

# UN Zambia Newsletter

A publication Of the UN system in Zambia

August 2009

## UN Communications Group and Lusaka Press Club Sign Partnership Accord

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) based in Zambia and the Lusaka Press Club (LPC) signed a partnership agreement on 9 July 2009 at Taj Pamozi Hotel in Lusaka.

In his remarks at the launch, UN Resident Coordinator, Macleod Nyirongo said that the media in Zambia had developed into a formidable institution, accomplishing great strides over the years. It is expanding into a vibrant free press as advocated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides for the freedom of opinion and expression. He further said that the signed partnership with the Lusaka Press Club would enable easy follow-ups to the progress towards meeting the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as this new partnership would provide a viable forum for public sensitization, as the UN and other partners embark on the task of providing support to the Government.

Mr. Nyirongo said that the UN system in Zambia would remain committed to media capacity building in Zambia. He urged the media to highlight more developmental issues and provide the public with more information on the same.

Information and Broadcasting Services Deputy Minister, Elijah Muchima officiating at the launch said that the media should remain professional and accurate if its role as a watch dog in society is to be appreciated. Mr. Muchima



UN Resident Coordinator Macleod Nyirongo (R) and Lusaka Press Club Chairman Shapi Shacinda (L) exchanging signed partnership documents

said that the media should be accurate, impartial, balanced and fair in their reporting. "What matters most is to provide to the reader of published news and listeners of broadcast information correct news," he further noted.

He commended the partnership between the UNCG and the Lusaka Press Club as it would provide media venue to expound key issues relating to Zambia's development through hosting public forums. The partnership would further help building media capacity through specialised skills training. The deputy minister reiterated that as part of the Government to promoting the media, the Freedom of Informa-

tion Bill and the ZNBC Act would be concluded this year.

Norwegian Ambassador to Zambia, Tore Gjøs, said the media should arouse public debate on issues affecting the nation for authorities to take better decision. He said the presence of vibrant media is vital in promoting democracy through providing critical analysis of all happenings.

The partnership comprise members of the UNCG made up of Communications focal points from all UN agencies resident in Zambia on the one hand; and Communications, PR and information practitioners from both the private and public sector under the umbrella of the Lusaka Press Club on the other.

The partnership accord was signed by the UN Resident Coordinator, Macleod Nyirongo on behalf of the UNCG and by the Chairman of the LPC, Shapi Shacinda.

### Inside This Issue

- \* Walking the talk on climate change
- \* Community perspective on HIV/AIDS
- \* Child health week
- \* and other timely topics

## UNDAF 2011-2015 Process Kicks-Off



Part of the participants working in a group during the UNDAF design workshop

The 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) which serves as the UN country strategic document comes to an end in 2010. The current UNDAF will be succeeded by another that will last from 2011 until 2015 so that the UN remains aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP). This alignment is a demonstration of the harmonisation agenda which goes beyond just harmonising systems but

also ensure that the development agenda is harmonised in content.

In preparing for active participation in the national development process, the UN held UNDAF design workshop from 30 June -2 July 2009. The objective of the workshop was to carry out a SWOT analysis of the capacity of UN in Zambia vis-à-vis its mandate and comparative advantages. The other objective was to train a cadre of staff in Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA), Gender and Results Based Management (RBM).

In his opening remarks the UN Resident Coordinator, Macleod Nyirongo stressed that the UN had embarked on a very important process that would set the agenda for the UN system in Zambia for five years starting in 2011. He as such, urged the participants to ensure that they took the workshop seriously and commit themselves to the entire UNDAF process.

Mr Nyirongo also stated that as the UN embarks on this process it was important to identify areas that the UN would provide joint support

to the Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP).

In defining the a way forward the Resident Coordinator informed the workshop that the UNDAF core team would synthesise the discussions especially those that centred around the UN comparative advantage.

During workshop Ms Lotta Sylwander, UNICEF Representative and the Secretary to the Treasury Mr Likolo Ndalame gave presentations on the outcome of the current UNDAF midterm review and the generic national priorities which would go into the sixth national development plan (SNDP), respectively. Ms Hope Ndhlovu from the Human Rights Commission also made a presentation on the national protection systems in Zambia.

The workshop was facilitated by a combined team of facilitators from Development Coordination Office (DOCO), Regional Director's Team (RDT) and the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) which was led by Ms Monique Clesca.

Various heads of agencies and senior programme officers participated in the workshop.

