying stiff penalties to personnel found diverting drugs ▪ formation of monitoring committees ▪ provision of primary health care to the grass roots
families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of education on poverty
the police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of protection to the community
the Anti-corruption Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ stamping out of corrupt practices
investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bringing genuine investment to the country ▪ use of local human resources ▪ establishment of new manufacturing industries ▪ ensuring development ▪ following the country's labour laws ▪ provision of finance ▪ provision of employment
communities; the general public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improving attitude towards work ▪ participating in developmental projects ▪ assuming an entrepreneurship role ▪ accepting change and embracing gender ▪ advocating for free education for all ▪ regarding investors as partners in development as well as business competitors ▪ participating in the management and implementation of programmes ▪ participating in school programmes ▪ sending all their children to school, regardless of sex ▪ reducing gender imbalances

Perspectives on poverty reduction

It was indicated that leaders should not be selfish and self-centred by undermining the people that put them in power; instead leaders should consult the people. Corruption and nepotism should be fought at any cost if good governance and effective management of national resources are to prevail. This was the only way to restore donor confidence in the government of the day. It was stressed that national work plans and budgets must be drawn up in consultation with the people. There was an outcry for the appointment of appropriately qualified professionals to high office, in order to instil a sense of objectivity.

In order of priority, the following sectors and activities in each sector were highlighted, as having particular potential to impact significantly on poverty reduction.

Agriculture

It was noted that agriculture provided a means of livelihood for most households. It was also noted that agricultural potential was high due adequate rainfall and abundant arable land. Co-operatives, however, did not serve their purpose. Instead, peasant farmers were being exploited, as they did not have a say over the prices of their produce.

Also, the agricultural policies that government had put in place were considered unfavourable. Instead of helping the situation, the result was the reverse. It was reported that there was an imbalance in the distribution of farming implements. It was recommended that agricultural inputs should be subsidised and that the inputs should be provided at the correct time to ensure food security. Sustainable farming methods should be promoted, while at the same time crop diversification and improved storage facilities should be researched into and followed up intensively, taking into consideration the need to promote indigenous seeds to avoid dependence on hybrid seeds. Government must ensure that technical support through the provision of extension officers is carried out with adequate material and financial resources to enable them reach out to the farmers appropriately and adequately.

The shifting farming system that is practised in some provinces leaves the land bare and exposes it to erosion. This system also disturbs the school-going children, as families have to migrate to their farms, which are usually kilometres away from the village.

It was suggested that in order to reduce poverty through agriculture, there was need to provide appropriate training and knowledge, and also to provide inputs on time. To protect fish, people should use the correct sizes of nets and should abide by the by-laws. The people should also be taught how to conserve the environment so as to protect animals and fish.

There should be tax rebates on agricultural inputs. Farmers should learn how to identify markets. They should learn good storage methods and good bargaining skills. The farmers should also be flexible to accommodate new methods of farming.

The priority activities indicated for agriculture were:

- marketing;

- inputs delivery;
- infrastructure development;
- credit facilities with minimal interest;
- formation of co-operatives;
- extension services;
- training small-scale farmers on how to grow adaptive crops and increasing hectareage.

Education

Education was defined as a process through which people learn about reading and writing and receive other academic knowledge with the view to enable the beneficiaries to be actively involved in their own development as individuals, and to effectively sustain their personal, family and community livelihoods. The process is undertaken through various learning institutions (primary, secondary, and tertiary), including community based literacy programmes. The curriculum should be career oriented and be adaptive to global changes. The potential of pupils should be identified at an early stage and an appropriate career guide provided. Teachers in rural areas should be innovative and be able to use local teaching aids.

It was reported that the cost of education was generally high and unaffordable for most local people. The recently announced government directive abolishing school fees had been a mockery because it was learned that only K1,500.00 had been removed from the sum total of payable school fees. Most families were failing to take their children to school because of the fees. It was emphasised that as much as possible education must be affordable, especially at primary level, to avail every child an opportunity to go to school.

