

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

UN appoints MDGs Advocate for Zambia

The United Nations System in Zambia has appointed Marsha Moyo as the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Advocate for Zambia. A popular Zambian artiste, Marsha Moyo is to be charged with supporting the United Nations MDGs Campaign with a view to increasing public awareness and inspiring public action in support of the MDGs.

The unveiling was witnessed by the Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Salil Shetty, and comes against the background of increasing concerns over

African countries' commitment to meeting the MDGs by 2015. Ms. Moyo is the first Zambian national to be appointed by the United Nations to advocate for MDGs. Her contributions in using her professional skills to garner support for the MDGs from the various publics in Zambia is considered vital to driving greater momentum for attainment of the goals in Zambia.



UN Millennium Campaign Director Salil Shetty, former UN Resident Coordinator Aeneas Chuma and UN MDGs Advocate for Zambia Marsha Moyo at UN House

In this issue:

- *Zambia bids farewell to Chuma*
- *New UNESCO Director appointed*
- *Focus on UN gender initiatives in Zambia*

Announcing the appointment, the former UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Aeneas Chuma said that Ms. Moyo's appointment would serve to help her fellow Zambians learn more about the MDGs and encourage them to contribute positively towards their attainment. He added that she

would contribute significantly to furthering the role of the United Nations System in Zambia and strengthening the Organization's bonds with the local community.

Terming the designation timely, Mr. Chuma lamented that although the set of eight MDGs was endorsed as a blueprint by world leaders as far back as September 2000, substantive action on the pledges had increasingly assumed a more pressing urgency with the rising incidences of poverty and hunger, HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Speaking at the event, The Millennium Campaign Director noted that some African countries had made remarkable progress towards achievement of the goals by 2015. He noted that Zambia was on track in meeting most of the MDGs, but there was still need to scale up efforts to ensure that the remaining challenges are overcome. He commended Ms. Moyo's appointment, adding that more action was needed at the grassroots to ensure that all sectors of the population play a part in the drive for attainment of the goals by 2015.

Ms. Moyo has committed to utilizing her personal skills and professional fame to promote social mobilization and scaling up of efforts towards achievement of MDGs in Zambia and will be central to the UN's advocacy efforts to this end.

A collective appointment by all United Nations Agencies resident in Zambia, Ms Moyo's engagement is expected to send a powerful message to Zambians and promote collaboration between the Organization and its various partners on the national scene.

Macleod Nyirongo takes office as new UN Resident Coordinator



UN Resident Coordinator
Macleod Nyirongo

The United Nations System in Zambia has welcomed the appointment of Mr. Macleod Nyirongo as the new Resident Coordinator to succeed Mr. Aeneas Chuma, whose tour of duty ended last June 2008. Mr. Nyirongo, who will also serve as the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, takes assignment in Zambia after serving in the same capacity with the United Nations' country office in Eritrea.

An economist by training, Mr. Nyirongo will be drawing on immense professional experience gained within the United Nations dating back to the 1980s, when he

served as UNDP national officer in his home country Malawi. He thereafter served in various capacities within the United Nations Volunteers in Geneva, Sierra Leone and Kenya - both where he was Deputy Resident Representative - before taking on the position of Senior Deputy Representative in China and subsequently that of UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea. Besides responsibility as UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Representative in Eritrea, Mr. Nyirongo also worked closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

Mr. Nyirongo is credited with spearheading the designing of the UNDAF jointly with the government of Eritrea during his tenure in the country, and with implementing the Framework along with all agencies in an effective and coordinated manner. He has equally played a pivotal role in establishing, jointly with the World Bank, the Eritrean Development Partners Forum among donors.

He is married with three children.

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

Lessons to ponder... as Zambia bids outgoing UN Resident Coordinator farewell



Former UN Resident Coordinator Aeneas Chuma delivering his farewell speech

Mr. Aeneas Chuma left Lusaka at the conclusion of his tour of duty as UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia last June 2008. Mr. Chuma, who also served as the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the past five years, left Zambia to take up a similar position in Kenya beginning July 2008.

Prior to his departure, the former Resident Coordinator was hosted to a series of farewell events that were coloured by speeches of appreciation for the key role that the UN in Zambia had played under Mr. Chuma's stewardship. During these events, Mr. Chuma recounted significant achievements arising from the UN's cooperation with the Government of Zambia spurning his tenure in the country. At a farewell reception hosted by the government in his honour, he expressed confidence that the UN would remain at the side of the government and people of Zambia.