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## Walking the Talk on Climate Change in Zambia

With just over five months left before the Climate Conference in Copenhagen the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Climate Change Facilitation Unit [CCFU], with support from UN, have continued with education and advocacy work on climate change in Zambia. A number of activities took place in the month of July.

During the month, the Norwegian Government and UNDP contributed a total of K12.8 billion towards the Climate Change Facilitation unit. Housed in the Ministry, the aim is to strengthen national efforts and mainstreaming of climate change responses in the development process.

On 16 July 2009, the CCFU and UNDP conducted a public discussion on climate change at the University of Zambia [UNZA]. This discussion was attended by more than 300 participants drawn from students and lecturers from UNZA and youths representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations [NGOs] in the environment sector around Lusaka. On 29 July 2009, the team undertook two more discussions in Kabwe [Central Province] 140 Km North of Lusaka. These discussions were held at Mulungushi University and Kwame Nkrumah University College. These activities drew a combined total of over 280 students and lecturers from the two institutions.

The discussions shared information on the science and impact of climate change and the measures in place to respond to challenges brought about the changing climatic conditions. These issues were presented by the team from the CCFU headed by Professor Jain. It was also



*Some of the 300 participants drawn from students and lecturers from Mulungushi university and youths discuss climate change*

the aim of the discussion that after sharing the information, youths could begin taking action at individual levels while contributing to national actions. It is also envisaged that as youths learn more about climate change, they could start "walking the talk" and reduce their carbon foot prints as well as follow global debates on the subject and take part in various campaigns like seal the deal.

The discussions highlighted issues contained in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] and the Kyoto Protocol and the forthcoming Climate conference in Copenhagen later this year. In emphasizing the measure that the government is putting in place to tackle the problems resulting from the effects of the changing climatic conditions, the discussion made reference to the National Adaptation Plan of Action [NAPA] and the National Policy on the Environment which have been developed by the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources.

In its quest to partner with the private sector in raising awareness on climate change, UNDP has partnered with CFAO Zambia in these activities. CFAO Zambia [the official distributor of Nissan vehicles in Zambia] has since donated copies of the movie "HOME" which was premiered on World Environment Day this year. After the discussions, students were invited to watch the movie. Additionally, copies of the youth-friendly version of the 2007/2008 Human Development report, the NAPA and the policy together with other UN Publications were donated to the Institutions' Library for use as reference material for students and teaching aids for lecturers.

Another event commemorating World Environment Day was a Media Breakfast organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services and the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources. The purpose was to brief and dialogue with journalists and experts on the science of climate change, with a view to deepen understanding and advocacy around issues of adaptation and mitigation. The exchange addressed practical steps that should be taken at all levels - from policymakers to individuals at the household level. In attendance were representatives from Government, civil society and UN Heads of Agencies.

*The UN Zambia Newsletter is published by the United Nations Communications Group in Zambia. The publication is available at [www.unct.org.zm](http://www.unct.org.zm)*

## UN Supports Subsistence Farmers Access Market



*UN Resident Coordinator, M. Nyirongo (2nd from R) and the FAO project Manager Mr. B. Mulonga (R) checking on cassava bulking centre in Samfya*

The UN Resident Coordinator, Macleod Nyirongo during his recent visit to Luapula Province observed firsthand cassava bulking centre for processed cassava chips and demonstrations on cassava processing, and how farmers capacities

have been built through value addition, business and entrepreneurial skills and the new agronomic practices of growing cassava. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is working currently in two projects focusing on commercialization of cassava in the country. The interventions include offering technical assistance to the existing industries which would use cassava as an alternative input. Currently the animal feed industry alone can take up to 2,000 to 3,000 tons of cassava per month with a yearly requirement of 36,000 metric tons. This can shift up to 30% of maize consumption from animal feed for human consumption. Recently conducted cassava pricing sensitisation exercise has shown clearly that cassava is not

only a cash crop but can be viewed as high value crop with over 100% profits guaranteed.

Cassava is a staple food for about 30 percent of the population in Zambia particularly in Northern, North-Western, Luapula and Western provinces of the country. Despite its production has increased rapidly in recent years, its benefits have not been fully realized. Cassava has a huge comparative advantage over maize which is the major staple food in Zambia, because of its drought tolerance, high yield, low production cost and year-round food supply. Cassava is grown largely by small scale farmers and expanding its market and utilization can bring direct economic and social benefits to the small scale farmers.

