



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

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**Zambia's Progress Report on the Implementation of the  
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the  
Outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly  
(2000)**

**In the context of the  
Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women  
And the adoption of the  
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action  
2015**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DESIGNATION
1. AU	African Union
2. CEEC	Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission
3. CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
4. COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
5. CSO	Central Statistical Office
6. ECE	Early Childhood Education
7. FISP	Fertiliser Input Support Programme
8. GBV	Gender Based Violence
9. GBV – HIV SAG	Gender Based Violence – Human Immune Virus Sector Advisory Group
10. GPI	Gender Parity Index
11. HIV and AIDS	Human Immune Virus And Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
12. ILO	International Labour Organisation
13. ITN	
14. LCMS	Living Condition Monitoring Survey
15. MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
16. MGCD	Ministry of Gender and Child Development
17. MCDMCH	Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health
18. NER	Net Enrolment Ration
19. NGOCC	Non Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council
20. NHP	National Health Policy
21. PAGE	Programme for the Advancement of Girls' Education
22. PLWHA	
23. PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
24. PPCR	Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience
25. PWAS	Public Welfare Assistance Scheme
26. REED	Reduced Emissions form Deforestation and Forest Degradation
27. SADC	Southern African Development Community
28. SAGs	Sector Advisory Group
29. SCTS	Social Cash Transfer Scheme
30. SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
31. SNDP	Sixth National Development Plan
32. STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
33. TB	Tuberculosis
34. TEVET	Technical Education, Vocational and

- 35. TIP Entrepreneurship Training
- 36. UN Trade and Industry Policy
- 37. UNECA United Nations  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- 38. UNICEF United Nations Children Fund
- 39. VSU Victim Support Unit
- 40. WHO World Health Organisation
- 41. ZDA Zambia Development Agency

## **FOREWARD**

It gives me great pleasure to highlight Zambia's progress and challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty – third special session of the General Assembly (2000). The report covers the period between 2009 and 2014. It is structured in accordance with the guidance note from UN Women.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has indeed made considerable achievements yet still acknowledges the some challenges it has faced in implementing the Declaration, particularly in the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty third special session of the general assembly.

The Government of Zambia, as a state party to the CEDAW, places extreme importance on the promotion and protection of women's human rights. Accordingly, this report incorporates the country's efforts in realising the provisions of the CEDAW. Further, the report considers Zambia's efforts at to the following instruments:

Africa Union Charter and its Protocol on Human and People's rights on the Rights of women (2003) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

I am proud to state that the establishment of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development in 2012 illustrates Government's resolve to ensure Gender Equity and Equality. The Ministry is the mandated institution for promoting gender equality in Zambia and encourages the private sector to mainstream gender in order to achieve gender balance.

I would like to especially acknowledge, the different Ministries, cooperating partners and stakeholders who took part in the preparation of this report, without them, this publication would not have been possible.

**Hon. Inonge Wina (MP)**  
**MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

## **SECTION ONE**

### **OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES SINCE 1995**

- a) What are the country's three to five major achievements in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?

#### **Achievements**

- Creation of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development in 2012 to oversee gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women both in public and private sectors;
- Formulation and adoption of the National Gender Policy in 2000 and its Implementation Plan in 2004;
- Enactment of the Citizens Economic Empowerment Act that created the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission;
- Enactment of the Anti Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 and the Penal Code (Amendment Act No. 15 of 2005) to criminalize GBV and to stiffen penalties for sexual offences;
- Mapping of legislation on the CEDAW;
- The creation of economic empowerment funds for women by Government; and
- Ratification of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Development in 2012

## **Challenges**

- Lack of a legal framework to deal with gender inequalities;
- Inadequate financial resources to implement gender and women empowerment programmes; and
- Resistance to address gender inequalities at household, and community and institution levels.

## **Why are these considered to be the major achievements? Please provide evidence that supports this assessment:**

- The establishment of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development streamlined the gender and development portfolios, policies and programmes in relation to coordination of gender mainstreaming (Government Gazette Notice 183 of 2012);
- The adoption of the National Gender Policy of 2000 and Implementation Plan created clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities of the public, private sectors and Civil Society Organizations in gender mainstreaming;
- The creation of the Citizen's Economic Empowerment Fund, enhanced financial inclusion for women in that 30 percent of all loans were reserved for women;
- The Women Economic Empowerment Funds, created by government, which are disbursed in form of grants, have provided an opportunity to support vulnerable women and create Micro Small and Medium Enterprises; and
- Ratification of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development demonstrates government's commitment to accelerating the attainment of gender equity and equality.