Focusing on the relationship between Zambia and the outside world, Mr. Chuma's farewell message to the government was an embodiment of views on the changing face of development and the role of aid within it; and the global debate revolving around this. In a thought provoking delivery, the former Resident Coordinator addressed mounting concerns over the nature and value of the experiment with the management of aid and on the capacity of this experiment to strengthen national ownership over the development process. Citing

the Rome Declaration on aid harmonization and the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, Mr. Chuma noted that although so much had been done, time was now due for strategic forecasting and assessing whether the desired results had been achieved. He acknowledged that the desire to make aid more effective is a noble one but underscored, that it was impossible to confer national ownership through the aid relationship. Highlighting concerns over aspects of the Paris Declaration that appear to diminish national ownership, Mr. Chuma remarked, "National ownership cannot come from an aid-based process that is still weighed down with policy and procedural conditionality; it can only come from within....through all of this, what matters most for Zambia, for the United Nations, for me, is that we are ready to make the calls necessary to protect and promote Zambia's interests throughout". Sharing his vision of 'a development encounter transformed into an encounter of equals', he urged an interpretation of Zambia's experience with the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ), with a view to producing positions that strengthen Zambia's vantage point.

Mr. Chuma will probably best be remembered in Zambia for his passion for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which saw the introduction during his tenure of an annual *MDGs Race and Information Market* in Zambia and subsequently the appointment of a UN MDGs Advocate for Zambia to champion

the national campaign on MDGs. Citing the unprecedented consensus by UN member states on development priorities in the form of MDGs as proof that member countries recognized that there had been declining commitment on the development agenda, and that these minimum conditions were critical for the promotion of human development, Mr. Chuma urged Zambia to aspire to go way beyond the set targets by redoubling their efforts to seek maximal results. Pointing to the past five years as tremendous years for Zambia's development, Mr. Chuma observed that new challenges had however emerged that needed to be addressed strategically to ensure that they are transformed into opportunities. He noted that by virtue of its unique status as a partner, the United Nations is able to offer valuable perspectives on the development front to both donors and developing countries. Said Mr. Chuma, "I am honoured to have served in Zambia during this transformative period, and I am proud that the United Nations will remain steadfast in its support of your needs in the years to come".

Representing the government, Zambia's Secretary to the Treasury Dr. James Mulungushi delivered an emotional speech showering the former Resident Coordinator with accolades thus, "Aeneas has been the embodiment of the United Nations for us in Zambia for the last five years. He has championed the multilateral voice. His calm and thoughtful presence is something that my ministry in particular has valued tremendously, especially in this a time of much change in the country...he has brought South-South perspectives into dialogue to complement the traditional North-South relationships that have characterized development dialogue in the past...he has been a key ally in helping Government position itself within the new aid environment...Aeneas has helped the Government of Zambia address the basics of development that we had 'lost' in the past". Dr. Mulungushi reiterated that these efforts and the advocacy of the UN Country Team under leadership of Mr. Chuma, had ensured that the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) is built around national development targets linked to the Millennium Declaration and MDGs.

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

UNCT Zambia welcomes new UNESCO Director



UNESCO Director and Representative
Dr. Soo Hyang Choi

UN Zambia welcomes the new United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director and Representative, Dr. Soo Hyang Choi. Appointed as Director of UNESCO Cluster Office in Harare, Zimbabwe and UNESCO Representative to Zambia, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe, Dr. Choi assumed her new position last June, 2008.

Dr. Choi holds a Master's degree in Education and a Ph.D. in Educa-

tional Psychology from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada and completed post-doctoral studies on Educational Psychology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

She began her career as lecturer of educational psychology in 1989 at the University of Alberta before continuing her focus on developmental, educational and indigenous psychology in her home country Korea at Chung Ang University in Seoul and later Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI).