At the end of the projects farmers will have the necessary capacity to enable them produce cassava at market scale.

The projects are located in Serenje, in Central Province; and Samfya and Mansa, in Luapula

## Communities Shift HIV/AIDS Situation Around



*Kapil Kapoor, World Bank Country Manager donates books for the school*

Each time I saw other children go to school when mine were not, a lump of distress would come up my throat" says Maiwase Mbewe as she hitches up and secures her 'chitenje' wrap around-cloth her waist in readiness to rejoin the other widows in a dance of celebration. *Lelo AIDS tayigwira* (We have gotten hold of AIDS) is a song of strategy of how the Musanga Ward Community deal with the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

A six hour drive from Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, Musanga community is a far flung remote border village, east of Chipata in the Eastern Province. It is a cluster of 120 villages with 1,225 households and total population of 7,120 people. It is also the home to Madaliso Widows, Orphans and Vulnerable Children Community Support project. Chipata district has an estimated population of 369,443 with

HIV prevalence of 26.3%, the highest in the province and way above the provincial average of 13% and the national average of 16%.

In September, 2000, Maiwase Mbewe joined forces with other widows in her community to mitigate against the increase in number of people dying from HIV/AIDS related illnesses, leaving an increasing number of orphans behind. The widows hurriedly built a school for their children. Sixteen orphans in all.

Maiwase explains, "We began very small, with very little money, supporting 74 orphans with only 16 attending school. When word went round, more and more children came for support and for school. It was not long before our school was overwhelmed by the number of children. The make shift building started to fall apart. When we received support from CRAIDS (Community Response to HIV/AIDS) our  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## Male Circumcision: A Strategy in Fighting HIV/AIDS

The Ministry of Health launched the National programme on male circumcision and the National Male Circumcision Strategy and Implementation Plan 2010 - 2020 on 30 July 2009. The strategy and implementation Plan was officially launched by the Deputy Minister of Health Hon. Mwendoi Akakandelwa. The national strategy and implementation plan on male circumcision is intended to make available and accessible on a voluntary basis high quality safe male circumcision services to all uninfected men and boys aged between 13-39 years in order to achieve the targeted national male circumcision prevalence of 50% by 2020. HIV prevalence in Zambia is 14.3% and only an estimated 17% of men are circumcised.

The national strategy is specifically aimed at increasing the number of health facilities providing safe male circumcision services through a well defined package, increasing the skills and quality of service providers and increasing informed demand for the service through health promotion interventions. There are more than 10 sites countrywide that have trained staff and are offering comprehensive male circumcision services including counseling and testing. The national plan seeks to establish close to 300 sites countrywide and promote demand for the service. To date more than 2,500 health workers have been trained in male circumcision.

The national programme on male circumcision has been launched in line with the recommendation made in March 2007 by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS that male circumcision should be promoted as an HIV prevention strategy in addition to existing prevention strategies such as partner reduction and correct and con-

sistent condom use. This is based on recent evidence from randomized controlled trials in Kenya, South Africa and Uganda that have shown the value of male circumcision in reducing HIV infection by approximately 60%.

The Deputy Minister of Health Hon. Mwendoi Akakandelwa re-affirmed the government's commitment to the integration of male circumcision as part of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programme in order to contribute to reversing and stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. He said that the Government had set up a male circumcision technical working group, formulated an interim roadmap of activities and was in the process of engaging a national programme coordinator and developing detailed and costed activity implementation plans. He stated that the Ministry of Health would lay emphasis on provision of safe, high quality and easily accessible services and ensure the use of standard guidelines. He emphasised the need to provide correct information to communities particularly that male circumcision is effective only when used in combination with other prevention methods like condoms, avoiding multiple sexual partners and other methods.

Speaking at the same function, the WHO Representative, Dr. Olusegun Babaniyi stated that male circumcision provides up to 60% protection against HIV infection when combined with other prevention methods. He said that Zambia needed to circumcise close to two and half million men over a ten year period if the programme was to have a significant impact. He assured the Government of UN's continued support to the programme and called for the use of WHO/UNAIDS tools for programming pur-



*WHO Representative Dr. Olusegun Babaniyi delivering a statement at the launch.*

poses, the development of stronger partnerships, training of practitioners, accreditation of service providers and involvement of communities.

The provision of male circumcision services has been piloted in Zambia since 2004 by the University Teaching Hospital and Non Governmental Organizations including the JHPIEGO and Society for Family Health at various sites within and outside health care settings and results showed high levels of acceptability by the communities.