**What has contributed to this success? Describe measures taken in terms of policies and mechanisms to maintain or build on this success.**

- Strong political will from Government which has prioritized gender equality and women empowerment;
- Ratification of SADC Protocol on Gender and Child Development in September 2012;
- Good will from Cooperating Partners and Awareness raising by the Civil Society Organizations(CSO); and
- The Enactment of the Anti Gender Based Violence Act 1 of 2011 has raised awareness and resulted in increased reporting of cases to the law enforcement agencies.
- Establishment of the Citizen's Economic Empowerment Fund and other special funds for women under in the Ministries of Community Development, Mother and Child Health and Gender and Child Development enhanced women's access to economic resources without the constraints usually associated with credit made available by banks.

**b) What are the country's three to five major challenges in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?**

**Challenges**

- Strongly entrenched cultural values;
- High Poverty Levels;
- Low levels of education among Women; and
- Low number of women in decision making positions.



### **Why are these considered to be the major challenges?**

These are issues that have persisted in Zambian societies and have contributed greatly to perpetuating gender inequalities.

- **Deeply Entrenched Cultural Values**

Gender inequalities are rooted in culture. Zambian cultures are based on patriarchal values across tribes and are highly conservative and hierarchical and confer head ship to man. This has negative impact on gender equality.

- **High Poverty Levels**

According to the *Living Conditions Monitoring Survey* of 2010, overall poverty is higher among female populations at 79.8 percent. In addition, the incidence of extreme poverty was more pronounced in Female Headed Households (44.4percent) than male headed Households (41.9percent). This has negative impact on assertiveness and self-esteem among of women.

- **Low participation of women in decision making positions;**

Most of the women are in jobs of lower status than men which reduces their self-esteem;

- **Low levels of education among Women:**

Access to tertiary education in Zambia still remains a challenge due to limited places available in universities. In 2011, the combined total enrolment of the public owned Universities, of the 28,448 students enrolled 17,332 were males and 11,116 were females. This implies that there is a challenge of retaining girls in higher grades and this is attributed to social economic issues which include such as high poverty levels and early marriages; and

- **Deeply Entrenched Cultural Values**

Most ethnic groups in Zambia are patriarchal Gender are rooted in culture. Zambian cultures are based patriarchal values across tribes and are highly conservative and hierarchical and therefore confer head ship to man. This has negative impact on gender equality.

**Describe the strategy (ies) that is (are) in place to address the challenges?**

- Improved and mainstreamed its engagement with Traditional Leaders on issues of gender equalities through the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs which was recently created (2011);
- Continued implementation of pro-poor policies specifically addressing ‘women’s poverty’;
- Continued support to girl child’s education through the implementation of equity and affirmative action policies in the education sector e.g. gender parity at enrolment; and
- Strengthened collaboration with the Cooperating Partners to fund and implement programmes such as the Programme for Promotion and Protection of Women and Children’s Rights.

**c) What setbacks/reversals in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women have been experienced since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Twenty-third (23<sup>rd</sup>) Special Session of the General Assembly (if different from those already identified in b)?(as provided in {b} above)**

None

**What mitigation measures or other actions, if any, have been implemented to counter the setbacks? (As responded in [b] above).**

None

**d) What have been the main constitutional, legislative and/or legal developments in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?**

- The Penal Code amendment Act No. 15 of 2005 which stiffens the penalty for sexual offences;
- Citizens Economic Empowerment Act No. 9 of 2006;
- Enactment of the Anti Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008; and

- Enactment of the Anti Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011.

**What laws and/or regulations remain in place (or have been introduced) that could have adverse effects on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the country?**

- Article 23 (4) (c) and (d) of the Constitution of Zambia which allows a law, in certain instances to have discriminatory provisions against women;
- The Bill of Rights in the constitution does not guarantee the rights on family such as equal rights of men and women in a marriage; maternity and paternity rights of women and men; equal rights of men and women in the upbringing and development of children;
- Article 44 (2) of the Constitution, appointments are at the discretion of the Republican President who is not obliged to consider whether one is female or male; and
- The Provision to Section 33 of the Marriage Act makes the marriage of persons below the age of 16 permissible in certain circumstances i.e. allows the Judge to give consent to two underage persons (Marriage of two consenting underage) contrary to Article 16.2 of the CEDAW which does not condone the marriage of a child.