The number of both primary and secondary schools was not sufficient for the population. The inadequate number of schools had led to most parents sending their children to schools that were far off, especially boarding schools, whose fees were escalating each term. Most provinces also lacked adequate tertiary education facilities. There had not been much done in this area, leading to unskilled and untrained labour. The lack of professionals had also deprived provinces of development.

The policy that allows girls to return to school after pregnancy was criticised. It encouraged more girls to misbehave. Letting a girl drop out of school because of pregnancy would not reduce poverty but make it worse. There should be greater sensitisation on morals for both girls and boys.

Education boards were formed to facilitate the education reforms; their existence, however, was depleting the resources raised due to the exorbitant allowances paid to the board members at every sitting.

The areas of priority indicated were:

- more teachers should be trained. In addition, the teachers should be accommodated and paid well;

- incentives should be provided to teachers in the rural areas, so that the rural areas have a more equitable share of teachers;
- more schools should be built;
- plans should be undertaken, in consultation with teachers, pupils, and parents' teachers' associations, in the effective administration and development of programmes in schools.

The priority activities indicated were:

- incentives/motivation to the education providers;
- development of relevant education materials;
- affordable fees, with subsidies where necessary;
- infrastructure;
- increased intakes and quality of tertiary education.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- increased funding for education and education projects;
- creation of more employment so that more people can contribute to education;
- posting more qualified teachers to remote areas;
- improving allowances for rural teachers;
- improving educational infrastructure;
- introducing community schools;
- promotion of vocational skills;
- establishment of more learning institutions;
- provision of more trained human resources;
- continuous supply of learning and teaching aids;
- creation of jobs through the expansion and diversification of the education sector;
- embarking on skills training for the youth.

Governance

Governance was defined as a system through which a group of people accepts to be ruled by a mandated person or group of persons, i. e. government. It was also defined as collective responsibility over the management of public institutions in any given society based on the rule of law, embedded in a constitution.

It was reported that the allocation of land was being unfairly handled. The chiefs who had been distributing land unfairly were depriving most peasant farmers of arable land. In some cases, individuals had been given land where whole villages were situated. There was need to improve the procedures for the issuance of title deeds, as most people were failing to obtain them.

The government should observe greater respect for the rights and freedoms of the citizens. There should also be the political will to practice good governance.

The government should minimise on by-elections because of the high cost. The electorate should avoid wrong choices of candidates through careful thought and scrutiny.

The following were identified as obstacles to achieving good governance:

- lack of civic education;
- failure to identify community needs;
- failure to involve the communities in decision-making;
- lack of respect for fundamental freedoms;
- negative attitude towards issues of public interest.

It was proposed that a co-ordinating committee should be formed, involving all stakeholders, in order to provide transparency and accountability. Before the government comes up with the budget, there should be broad consultation with the people on the ground. It was also proposed that governance institutions should be decentralised.

The issues requiring particular focus under the governance theme were identified as:

- leadership (placement);
- monitoring and evaluation (community involvement);
- human rights should be top on the governance agenda;
- there should be a bottom-up approach;
- corruption and nepotism in the higher public offices should be dealt with;

- a clear national agenda/vision should be put in place;
- separation of powers should be practical;
- for organisations that work in the less developed parts of the provinces, there should be improved consultations with the grass roots to improve efficiency.

Health

Health was defined as the absence of disease, coupled with good living standards, including the availability of adequate health foods, good housing, safe drinking water, and sanitation. In addition, health facilities must be easily accessible and should always be equipped with the relevant staff, equipment, and medicines. Health services must include reproductive health services. HIV/AIDS awareness and behavioural change campaigns must be aggressively undertaken and integrated into all development programmes, including poverty reduction activities.

It was reported that the health centres had little or no drugs. Clinical officers and nurses were running most of these centres. The presence of qualified doctors was scarce. Apart from being under-staffed and lacking qualified personnel, the structures were also dilapidated. The above state of affairs had led to low morale among the health workers, hence compromising the quality of work. To compound the above difficulties, most local communities could not afford the user fees charged at the health centres.