The partners working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health at country level include the National AIDS Council, World Health Organization, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF, JHPIEGO, Health Communication Partnership (HCP), Health Systems Support Programme (HSSP), Society for Family Health, Family Health Trust, Marie Stopes International, Centres for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Management Programme (CHAMP) and the Zambia Centre for Communication Programmes.

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## UN Workplace Programme on HIV & AIDS

UN Cares Learning Sessions were held in June 2009 at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for Lusaka based staff members. The sessions were held over a period of three days, from 23-25 June 2009 covering obligatory sessions which include topics on prevention, stigma/discrimination and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). Forty three (43) staff members from various agencies of the United Nations in Zambia attended the sessions.



The importance of VCT cannot be over-emphasised as it is crucial for the prevention of the spread of HIV. Thus, during the day on-site VCT was held at three UN sites: UN House, UNHCR and the World Bank. A total of 54 staff members of which 26 male and 28 female accessed the on-site VCT service.

Human Resource staff of various UN agencies played a vital role in publicizing the on-site VCT service and in encouraging staff members to access the same.

The UN Cares Learning Sessions were facilitated by Afya Mzuri, an NGO actively involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy programmes in Zambia. Participants expressed their satisfaction on the way the sessions were conducted.

Participants expressed their satisfaction on the way the sessions were conducted.

### On-Site VCT

Zambia commemorates National Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Day on 30 June every year. This year National VCT Day was observed under the theme "Family First - Men Take your Family for VCT".



UN staff participating in UN Cares Session at UNECA

### Farewell

The UN Cares Team pays glowing tribute to Ms. Maha Aon, Partnerships Adviser of UN-AIDS and a member of the Zambia HIV/AIDS Learning Team. Ms. Aon completed her tenure in Zambia on 31 July 2009. During her assignment in Zambia, Ms. Aon played a significant role in the work of UN Cares Zambia.

For further information, please contact the UN Cares Officer - Mr. Patrick Nalumino at: [patrick.nalumino@undp.org](mailto:patrick.nalumino@undp.org)

## Communities Shift HIV/AIDS

(Continued from page 3)

first priority was to build a decent school structure you see standing there," says Maiwase pointing to the white and blue school structure that has become the pride of the community.

The widows now look after 572 orphans, 200 of whom attend school. This year, the widows have scored another victory. Thirteen orphans have graduated from their school and will enter Grade 8 in secondary education in public school.

"This is a big achievement for us," says Maiwase with a big smile, "With the gains in income we have made from our poultry project financed by CRAIDS, we are able to support the 13 orphans in secondary school. So you see, I have no lumps in my throat any more and today, when my tears roll down, they are tears of joy" she says as she dashes to the dancing arena.

The Madaliso Widows, Orphans and Vulnerable Children Community Support project received \$17,028 from the CRAIDS component of the Zambia National Response to AIDS (ZANARA) project in January 2005 to support among other things:

- HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in the community
- Training of home based care givers and procurement of home based care kits
- Rehabilitation of the Madaliso Community School
- Provision of school requisites for orphans, and
- Establish income generating project to support activities of the project.

Although the rehabilitation of the school was the widow's first priority, the group is also well known for its work in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Misozi Phiri, a widow and one of the community project founding members, explains the achievements with her subdued smile and quiet demeanor.

"Most of the chronically ill are no longer bed ridden and now live productive lives. Most of them have gone back to their villages to plough their fields," she says as a matter of fact, "from a total of 247 chronically patients, half were bed ridden, we now have only 10 patients on our register who are bed ridden. But with the support from the community, they are getting better everyday and living positively."

The work of the group has been strengthened by the support provided by the government clinic a few kilometers away. The clinic advises on nutritional support through home based care and provision of ARVs.

"Now we do not see many deaths in the community." Sighs Misozi but quickly brightens up when she says. "We have been able to reach everyone in the community with HIV/AIDS information mainly through drama and people talk about HIV/AIDS issues freely."

Both Misozi and Maiwase believe that CRAIDS support has not only empowered the widows to openly talk about their HIV status, but also in income generating activity either individually or as a group. The members are now able to provide for the basic needs of their families. "Things have really changed for the better", says Misozi, "Where as in the past we were marginalized as widows, we are now treated with dignity and respect as full members of this community. And more importantly, the community has learnt to support each other. Stigmatization has tremendously reduced and we have been able to reach everyone in the community with HIV/AIDS information through drama and house to house visits. And you know what, the people in this community now discusses the issues of HIV/AIDS openly and freely. We have become an example to other communities."