**e) What is the approximate share of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?**

Information was not available at the time of report preparation.

**Describe efforts to increase and track national planning and budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women, in preparation of development plans and budgets at national, regional/provincial and local levels.**

- The inclusion of a clause in the Budget Call Circular requiring all line ministries to incorporate a gender dimension in the annual budget preparation process;

- Formulated the National Planning and Budgeting Policy which is intended to strengthen accountability, oversight and participation mechanisms in national planning and budgeting so as to enhance responsiveness, openness and results orientation of these processes.

**f) What mechanisms are in place for regular dialogue between Government and civil society?**

The Government through the Ministry of Finance establishment the Sector Advisory Groups(SAGs), Provincial and District Development Coordinating Committees to provide a forum where Government, Civil Society and Cooperating Partners discuss issues and exchange information relating to a particular sector including the gender and development. The SAGs meet at least once in three months during which outcomes of monitoring and evaluation of government programmes are discussed including those results obtained through independent evaluations by non- state actors.

**Do Non-Governmental Organizations, including Civil Society Organizations, Women’s Organizations, and Academia, Faith-Based Organizations, the private sector and other actors participate formally in the mechanisms established to monitor and implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?**

YES, during the Gender Sector Advisory Group (SAG)and GBV-HIV SAG Quarterly meetings.

**If no, what are the main obstacles preventing the establishment of such mechanisms?** Not Applicable

**g) What main in-country, bilateral, sub-regional and/or regional cooperation is the country engaged in to support sharing of knowledge and experiences in the monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?**

- Bilateral- Joint Permanent Commissions of Cooperation;

- Sub regional- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union (AU);
- Regional-Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for East and Central Africa (COMESA).

**What results have been achieved through such efforts and what lessons have been learnt?**

- Exchange of knowledge, skills, information and best practices in the area of gender mainstreaming, capacity building of institutions,

**What is the perceived value of the cooperation?**

There has been continued collaboration in implementing and sharing the knowledge base for realising the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action through strengthened regional and sub regional mechanisms.

**In what ways could cooperation be improved to strengthen sharing of knowledge and experiences in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?**

(As stated above).

**h) How, and to what extent, have the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) overall, and in particular the gender-related MDGs, facilitated or strengthened the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?**

Zambia recognizes the importance, of attaining the Millennium Development Goals to the lives of its citizenry particularly women and remains committed to this effect. Notable progress has been made in access to education, child nutrition and in the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS although more remains to be done. This has contributed to the improvement of women's health as seen in the reduction in Maternal Mortality Rate, access to education by the young women and the girl child.

However, it is still experiencing challenges in achieving parity at post primary education where women account for only 45%. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger has been a major challenged which has remained high at 42.3 percent (LCMS Report 2010).

Little progress has been recorded in **gender equality and empowerment of women (MDG 3)** as women continue to lag behind men in all sectors of national development. This has contributed to slowed implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **Progress in the implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action since 2009**

a) What is the status of progress in **each of the twelve critical areas** of concern and their strategic objectives, and relevant sections of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly? Please provide concrete supporting evidence, including statistical data and other relevant sources.

### **POVERTY**

According to the Living Conditions and Monitoring Survey (LCMS) 2006 and 2010, higher levels of poverty (50 percent) were found in female headed households compared to male headed households whose figure stood at 41percent. Statistics show that 80 percent of the people living in poverty are women and children. The high levels of poverty in the rural areas simply imply by default that more women in rural areas are living in extreme poverty. Poverty has a negative impact in the realization of all rights for women. It affects aspects of health, nutrition, education, protection and participation.

### **Measures**

The State Party has put in place the following measures:

#### **Public Welfare Assistance and Social Cash Transfer Schemes**

The Government of Zambia has been implementing the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS) programme in all the districts while the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scheme covers 11 district of the country. In 2012 the PWAS programme assisted 86,114 incapacitated households to meet their basic needs. Of this total 46 percent were male while 54 were female. This was in recognition of the fact women headed households are more prone to extreme poverty. Similarly, the SCT covered more female beneficiaries at 82 percent of the total compared to 18 males in the same period.