The provision of anti-retroviral drugs and other drugs should be undertaken by government through subsidising the health sector. The presidential discretionary fund should be directed towards those suffering from HIV/AIDS as well. The use of condoms should be encouraged even though they are not 100% safe. Since Zambia is a Christian nation, everyone is expected to practice self-discipline, which leaves abstinence as the answer to the problem. Zambia should be declared an HIV/AIDS disaster area to show how grave the problem really is.

It was stressed that there was need to improve water and sanitation facilities, and to construct fully equipped primary health care centres. Government as well as civil society should train more people in health and HIV/AIDS. Government should come up with sound health policies in the nation.

Other priority activities indicated for health were:

- affordable fees for vulnerable members of society;
- emphasis on prevention rather than cure;
- improved food production to reduce nutritional ailments.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- intensification of health awareness campaigns and programmes;

- health workers, churches, NGOs, and local communities should carry out awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS;
- formation of nutrition clubs to complement the nutritional needs of those suffering from HIV/AIDS. Agriculture extension workers should be involved as they cover great distances;
- increased number of volunteer workers in home based care groups.

Industry

It was observed that the provinces had much potential to develop industrially. A number of industries had, however, been neglected and were practically non-existent, thus laying to waste the abundant untapped potential. Among the examples given were the Mwinilunga Cannery and Kansanshi Mine in the Northwestern Province. There had been no alternatives offered after the closure of these industries. The workers had been “thrown out onto the streets”. This meant whole families being affected, since the breadwinner had been put out of work. Such scenarios had worsened the prevalence of poverty in the provinces.

In the Western Province, it was recommended that industries should be established that would contribute to the processing of resources such as mangoes, fish, and timber to open up employment opportunities. Investment must be made in the identification of possible markets both at national and international level, to ensure that produce from such industries is sold easily and, where possible exported, to earn foreign exchange. With regard to infrastructure and job creation, it was recommended that priority should be given to developing infrastructure in rural areas, e.g. feeder roads, water, and sanitation.

It was observed that the effect of the formation of COMESA was rather unfavourable to Zambia. The country could not compete favourably as it did not have many manufacturing industries that could produce goods to be sent to other COMESA member states.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- provision of security to local industries;
- support to small industries;
- a government investment policy that encourages investors who will put up manufacturing industries that will use local materials;
- strict scrutiny of investors. Investors should be financially sound, with technical know how and high moral standards.

Tourism

Tourism was defined as a process of travelling to and from sightseeing, and viewing natural and non-natural wonders of the world. It was also referred to as a way by which a country is sold to the outside world to attract visitors/tourists. It was understood to be an invisible export that is dependent on such aspects as natural resources, cultural richness, historical sites/ancient remains, people's hospitality, etc.

Concerning its relationship to poverty reduction, tourism was identified as a possible major foreign exchange earner that could provide employment opportunities (both formal and informal). Cultural exchange could also be linked to identifying and learning about the best ways of creating wealth. It was observed, however, that tourism was underdeveloped because of poor infrastructure and low investment in the sector. Also the country's tourism resources had not been marketed to the fullest.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- identification of potential tourist areas and sites;
- sensitisation on the importance of tourism;
- training programmes in tourism;
- greater investment in the tourism sector;
- construction of tourist sites and improvement of existing infrastructure;
- capacity building in the tourism sector;
- tourism publicity - advertising/marketing.

Mining

Mining was defined as the "digging up" of any valuable resources found underground, for instance copper, diamonds, precious stones, etc. The opening up of a mine would provide employment to the local people, but the government needed to play a pivotal role in ensuring that the local people were not exploited but were offered decent living wages.

Mining opportunities should be seized by local Zambians. They should not wait to be employed. The government policy on mining should be less rigid when it comes to the issuing of licenses to the locals who want to venture into mining. Government should involve serious investors to ensure the continuity and prosperity of the mines.

It was suggested that miners should be given more time to prepare before their employment is terminated. Mine employees should not be forced to purchase mine houses so that they can get their full benefits, which would help them to venture into other businesses. Also the government should pay retrenched reasonable packages, and on time.