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## Zambia: Child Health Week

### Free Vaccinations Reaches More than Two Million Children

UNICEF Representative in Zambia Lotta Sylwander vaccinating a child against polio during the first day of Child Health Week in Zambia.



Wrapping their young children in blankets and winter caps to protect them from the Southern Hemisphere's cold season, hundreds of Zambian mothers lined-up for hours this morning waiting for lifesaving and free health care during the opening day of Zambia's Child Health Week. More than 2 million children are expected to be reached with life saving health interventions like polio and measles vaccinations.

"This is really impressive that there's a big turnout, especially in such cold weather," said Minister of Health Kapembwa Simbao, MP. "I can assure you this is what it's like at clinics all over our country today, and the turnout will be well attended all week. I also want to thank our cooperating partners, especially UNICEF, USAID, and WHO, because they worked with us to fill the gap in funding that Government needed in order to hold the first of this year's Child Health Weeks."

UNICEF Representative Lotta Sylwander encouraged every parent and caregiver to bring all of their children under the age of five to

Child Health Week for free medical care, including growth monitoring.

"This is extremely important for children in Zambia. By bringing your children to Child Health Week for free vaccinations, growth monitoring, and Vitamin A supplementation, your children will be healthier and will live longer. So for your children's future, please bring them to your nearest health centre," Sylwander said.

Dr. Lastone Chitembo, Officer in Charge of UNICEF Zambia's Health Programme, said every year Child Health Week in Zambia offers a new and innovative service. He noted that this year five clinics in Lusaka, Zambia's capital and largest city, will for the first time offer early infant diagnosis of HIV as part of Child Health Week. Children as young as six weeks will be safely tested for HIV.

"If they test positive, Government and other partners will be able to provide the children with anti-retro virals, so they can live longer. It's part of UNICEF's paediatric AIDS initiative," said Chitembo.

Another innovative component of Zambia's Child Health Week this year comes from the country's leading telecommunications mobile service providers, ZAIN, MTN, and Cell-Z, which are sending free SMS messages to their customers urging parents and caregivers to bring their children to Child Health Week.

"It is about time that we use modern technology to ensure child health and this year is particularly important because of the polio prevention campaign," said UNICEF's Sylwander. "We are grateful that MTN, ZAIN, and Cell-Z have agreed to assist free of charge in sending mobile phone messages to millions of their subscribers and thanks to their efforts, we believe in one hundred percent coverage this year!"

Earlier this month the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided UNICEF with support for Child Health Week in Zambia.

"We are delighted to continue partnering with the Zambian Government in this effective and cost-efficient child survival program," said Melissa Williams, USAID Mission Director in Zambia. "The United States government plays an integral role in the efforts to improve child health and survival and is committed to reaching the internationally agreed goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds by 2015. For more than two decades, the United States has been a leader in child

survival programming, which saves the lives of more than seven million children a year."

"Health programs for children are vital to development," said Williams. "An investment in health is an investment in economic development, poverty reduction, sustainable development and regional security. Continuing and accelerating these investments in Zambia is essential to attain the Millennium Development Goals and Zambia's own objectives, set forth in the Fifth National Development Plan."

Free medical services will be provided to all children under-five and a special emphasis will be made to reach every child with polio vaccinations in high population centres, including Lusaka, Ndola, and 28 districts that border neighboring Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Namibia. Also included in the activities for the week in five high volume health facilities will be local drama groups that will promote the messages related to early testing for HIV and timely treatment of HIV through paediatric HIV programmes.

### Facts About polio

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects children under five. The virus attacks the nervous system and is transmitted through contaminated food, water and feces. One in two-hundred infections leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. Among those paralyzed, 5 per cent to 10 per cent die when their breathing muscles become immobilized. Polio cannot be cured and can only be prevented by immunization. WHO recommends that infants receive three doses of oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) in the first year of life.

### Global Polio Eradication Initiative

This campaign is part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership spearheaded by WHO, Rotary International, the US Center for Diseases Control and Prevention and UNICEF. The polio eradication coalition includes governments of countries affected by polio; private sector foundations (United Nations Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation); development banks (World Bank); bilateral donor governments; the European Commission; the International Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and nongovernmental organizations as well as corporate partners (Sanofi Pasteur, De Beers and Wyeth). Volunteers in developing countries also play a key role. For more information go to [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org).