In 1995 she was appointed Team Director for International Cooperation, and in this capacity she devised and conducted, in collaboration with multilateral organizations, various capacity building programmes on education, economic and other development issues for high-level government officials and ministers from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Dr. Choi's UNESCO career started in 1997 as Senior Programme Specialist with the then Early Childhood and Family Education Section of the Education Sector at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris. From 1998 to 2006 she

served as the Chief of the Early Childhood and Family Education Section where she advocated for the inclusion of both care and education in the concept of early childhood, as reflected in Goal 1 of the Dakar Framework for Action for Education for All (EFA). She was also instrumental in strengthening UNESCO's position as lead agency in policy on early childhood. In June 2006, Dr Choi was appointed to the position of Chief of the newly created Section for Field Support and Coordination within the Education Sector at Headquarters, working closely with UNESCO field offices in all regions to ensure the coherence of their programmes with the overall strategy and priorities of the Organization. She also undertook a six-month special assignment to the UNESCO Office in Islamabad in 1997, where she assisted in the management of the Office and in its involvement in the "Delivering as One" Pilot in Pakistan. In March 2008, Dr. Choi was appointed Chief of the Secondary, Science, Technical and Vocational education Section within the Education Sector at UNESCO Headquarters, and had since led the Section's focus on youth employment and empowerment through training and education at the post-secondary level.

UNESCO spearheads community development in Zambia

UNESCO is a non-resident member of the UN Country Team in Zambia. Although resident in Harare-Zimbabwe, UNESCO remains committed to supporting community development in Zambia and has increasing presence in the country. Some of the running initiatives are:-

Matero Multi-media Centre

Within the framework of developing community multi-media centres as tools for community "voice" and people-centred development, UNESCO is continuing its support for the Matero Multi-media Centre. The latest capacity development support for the period July-November 2008, includes the purchase of equipment and skills building training. Besides resource centre equipment such as computers and printers, UNESCO will also provide young volunteers working at the centre with training in ICT skills, in order to enhance the capacity of the multi-media centre.

The Centre was established in 2004 as a collaborative project between UNESCO, Zambia Ministry of Information and Broad-

casting Services, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation and Zambia Institute of Mass Communication, with the Zambia National Commission for UNESCO being the implementing partner. UNESCO provided the initial studio equipment while the community provided the building to house the centre as well as volunteers to run it. Over the years UNESCO has continued to train volunteers at the centre.

Set up to increase access to information for the community as well as enable community participation in issues affecting them, Matero Multi-media Centre is located in the sprawling Matero Township west of Lusaka—historically established for native labourers by the colonial settlers. Today it is a high density area with over 80,000 people, most of whom are either civil servants or work for the private sector. Establishment of the centre provides Matero residents with easy access to computer and internet services, thereby limiting the need for commuting to the town centre for similar services.

UNESCO, ILO and UNCTAD project launch
UNESCO, ILO and UNCTAD will in August 2008 launch an inter-agency joint Project on Strengthening the Creative Industries through employment and trade expansion in five selected African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, with Zambia being one of only two African countries.

Funded by the EU, the Project seeks to nurture and build upon cultural assets already existing in the selected countries. Main implementing partners for the project include the Ministry of Community Development and Social Service (MCDSS), Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Arts Council. According to the MCDSS, a technical committee comprising representatives of various ministries has already been constituted to coordinate the Project. Identified potential core creative industries in Zambia for this Project include music, film and visual arts. The Project is expected to benefit from linkages with COOPAfrica and the EU-funded Project on Private Sector Development.

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

UN Country Team welcomes UN MDGs Advocate for Zambia



Marsha Moyo calling on new UN Resident Coordinator Macleod Nyirongo



UNICEF Representative Lotta Sylwander receives Marsha Moyo in her office



WHO Representative Dr. Olusegun Babaniyi dressing Ms. Moyo with an Acceleration of HIV Prevention pin



...with WFP Country Director, Pablo Recalde



...chatting with youth at the UNIC



...with Health Minister Dr Brian Chituwo and Bishop Joshua Banda on National VCT day

Inset: Ms. Moyo taking an HIV test

Since her appointment at the end of May 2008, the UN MDGs Advocate for Zambia, Ms. Marsha Moyo, has been busy familiarizing herself with the work of the various UN agencies based in Lusaka. At the number of meetings held with Heads of UN agencies, Ms. Moyo shared her vision on scaling up of efforts towards attainment of the MDGs in Zambia.