Concerning social welfare for retrenched miners, as the major stakeholder government should come up with policies that support the workers. Workers should be committed to their work. Employers should help in the capacity building of their employees.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- formulation of conditions that will benefit the nation during the sale or establishment of a mine;
- using profits from the mines to raise the standard of living of the local people;
- loan facilities to be made available for local people interested in mining.

Infrastructure, communication

Generally, the provinces did not have good road networks, thereby restricting the traffic to and from the provinces. It was also highlighted that electricity supply was restricted mostly to the provincial headquarters and the surrounding areas. The other districts used diesel-powered engines, which were not the best choice if one was trying to run an industry. The moment there was a scarcity of diesel in a district, everything came to a standstill.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- construction of infrastructure according to authorised standards;
- provision of a good road network and constant maintenance;
- improvement of the road network, communication network, and other infrastructure.

Environment

Environment was defined as the natural and non-natural surroundings that include land, water, mountains, rocks, trees, forests, etc. Under the environment theme, therefore, poverty reduction emphasised the exploration of the best ways of exploiting the existing natural resources, with the benefit of the local people at heart. There was an outcry against the corrupt ways through which timber, in the Western Province for example, had been plundered in the name of liberalisation at the expense of the local people. It was reported that timber had been extensively exported without considering setting up industries in the province.

It was noted that due to environmental degradation there had been outbreaks of disease. This had led to poor crop yields. Environmental degradation was caused by:

- ignorance;
- lack of financial and material support;
- selfishness on the part of the leaders;
- lack of information;
- negative cultural practices;
- lack of sensitisation.

In order to curb problems associated with the environment, planning of programmes should start from the grass roots. There was need to sensitise the public on conservation matters. There was also need to improve sanitation. There should be abundant cheap water purifying chemicals. There should also be good information flow. There was need to introduce conservation, farming, and agro-forestry.

The required programmes/action plans identified were:

- decentralising environmental conservation and management up to community level;
- discouragement of traditional farming methods that are harmful to the environment;
- reinforcement of garbage and waste disposal policies;
- ongoing sensitisation on the conservation of the natural environment.

Donor aid

With regard to donor aid, the main points made were that there should be favourable borrowing terms, and that there should be a reduction of donor dependency.

Poverty reduction

Concerning poverty reduction, it was stressed that there should be effective implementation of poverty reduction programmes, and that the money realised through the HIPC initiative should be used strictly for poverty reduction.

Individual contributions towards poverty reduction

With regard to the contributions that each individual could make towards poverty reduction, the following were the indications:

- sensitise the community on how to elect good leaders who have good qualities and know the problems the communities are facing;
- work harder in order to develop the community;
- share and educate the community on the dangers of poverty and how to overcome it;
- encourage people to put more effort in agriculture;
- encourage gender participation in poverty reduction;
- encourage communities to regard education as a priority for their children;
- information sharing on issues of poverty should be the starting point;
- elect capable political leadership at parliamentary and council levels;
- involve elite groups in the fight against poverty reduction;
- help in changing people's attitudes by teaching them how to live responsibly;
- mobilise the community in starting small businesses;
- sensitise the community on issues related to corruption in public office;
- undertake similar workshops in the community, with emphasis on survival skills;
- establish monitoring and evaluation systems at community level;
- sensitise the local people on the fundamental human rights;
- elect good leaders that will assist in poverty reduction;
- share experiences of reducing poverty by participating in community activities like joining local clubs/co-operatives;
- participate in voluntary service in educating the communities on the danger of poverty at the family level;
- provide civic education to communities.

Other

Other areas of concern identified were:

- awareness campaigns in all areas of development;
- improvement of working conditions;
- gender sensitisation;
- capacity building;
- resources harnessed within a province should be used for the development of that province;
- NGOs and civil society to sensitise the community on better livelihoods;
- more funding to be given to the social sector.