Hundreds of mothers brought their children for free vaccinations and other medical services during the launch of Child Health Week in Zambia.

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## Zambia Commemorates World Breastfeeding - 2009

*Theme: "Breastfeeding: A vital emergency Response. Are you ready?"*



*Dr. Victor Mukonka, (Director, Public Health and research, MOH), Dr. Olusegun Babaniyi (WHO Representative) Ms Elspeth Erickson (UNICEF Deputy Representative) Giving out prizes to school children who had won prizes on a breastfeeding competition.*

The World Health Organization and UNICEF joined hands with the Ministry of Health to bring together all partners and stakeholders in Zambia in commemorating the *World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2009 ( 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> August 2009)* under the theme which was adopted by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action "*Breastfeeding: A vital emergency Response. Are you ready?*" The official launch of the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2009 took place in Lusaka at Chawama community grounds.

Breastfeeding is a life saving intervention and protection is greatest for the youngest infants. Emergencies such as conflict, floods, flu pandemics etc. can happen anywhere. According to the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action children are the most vulnerable in emergen-

### *Objectives of the World Breastfeeding Campaign 2009*

- *Draw attention to the vital role that breastfeeding plays in emergencies world-wide.*
- *Inform mothers, breastfeeding advocates, communities, health professionals, governments, aid agencies, donors, and the media on how they can actively support breastfeeding before and during an emergency.*
- *Mobilise action and nurturing networking and collaboration between those with breastfeeding skills and those involved in emergency response.*

cies - child mortality can soar from 2 to 70 times higher than average due to diarrhea, respiratory illness and malnutrition. Breastfeeding is the lifeline and shield for infants.

The Ministry of Health working through the National Food and Nutrition Commission has provided the necessary leadership for promoting breastfeeding in the country. In a statement read on behalf of the Minister of Health, Dr. Victor Mukonka, Director for Research and Public Health reiterated the Government's commitment to supporting breastfeeding. He stated that The Zambian law on regulating the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes of 2006 is targeted at protecting young children from inappropriate commercial influence on feeding choices. The country launched a campaign against malnutrition in February 2009 with breastfeeding as one of the key interventions.

The WHO Country Representative Dr. Olusegun Babaniyi delivered a statement on behalf of the WHO Director General Dr. Margaret Chan in support of the Breastfeeding Week. He emphasised the need for promoting breastfeeding in line with the WHO and UNICEF guidelines which lay emphasis on initiation of breastfeeding within an hour, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and continuing breastfeeding with complementary feeding two years or beyond including in times of emergency. He emphasised the need for implementing the Baby Friendly Initiatives and training of health workers and the use of appropriate guidelines by WHO and UNICEF on breastfeeding in emergencies.

Deputy Representative UNICEF, Ms Elspeth Erickson, said that malnutrition and disease had a negative impact on the growth and development of children and that breastfeeding offered the best protection especially where access to clean water was not guaranteed. She called for vigilance against the violation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes.

The key message is that breastfeeding is a vital emergency response. During emergencies, mothers need active support to continue or re-establish breastfeeding. Supporting breastfeeding in non-emergency settings will strengthen mothers' capacity to cope in an emergency.

## Joint UN/GRZ Midwifery Programme

A joint midwifery programme aiming at accelerating progress towards enhancing maternal health was launched on 10 August 2009 at MOH grounds, Ndeke House . The parties to the programme: the Ministry of Health (MoH), United Nations (UNFPA and WHO) and the General Nursing Council (GNC) launched the programme under the theme 'Investing in Midwives and Others with Midwifery Skills to accelerate progress towards attainment of MDG5.'

The main goal of this programme is to increase and improve skilled attendance at birth through providing the health sector with technical support to Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Bodies, Ministry of Health Nursing Services Department and Midwifery Associations as well as to support training institutions. The programme's focuses is on training midwives and strengthening midwifery education, developing practice standards and develop national midwifery associations.

The UN is supporting the Ministry of Health in the area of Reproductive Health, towards the attainment of MDG 5, to make sure every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every woman, man and child enjoys a healthy life of equal opportunity because everyone counts.



*Official Launch of joint UNFPA / ICM midwifery programme, 'Investing in Midwives, and Others with Midwifery Skills.'*

## Zambia Appeals for Law Enforcement On Human Trafficking

The Zambian Government launched national Anti-Human Trafficking Act in July 2009, at a ceremony attended by Government, Zambian Police Service, UN agencies, and civil society organizations.