During her meeting with **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** Representative Ms. Lotta Sylwander, the Representative presented Ms. Moyo with a complete package of UNICEF's mandate and its priorities in Zambia. She also shared the UNICEF Executive Director's key objective of Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) which is the primary driver of UNICEF's core work, especially in Africa. The recently published DHS Report was also discussed and what these results portend for UNICEF and Zambia in general. The Representative provided a broad map of UNICEF Zambia's area of focus which is drawn in line with the Government's Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP). She explained that UNICEF is more inclined to a community-based approach to programming through strengthening of communities in management of certain health and development issues that affect the communities. She pointed to the significance of impending results of a research currently being conducted by UNICEF in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance on the situation analysis of children in Zambia, in which regard Ms. Moyo expressed a desire to work with the communities and local Media in ensuring that they understand children's issues. Ms. Moyo pledged to exploit every available opportunity to advocate UNICEF's priorities.

At the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** offices, Ms. Moyo was received by Country Representative Dr. Oluse-

gun Babaniyi and the officers in charge of programmes that contribute to the health-related MDGs. Lauding the appointment of the UN MDGs Advocate for Zambia, Dr. Babaniyi cited HIV as one of the challenges that need to be urgently addressed and took the opportunity to dress Ms. Moyo with a pin on the acceleration of HIV prevention in Africa.

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** Country Director Mr. Pablo Recalde says integrating art and culture would better translate how the UN in Zambia is working towards assisting the country attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Receiving Ms. Moyo in his office, Mr. Recalde, who took office in Zambia in March 2008, lauded the appointment of the renowned musician as timely. He commended the joint appointment by the UN as creative, noting that this was a powerful advocacy tool that was certain to generate increased awareness around the MDGs. Ms. Moyo, who was paying a courtesy call on the WFP's Country Director, expressed enthusiasm over her new role and assured him of her commitment towards ensuring that Zambia remains on track in meeting the MDGs by 2015.

At the **United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)**, National Information Officer Mickie Mumba briefed Marsha Moyo on the centre's activities and presented her with an information package on UN activities and Calendar of Events. During her tour of UNIC Ms. Moyo interacted with youth at UNIC's library facility, most of who have regular contact with associations involved in activities spearheaded by the Centre. Ms Moyo also separately called on ILO Director Gerry Finnegan, FAO Representative Dr. Nouredin Mona, UNAIDS Country Coordinator Dr. Catherine Sozi, UNHCR Representative James Lynch.

What did National VCT Day Mean for You?

National VCT Day was observed in Zambia on 30 June 2008, the fourth since its inception. The question is, what did it mean for you? Did it have any impact on your life?

The commemoration of a VCT Day in Zambia started in June 2005 but was officially announced in April of that year by the then Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo. As Dr Manasseh Phiri rightly put it at the event, although this is a national event focusing the nation's attention on a crucial aspect of its life, in the final analysis it all boils down to an individual's decisions and choices.

During this year's commemoration, speeches were made and the event documented on both TV and by the print media. The UN Learning team made efforts to ensure that all staff had access to VCT services, which were delivered by mobile clinic right to their backyards at work. Notwithstanding, if you, as an individual, did not make that important decision to take the leap and undergo the test, then all these efforts amounted to nothing.

VCT is internationally recognised as an effective and important strategy for both prevention and care. It provides the opportunity for people to know their HIV status with quality counseling support to help them cope with a positive or a negative test outcome. Unknown to many is the fact that the majority of adult populations are HIV negative, even in high HIV prevalence settings.

But despite numerous efforts to encourage VCT, there is still a low uptake of counseling and testing across the population. This has been cited as a major failure of the system and one of the major drivers of the AIDS pandemic. According to the 2007 Demographic Health Survey for Zambia, only 15.6 per cent of the population has undergone counseling and testing. The rationale behind the creation of a National VCT Day was that on that day, efforts would be made to publicise VCT in order to inspire those who would not ordinarily go for an HIV test.

The idea is for the publicity of the day to drive the participation in VCT of national leaders, not only in politics but also the arts, religion and other spheres. Marsha Moyo, the recently appointed UN MDGs Advocate for Zambia delivered a speech at the national commemoration, and led by example when she took the challenge to publicly undergo counseling and testing. She challenged the Minister of Health who was guest of honour at the event Dr Brian Chituwo, to join her in undergoing counseling and testing, which he accepted.

A public test need not have a public disclosure of the result! The test can be public and yet the result remains strictly confidential. Take the lead and go for VCT, make the choice now!