The way forward

On the whole, the workshop participants displayed an attitude that seemed to accept poverty as normal. There was, however, a recommendation that conscientisation and other educational activities should be undertaken in order to change such attitudes, such that the people realise their potential and actual roles in contributing to the reduction of the poverty that affects them as individuals and as households at community level. It was agreed that poverty levels, which had increased significantly in recent years, could be attributed largely to poor/inappropriate governance.

The workshop participants also recommended that poverty reduction committees be formed at community and provincial level, to identify and monitor civil society's input into the implementation of the PRSP. In prioritising issues, governance was followed by agriculture, health, and education, then environment, macroeconomics and mining. It was agreed that Gender and HIV AIDS were cross-cutting issues, which needed to be integrated into all the thematic areas at all levels of implementation. It was also pointed out that the fast rate at which HIV/AIDS was developing into fully blown AIDS in many patients could be attributed to the high levels of poverty at community level. There was need to strengthen village health committees through capacity building.

It was observed that feedback workshops were needed, following the outcome of the PRSP process to share and disseminate information, and to also encourage a wider participatory process in the implementation and on-going evaluation of the programme. The CSPR Secretariat should continue functioning as a national secretariat to facilitate PRSP follow up activities, especially for monitoring purposes. Watchdog and pressure group networks should also be co-ordinated and facilitated on behalf of the people through the CSPR Secretariat, to promote transparency and accountability. NGOs should implement some of their poverty reduction programmes under the established secretariat to facilitate community-based activities. Above all, civil society should be involved in the

implementation of poverty reduction programmes to ensure people's participation and benefit.

It was stressed that poverty was a serious issue that required all parties concerned to work together to enable its eradication. The government should correct its priorities in the fight against poverty by providing the required resources. For its part, civil society must continue advocating and lobbying for sound policies; also, monitoring and evaluation must be developed at community level to enable the much needed checks and balances.

There was need to educate people through civic education. There was also need for community participation in project identification, planning, implementation and monitoring. Democratic decision-making at all levels was emphasised, in addition to the decentralisation of governance institutions.

Government should save the collapsing industrial base, and promote small-scale industries. There was need to strengthen the manufacturing and agricultural base. Government and civil society should educate people on matters of hygiene, conservation methods, agro-forestry, and fish farming.

General recommendations for the government

1. Civil society input should be taken seriously and incorporated into the PRSP.
2. The government should consult local people on development issues.
3. The government should cancel all poor people's loans.
4. A mechanism should be created that will facilitate the direct benefit of poor people from Zambia's debt cancellation.
5. The government should respect the development priorities set by the citizens.
6. The government should show genuine and serious commitment in dealing with poverty issues.
7. The presidential discretionary fund should be abolished.
8. The holding of by-elections just before the general elections should be discontinued.
9. The conditions attached to donor assistance should be re-visited.
10. Children coming from poor families should be considered for bursary awards, unconditionally.
11. The system for the award of bursaries should be decentralised.
12. Loans should be provided to youths after skills training.

13. Government should not be biased in favour of particular provinces in the construction of infrastructure.
14. The government needs to improve tertiary education in the provinces.
15. Community Development Departments in the provinces need to be restructured and given more funding.
16. Growing of local crops for export should be encouraged (e. g. sorghum, cassava, pineapples, sweet potatoes, etc.).
17. There is need to control the refugee situation in the affected provinces as this is creating pressure on the limited resources.
18. Pensioners/retrenchees should be given their benefits on time. It should be mandatory that a person retires at 45 years and then enters into a contract with the government if they wish to continue working.
19. Government should involve the community before undertaking any major project. There should be wider consultations with the people on the ground before implementing any programmes.
20. Government should set out priorities on developmental issues.
21. There should be no political interference in major programmes.
22. The Development Fund should not be accessed only by people belonging to the political party in power.
23. The Government should give people alternatives to their occupations before they are retrenched.
24. There is need for capacity building of would-be retrenchees in order to equip them, so that they are be able to venture into other businesses.
25. With regard to the annual fish ban, the government should introduce fish farming since many people depend on fishing as their major occupation. Rather than imposing a total fish ban, the government should instead focus on the size of the fishing nets and provide inspectors to ensure that the law is observed.
26. Government should construct more schools and clinics and provide personnel for the existing ones.
27. Government should improve infrastructure in the provinces for easy marketing of products.
28. Government should provide cheap inputs and better storage facilities for agriculture.