The event was opened by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mrs. Ndiyoi Mutiti, who stressed the importance of combating human trafficking because, "anyone can be trafficked" and it "happens here in Zambia and not only far away in other countries".

The Act, which was formally passed in September 2008, domesticates the 2003 Palermo Protocol, providing for prevention activities, prosecution of traffickers and the establishment of support centres for victims of the crime. The Act also provides for the creation of a Committee on Human Trafficking co-led by the Ministries of

Home Affairs, Labour and Social Security, and Community Development and Social Welfare. The Act details specific penalties for individual offences in the human trafficking chain, including potential life imprisonment for perpetrators of the crime.

Speaking at the launch, Home Affairs Minister Lameck Mangani thanked the United Nations Joint Programme on Human Trafficking (ILO, IOM, and UNICEF) for its continued support to the government's efforts to counter human trafficking, particularly in the areas of capacity building, victim assistance, and communications strategy development.

"Trafficking begins in homes and communities. The first crucial step to addressing this vice is awareness" said IOM Lusaka Chief of Mission, Mr. Josiah Ogina. "Where people, and particularly law enforcement officials, can identify the signs of traffick-

ing, they can readily respond to it. This makes popularising and operationalising the law all the more important in preventing and prosecuting human trafficking and protecting the victims," he added.

The speeches were interspersed by moving drama performances by a Zambian youth drama group, illustrating the harsh realities of human trafficking.

Mr. Mangani closed the event by urging stakeholders to step up their response to "one of the most unprecedented challenges of our time".

"This is our defining moment. We have the skills, the tools, the partnerships, and the mandate. We need to demonstrate the will and resolve to end human trafficking now. It is my sincere honour and privilege to declare the 2008 human trafficking law launched," he concluded.

## Second Annual State of Human Rights Report Released

The Human Rights Commission launched on 23 July 2009 the second Annual State of Human Rights in Zambia 2008 Report. The first report was published in 2007. The reports are intended to highlight the human rights situation in the country in selected thematic areas. In addition, they are meant to be both an educational and advocacy tool on human rights issues in Zambia.

The 2008 report brings out issues around constitutionalism and human rights in the country. The Report focuses on a key area for the protection of human rights which is the legal provision provided by the state. It specifically looks at the rule of law and the role of the judiciary as well as the police in protecting human rights. The report has attempted to examine selected individual rights and the extent of enjoyment of human rights under democratic governance. UNDP has been providing both technical and financial assistance to the Zambian Human Rights Commission in advocating and promoting Human Rights through Annual Human Rights Reports; implementation of Human Rights community radio programmes; HIV response from Human Rights dimension; Human Rights mainstreaming into business management; and the development of the Human Rights communication strategy.

Speaking at the launch of the report, UNDP Country Director Ms Viola Morgan stated that the report provided some worrying insights into instances where legal provisions were

left wanting due to poor allocation of resources or lack of awareness. This situation therefore provides an opportunity for the Government of the Republic of Zambia to gain greater understanding of those challenges which are affecting the successful protection and promotion of human rights for all Zambians. She further stated that the issue of human rights is very important to the UN system and their protection and promotion formed the basis of all the system's work in Zambia. "Without respect for and protection of human rights, it is hard to see how Zambia will achieve its national development goals and the Millennium Development Goals: How can we expect to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health or promote gender equality and empower women, if we do not protect the right to life, the right to education, the right to health, the elimination of discrimination and so on?" Ms. Morgan stated. She further appealed to the Government of the Republic of Zambia to consider hastening the full domestication of the various conventions which the government already ratified.

The launch was attended by representatives from the National Assembly, the Human Rights Commission, Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Zambia, The Inspector General of Police and Senior Government Officials

## GRZ and the UN Strengthen Electoral Process

The Government of the Republic of Zambia with support from the UN has initiated a project to support the Zambian Electoral Cycle. The Project aims at providing support for strengthening the electoral process in Zambia by supporting capacity development of the Electoral Commission of Zambia [ECZ] national institutions and civil society organizations in organizing and managing the electoral process. In particular the project will support three distinctive actors: the Electoral Commission of Zambia; the Department of National Registration [DNRPC] of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Non-State actors.