UN supports advancement of women and promotion of gender equality in Zambia

The United Nations System in Zambia was invited by the Government of the Republic of Zambia to provide lead support to the gender sector in 2006, as part of the joint assistance strategy's division of labour exercise. Its role goes beyond providing technical and financial support to the gender sector to include support to a more coordinated arrangement of assistance from the international development community. There are at present six bilateral donors active in the gender sector, namely: the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ireland Aid Zambia, the United Kingdom (through DfID), the United States Government through USAID, and CIDA. Coordination of partner assistance to Government is currently provided by UNDP, with the active support of ILO as designated deputy focal point on UN gender affairs. United Nations system agencies involved in the gender sector also include are UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNHCR.

The United Nations system enjoys a very close working relationship with Government in gender issues, with the Gender in Development Division of the Cabinet Office serving as the focal point for the latter. This relationship has come to the fore during the period 2007-2008 which bore witness to an intensive tripartite process towards the finalization of a national gender sector support programme. The support programme represents the Government's main—but not only—vehicle to deliver gender results under the Fifth National Development Plan. It has also provided a rich opportunity for partners to engage in issues of mutual concern, the result of which should become apparent later this year with the Programme's approval and launch. Indeed, the process has helped to galvanize additional interest in the gender sector as new donors begin to consider deploying technical and financial support to the gender sector.

For the United Nations, as with the donor community at large, gender is considered to be an important driver of development effectiveness in general, and a key ingredient of improving the effectiveness of aid. The United Nations there-

"Empowerment of women and achieving gender equality permeates everything we do - our policies, programmes and investments"

Kemal Dervis

Chair of the United Nations Development Group and UNDP Administrator

fore stands by the rest of the donor community by emphasizing that both the content and modalities used to pursue gender results can be mutually reinforcing. To this end, the United Nations will augment its efforts to support coordinated gender sector support by moving towards a single programme of United Nations assistance. Efforts in this regard are already under way, and will be furnished by ongoing and planned United Nations gender support. Examples of the sort of combined support to be expected are illustrated by the following profiles of recent, ongoing and planned initiatives from across the United Nations development system.

We hope this insight will be of interest and look forward to working with fellow stakeholders committed to the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality in Zambia.

United Nations Development Programme (lead UN agency on gender)

UNDP work on gender has been guided by the various instruments developed to provide policy guidance and support to national efforts for addressing gender inequalities that exist. UNDP has recently released a Gender Equality Strategy (2008-2011) entitled "Empowered and Equal". The Gender Equality Strategy is a re-commitment by UNDP to support capacity development of its national partners to adopt approaches that advance women's rights and take into account the full range of their contribution to development, as a foundation for MDG achievement. Therefore UNDP is supporting the Gender in Development Division (GIDD) to further raise the profile of gender in national policy dialogue and development of alternative policy instruments. In 2008 UNDP sup-

port to gender focused on:

- Supporting the government in its role as SADC chair to coordinate regional consultations on the SADC Protocol on Gender, which was recently adopted by the SADC Ministers of Gender and will be signed at the next Head of States meeting in early August; to participate in and provide technical support to represent SADC countries at the Commission on the Status of Women meeting; and the preparation and dissemination of the Fifth and Six CEDAW Country report.
- Supporting government to address gender through systemic use of human rights values and principles by contributing to advocacy on women's rights UNDP supported the Human Rights Commission to prepare the annual state of humans rights report; supporting GIDD to contribute to the drafting of the Gender Based Violence Bill.
- Supporting GIDD to develop a first ever Gender Support Programme whose objective is to strengthen the national capacity to mainstream gender in legal, political, economic and social/cultural spheres so that women and men benefit and participate equally in the development process.

International Labour Organization

Through its programme on Women Entrepreneurship and Gender Equality (WEDGE), which is part of ILO-Irish Aid Partnership Programme, ILO provides support that includes:

- Women Entrepreneurs Associations capacity development support.
- Training of Trainers in Gender and Entrepreneurship Together for Women in Enterprise (GET Ahead), including resource people with physical disabilities.
- GET Ahead training for members of Women Entrepreneurs' Association of Zambia (WEDAZ).
- Translations of some WEDGE tools into Bemba and Nyanja (with more to come), Braille and large print for easy reading and

(Continued on page 6)

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

(Continued from page 5)

understanding by women entrepreneurs with low education background and the blind.

- Upcoming support includes:
- Gender audit training will be conducted for ILO constituents, UN Agencies, key Government ministries and civil society. Facilitators will be expected to carry out the gender audits.
- Celebrations of the Month of the Woman Entrepreneur (1-30 September) initiated in collaboration with Ireland, after the practice was introduced in Ethiopia in 2004.