Recommendations for the government on PRSP

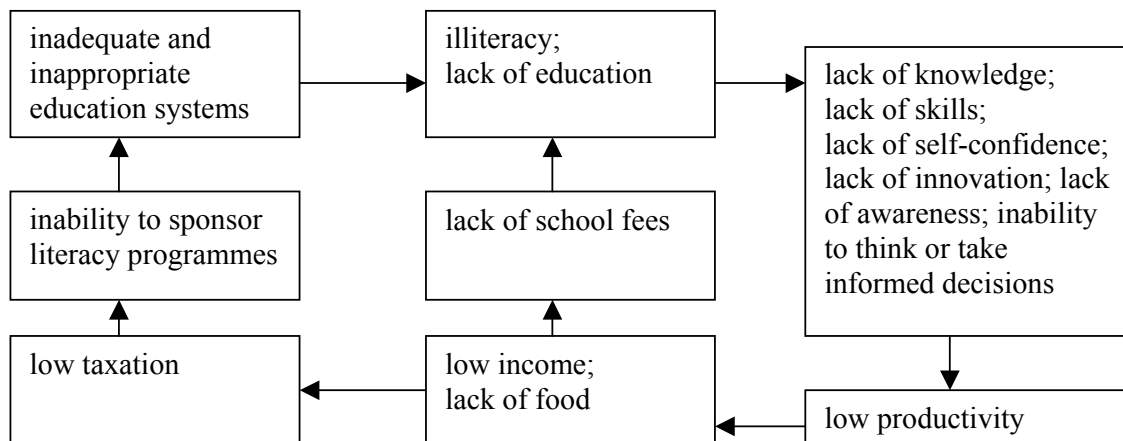
- a) As the lead in the PRSP, the government should ensure that there is wide participation to allow as many people as possible have input to the process. This should also include deliberate efforts to have gender balanced participation. There is a high risk of only civil servants and government officials being the major contributors to the government organised provincial hearings. The government should have made the poverty hearings open to everyone, so that the participation of people would be as wide as the constitutional reviews have been.
- b) It is important for the government to mount effective publicity and sensitisation of the public on the PRSP. Very few ordinary citizens were well informed about the provincial sittings. This is vital, if the PRSP is to be owned by the Zambian people.
- c) The process should not be conducted as a programme of the ruling political party, as this would create problems when there is change of government.
- d) The government should seriously take into consideration the input given by the citizens in the process so far.
- e) The process has shown that the CSMR is important to the process and government should seriously consider this organ as a partner in development and take seriously the recommendations made by the same.
- f) Government should strictly follow the implementation guidelines of the PRSP to avoid derailment and to make sure that results are achieved.

Recommendations to civil society

- i) Civil society should not wait until the government goes wrong to voice out on the process. However, civil society should act as an early warning system to prevent the derailment of this important process.
- ii) Civil society should take ownership of the process and not just take their role as a “contributory role”.
- iii) Civil society should continue lobbying for good governance.
- iv) Civil society should also lobby for sound policies in all the thematic areas.
- v) Civil society should fully participate in all developmental programmes and projects.
- vi) In addition to participation, civil society should monitor the progress of the programmes.

- vii) Civil society should involve itself in education (community schools), health, nutrition, and capacity building.
- viii) Civil society organisations should form Civil Society Organisation Committees at district and provincial level in order to effectively communicate and co-ordinate activities among themselves so that they can speak with one voice.

Appendix 1: Illustration of the prevalence of poverty – the vicious cycle of illiteracy



The high illiteracy levels entail a small, educated population, leading to a small work force, which leads to reduced revenue collected through taxation. This in effect leads to the inability of government to sponsor literacy programmes.