The Project cycle runs from 2009-2012 and is multi-laterally funded by Canada, the European Commission, Finland and the Netherlands with a total budget of slightly over USD19 Million.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has demonstrated commitment to make certain that this project is a success through various developments. The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship (DNRPC) Office, which are the implementing agencies, have committed K26 million (USD...) towards the entire budget through the Ministry of Finance and National Planning. In order to hasten the approval process, ECZ has undertaken Symposia with Members of Parliament (MPs) stressing the need to ensure that Continuous Voter Registration is funded entirely by the supplementary budget once it is tabled in parliament.

Government ownership in the process of elections is an important stride towards fostering sustainable and holistic electoral systems in Zambia that encompass all stakeholders.

# UN Zambia Newsletter

A publication Of the UN system in Zambia

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## Luanshya Integrated Support on Employment a Promising Initiative

In 2008, the world moved into a financial recession with a ripple effect from the developed world right across to least developed countries including Zambia. In Luanshya, a small town with a population of 115,500 people, thousands of miners lost their jobs due to the closure of mines precipitated by what has now come to be referred to as the global financial and economic crisis. Arguably, Luanshya town experienced three mine closures in the last 15 years, and the immediate and long term effects on its population have manifested over this period. What stands out is that the town's population has slowly relegated to a situation of hopelessness on the employment front save for new developments like the acquisition of the Luanshya mine by a Chinese company and the birth of LISIE in June 2009.

Under this new LISIE initiative 60 current and potential entrepreneurs including youth and women were trained in June 2009 in two ILO training packages called Start Your Business (SYB) and Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET) Ahead for women in business. These 60 participants are being groomed under LISIE to become successful entrepreneurs through a package of support which includes linking them to financing opportunities under the CEEC and other business planning advisory services provided by institutions active in Luanshya district. They are receiving skills in drafting and completing business development plans that should en-

able them access CEEC and other available finance. In addition these new entrepreneurs are expected to access specialized business advisory services through the Zambia Development Agency's, Business Development Services (BDS) Voucher Programme. Under this voucher programme introduced in Luanshya town in July, the entrepreneurs will benefit from information, knowledge and skills, as well as advice on the various aspects of a business. This will be done by redeeming a voucher for services received from a specialized service provider that meets their specific needs. To further support these entrepreneurs a training of Trainers to build the capacity of BDS providers will be conducted in the next 2 months.

Some of these 60 entrepreneurs will soon benefit from a new found relationship with Zambia Breweries. ILO is linking entrepreneurs to Zambian Breweries to retail their products particularly soft drinks using refrigerated cycles. ILO will provide training to the selected entrepreneurs to enhance their ability to transact with Zambian Breweries. Zambian Breweries intends to have 60 refrigerated cycles to distribute their products in the Northern region (Copperbelt, North Western Northern and Luapula Provinces) by the end of 2009.

Prospects of success for these 60 entrepreneurs are bright, but how efficiently and effectively LISIE works out for Luanshya town, depends on the stakeholders including all the implementers

of the intervention as well as its recipients. However what stands out is that the work initiated by the ILO is symbolic of how different actors can engage to maximize efficient and effective use of resources, both human and capital. It still remains that this global crisis has turned into an employment and jobs crisis in both the formal and informal economy which needs to be collectively and effectively dealt with. LISIE stands out as a model and ILO anticipates engaging the new owners of Luanshya mine in expanding LISIE beyond its pilot phase.

LISIE is a quick impact pilot intervention by the ILO in response to the impact of the global crisis on the small mining town. Intended to mitigate the effect of the crisis on vulnerable groups and retrenched workers, ILO is working with non-governmental organizations, government and quasi government institutions including the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), Citizen's Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) Mine Workers Union of Zambia (MUZ), Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE), Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), Copperbelt Integrated Health Education Programme, (CHOIEP) Zambia Federation of Associations of Women in Business, (ZFAWIB), Luanshya Technical and Vocational Teachers College (TVTC) and Roan Youth Development. Together they are helping the town's productive population identify business opportunities and capitalize on existing opportunities in order to create employment.

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## Pictorial presentation of the 1st World Humanitarian Day Commemoration , 19 Aug 2009, Zambia

...*"the day is meant to shine a spotlight on people in need to ensure they receive the assistance they deserve," UNSG, Ban Ki-moon.*



*"on this solemn occasion let the demise of those heroes, who in pursuit of humanitarian work have lost their lives, be an inspiration to us to work even harder to improve the welfare of humanity," Permanent Secretary of the Office of Vice President, Davis Sampa.*



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