United Nations Children's Fund

UNICEF provides technical and financial support to the gender based violence program, focusing on creating a conducive environment for both children and women. Aspects of this support include:

- Advocating for the implementation of the CEDAW Committee's concluding Observations on Zambia and The enactment of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Bill project.
- Operationalizing one stop centres - supplies procured for both trainings and the 10 (already existing and those to be established) One Stop Centres
- Providing seven training courses in child witness
- Establishing of child help line
- Developing of three protocols, medical, police and legal and psychosocial

In addition, UNICEF supports the completion of a "Comprehensive analysis of National Budget prioritization and allocations for child and women centred areas and Costing of Millennium Development Goals" undertaken under the auspices of the Policy Analysis and Coordination Division of the Cabinet Office.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR has been working to find solutions to the problems of refugees in Zambia. As part of its regular operations, the organisation recognises the different needs of

women, girls, boys and men and the importance of according equal opportunities to all members of the society. An important part of these solutions has been to encourage women to find ways of contributing to development of their communities through enforcing the High Commissioner's Five Commitments to women, which include:

- Ensuring that women participate and constitute fifty percent of leadership positions in the refugee locations.
- Promoting individual registration of men and women so that each refugee can individually enjoy security, freedom of movement and access to essential services.
- Developing integrated strategies in all refugee settings to prevent and respond to incidences of sexual and gender-based violence that includes enforcing of a zero tolerance policy towards perpetrators and observation of the Code of Conduct.
- Ensuring that refugee women participate in the management and distribution of food and non-food items in urban and camp settings to help empower women and reduce their exposure to exploitation.
- A standardised practice where women are provided with sanitary wear material to ensure that they actively participate in the affairs of the community.

United Nations Population Fund

Gender is one of the major three support programs of focus in UNFPA. The main approach in principle is mainstreaming gender in all UNFPA support areas such as Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Rights, Prevention aspect of HIV/AIDS including in the broader gender context of the epidemic. However, to ensure the effectiveness of mainstreaming gender, programs and projects that focus on gender specific areas are also supported.

UNFPA is partnering with the national body for gender/GIDD and other civil society organizations committed to promote gender at national and provincial levels in North-western and Luapula provinces.

The major support areas are ca-

capacity building of GIDD, parliamentarians and other partners that deal with gender and the advancement of women's rights including reproductive and sexual rights, advocacy and lobbying on the equal rights of men and women. In addition UNFPA entails a multi-sectoral program approach to prevent sexual gender based violence. This is done through GIDD and the GBV partnership group.

UNFPA'S support is provided in the form of technical and financial support. In the recent country program, UNFPA has earmarked \$ 1,500,000 for gender program.

UNIFEM

UNIFEM support in Zambia has been on promoting equitable distribution of resources by engendering national budgets and the aid effectiveness agenda. Focus will also be on reducing violence against women.

In July 2007, UNIFEM and UNDP supported a regional meeting on gender and aid effectiveness that was hosted by the Ministry of Gender. The meeting was held to consult stakeholders in preparation of the High Level Forum (HLF) that will be held in September 2008 to review the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Building on this initiative, Zambia has been identified as one of the case study countries to build up on a body of evidence to demonstrate the extent to which the implementation of the Paris Declaration principles are or are not advancing gender equality goals in the context of harmonization and alignment. The document will be disseminated during the HLF.

UNIFEM also provided technical supported to the development of the National Gender Programme. One of the components of this project which UNIFEM intends to spearhead will be gender responsive budgets in order to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

The high level of violence against women in Zambia was highlighted in a US Agency for International Development survey published in June 2005, which found that 48 per cent of women respondents said they had been subjected to physical or sexual abuse. One Lusaka hospital alone was reported in June to be treating four new rape cases every day.

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

Record attendance at Child Health Week

UNICEF supports the government in the integration and coordination of Child Health Week (CHWk) activities, targeting children from 0 - 59 months. The main thrust of the June 2008 event, was a focus on low cost life-saving interventions with high impact. The objective was to reach over 2 million children. The added intervention was hand-washing with soap campaign for the prevention of diarrhea and also screening for severe malnutrition in 14 pilot districts. The CHWk continued with the traditional vitamin A capsule supplementation, Immunization, Growth monitoring and de-worming. This year's CHWk aimed at sustaining and further reducing the under-five mortality rates which have dropped by 30 per cent since 2002-2007 according to the latest results of the *Zambian Demographic Health Survey*.

In his address during the launch, Dr. Augustine Kabano from the East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) thanked the Zambian government for the strong leadership in child survival.

This year's programme was successful with the health centres that were monitored reporting meeting their daily targets. The handing out of hand-washing soap served as a big incentive for mothers attending the child health week. Some of the social mobilization strategies employed included early planning, early delivery of supplies and posters to the centres around the country, adequate social mobilization and partnerships with media, and also the ownership from the health centres.

Three venues offered services at each post, namely; the static centres where the mothers visited, outreach services where health workers went to set-up posts like the markets, schools and play-parks and finally mobile service combined with house-to-house service delivery which were reserved only for centres that recorded lower turn-outs.

Most of the mothers interviewed at the three centers visited in Ndola were pleased with the services. They had learnt about the activity over radio, television, announcements in their local churches,

from their children's schools and also from mobile public address systems. "The first day of this year's Child Health Week has been a great success, the turn out has been overwhelming, maybe it is because the launch was held at our clinic", said Mrs. Jean Saluhanda, the maternal child health nurse at Twapia Health Center in Ndola in the Copperbelt Province.

Mrs. Astrida Chanda, a mother who was interviewed after receiving services testified that had it not been for the CHWk, she would not have become aware of the condition that her 3 year old child had been diagnosed with. "I want to thank the nurses who discovered this and to encourage other parents to bring their children to benefit from these free services".

Three UNICEF staff members monitored CHWk activities in three provinces and brought back positive feedback about the activities. The main purpose of these visits was to observe the quality of services provided in the districts during the CHWk including availability of CHW supplies (Vitamin A, Antigens, and IEC materials).

Commemorating World Refugee Day



A Burundi cultural group perform during commemoration of World Refugee Day

On June 20, 2008 Zambia joined the world in commemorating World Refugee Day (WRD) under the theme "Protection". The theme was chosen because protection forms the core mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The event that took place at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus in Lusaka was characterized by a festive mood with various cultural performances and other activities. The occasion attracted about 600 refugees living in Lusaka, joined by their Zambian hosts. UNHCR's Deputy Representative Mr. Fernando Protti Alvarado, Home Affairs Deputy Minister Hon. Misheck Bonshe, im-

plementing partners and other UN and Government dignitaries were also in attendance.

Outside Lusaka, the WRD was commemorated in the four designated refugee sites of Mwange, Kala, Meheba and Mayukwayukwa where senior government officials attended. In Meheba, the Permanent Secretary for the North-Western Province was the guest of honour, while in Mayukwayukwa the District Administrative Secretary officiated.

The WRD was preceded by a one-week public awareness campaign on radio, television and newspapers with exhibitions showcasing items produced by refugees, focusing on the theme 'Protection'. While launching the WRD Awareness Week on national television, the Minister of Home Affairs highlighted key policy issues in the Zambia refugee programme and reaffirmed his government's commitment and respect for voluntary repatriation.

Representing the UNHCR Representative, Mr. Alvarado underlined refugee protection as the key mandate of UNHCR, saying durable solutions for refugees, such as volun-

ry repatriation, local integration and resettlement would remain key pursuits. He highlighted various challenges faced by refugees in Zambia and the need for Government to address them.

Zambia enjoys an outstanding record in terms of its hospitality to refugees and asylum seekers, who it has continued to host since her independence in 1964. Zambia currently hosts about 90,000 refugees, with 59,000 refugees residing within four camps in the Western, North Western, Northern and Luapula provinces. Congolese refugees now constitute the biggest case-load, i.e. 53,424 as at May 2008, followed by 27,180 Angolans remaining in the country after the successful repatriation of about 74,000 Angolan refugees from 2003 to 2007. Smaller numbers of refugees originate from Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia.

This is the eighth year of commemorating WRD after the UN General Assembly designated 20th June as WRD in the year 2000. Before then, WRD was known as Africa Refugee Day, commemorated by several African states under the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

UN Zambia Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the UN system in Zambia

July 2008

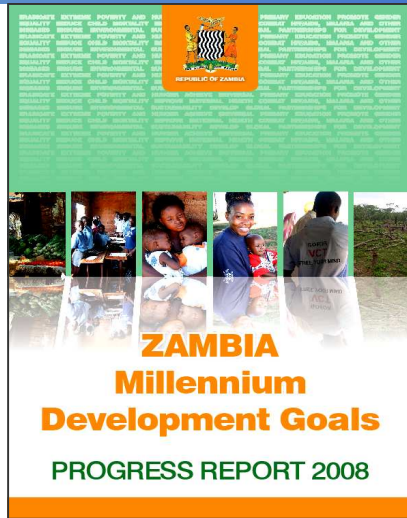
MDG Progress Report 2008 Launched

The 2008 MDG Progress Report for Zambia was launched on Wednesday 25th June 2008. The launch drew the participation of a wide range of stakeholders including civil society, academia, private sector and co-operating partners, many of whom had participated in the MDGs Stakeholders Forums preceding the launch. This is Zambia's third progress report after the 2003 and 2005 publications and registers positive indicators over the past five years.

This year marks the half way point through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) time frame agreed upon by the international community in 2000 and therefore poses a reflective challenge on what has been done thus far and what remains outstanding in order to achieve the targets set by the MDGs. Besides assessing progress towards the attainment of the MDGs in Zambia, the purpose of the MDG Progress Report is two-fold: first, public information and social mobilization mainly as a tool for awareness raising, advocacy, consensus building, and renewal of political commitments at the country level, and secondly, to build national capacity for monitoring and reporting on progress.

Results

According to the 2008 report, statistics indicate that Zambia is most likely to achieve all the goals but one. The MDG status at a glance shows that the MDG targets on hunger, universal primary education, gender equality, maternal health, and HIV and AIDS are likely to be achieved by 2015. It further shows that Zambia has the potential to achieve the MDG targets on extreme poverty as evidenced by the statistics gathered in the 2006 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey of 2006 which shows that poverty levels have dropped from 68% in 2004 to 64% in 2006. Other areas of improvement include reductions in child mortality, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases, and improvements in the provision of water and sanitation. Maternal mortality, hitherto rated by



national stakeholders as unlikely to be met, now shows a complete turn around. More specifically, the provisional highlights of the 2007 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) results show that the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has declined from 729 per 100, 000 live births in 2001/2002 to 449 per 100, 000 live births in 2007 accounting for the move from an assessment of "not achievable" (flagged Red) to potentially achievable (Yellow). This is reflective of improvements in maternal primary health care and a conscious effort by government towards realizing the target of reduced maternal mortality. The ZDHS also highlights improvements in all the major health indicators. Further, all indications are that the target of universal primary education is likely to be met because of the strong supportive environment existing in the country.

These positive elements are however dampened by findings that the MDG target on ensuring environmental sustainability is unlikely to be achieved without bold measures by the country. Although modest efforts to create a supportive environment have been made, there is urgent need for further impetus to enable Zambia to fully integrate principles of sustainable

development in order to achieve environmental sustainability.

Way Forward

In light of the existing challenges, the UN system in Zambia will continue to assist the government of Zambia by helping build its capacity in the area of monitoring and reporting on progress towards the attainment of the goals and particularly in assessing the needs and costs for meeting the MDGs; for which the UN has developed useful models for future national development plans. These models were introduced to a critical mass of planners from the Government and officials from civil society during the MDGs Needs Assessment Workshop held in Livingstone in May this year. With this enhanced capacity for undertaking needs assessments, it is expected that the planners will acquire skills that will enable them to easily undertake costing of the next National Development Plan—providing increasingly better prospects for Zambia's attainment of MDGs by 2015.

UN Gender support

(Continued from page 6)

The police Victim Support Unit lacked capacity, particularly in rural areas where customary law continues to limit women's sexual and reproductive rights. In June lawyers' organizations criticized the inadequacy of laws on violence against women. In order to address this challenge, UNIFEM will implement a project to support the implementation of existing plans, policies, laws and legislation in Zambia.

For more information, please contact Ms. Dellia Yerokun, gender focal point at UNDP at:

dellia.yerokun@undp.org.

UN Communications Group
UN Resident Coordinator's Office
Tel: (260-1) 250800
Fax: (260-1) 254187/251201
E-mail: rc.zm@undp.org

P.O Box 31966
UN House
Alick Nkhata Road
Lusaka 10101
Zambia

The UN Zambia Newsletter is published by the
United Nations Communications Group in Zambia.
The publication is available at
www.unct.org.zm