## **Promoting Rural Financing**

In order to promote inclusive growth and social justice, Government has been promoting rural financing mechanism through the opening up of banking facilities in rural areas and provision of loans to public officials in far flung areas. This coupled with security of tenure of land for people in rural areas aims to stimulate the rural economy and subsequently lead to poverty reduction. It is understood that security of tenure for rural areas coupled with access to affordable financial services will help stimulate the rural economy which is critical in promoting our inclusive and participatory National Development Agenda.

## **Establishment of Economic Empowerment Fund**

Economic empowerment funds for women have been established under the Ministry of Gender and Child Development (MGCD) and the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH). The empowerment funds aim to facilitate provision of energy saving technology, training for women entrepreneurs, and start- up capital. Government has so far provided food processing equipment, treadle pumps and irrigation systems; solar dryers and trained women entrepreneurs country wide as part of empowerment Programme for women.

## **Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC)**

- Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) was established through an Act of Parliament no 11 of 200;
- Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) was established through the enactment of the Citizens Economic Empowerment Act no 9 of 2006. The Commission in its 2013 fund endeavored to allocate at least 30% of the fund to the women and 40% of the total fund to the youth. In 2013, more women applied for micro finance projects compared to the other categories with 499 (39%) of micro finance applicants being women; and



- Out of a total of 1420 approved projects for financing 388 projects for youth, 528 for women and 505 for other categories (of men and disabled)

## **Challenges**

Although the supportive environment towards the attainment of poverty targets has been continually improving, Zambia still has high levels of poverty. Some of the challenges over the years have been the following;

- The pattern of economic growth: In Zambia, economic growth has historically been concentrated in capital-intensive industries such as construction, mining, and transport. Since these sectors predominantly employ the male gender due to the nature of the work, few females have been able to obtain employment in these industries. Agriculture, where the vast majority of the very poor derive their livelihoods has had dismal performance over the years until recently;
- The geographical nature of growth: The geographical component of growth has tended to favour urban areas, whereas the poorest tend to live in remote areas that are barely connected to markets and the cash economy;
- The structural nature of growth: Economic growth in the country has not been labour-intensive, particularly in those sectors in which the poor tend to work such as subsistence agriculture and in the informal sector. In addition, the inefficient management of available resources in the agriculture sector has hindered rural economic infrastructure development and other programmes intended to integrate the smallholder farms into mainstream agricultural and general economic development; and
- Discrimination: In terms of women participation in the labour force, employed women often suffer from discriminatory conditions of service,

including pay inequity. According to ILO (2012), women continue to have difficulty accessing employment opportunities due to low educational standards and barriers in pursuing higher education. Those that work are still earning less compared to their male counterparts.

## **WOMEN AND THE MEDIA**

The government has continued to recognise the need to redress the gender imbalances that have arisen as a result of limited or no access to media and stereotyped portrayal of women's and men's images.

The situation with regards to women in the media has not changed in the last four years. There are more men than women in the media. Women occupy 27 per cent of those on boards, 11 per cent of top management and 33 per cent of senior management.

Majority of sources of information and stories are men. Women make up only 26 percent of sources of information. There are also more women presenters than reporters representing 45 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. This may justify the perception that women are used more for their physical attributes than what they are qualified for.

### **Measures**

- Government has initiated Media capacity building programmes for journalists;
- Media training institutions have mainstreamed gender in their curricula;
- Establishment of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) whose mandate is to regulate the media; and
- Deliberate policy aimed at appointing at least 30 per cent of women on media boards.

## **Challenges**

There are no specific targets in place for achieving gender parity in media houses:

- Career path for women is not a priority in the media;
- Media stereotyping and inadequate access for women to communications systems;
- High staff turn-over of media staff who are trained and understand how to mainstream gender in their work; and
- Inadequate funding for training programmes.

## **WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

### ***Status***

A land use assessment on deforestation in Zambia revealed that the annual rate of deforestation ranged from 250, 000 to 300, 000 hectares and that out of the total national biomass estimated at 5.6 billion tons, approximately 2.8 billion tons of carbon was stored in the forests. Initiatives to mitigate the effect of land degradation have been introduced. Tree planting is being undertaken all over the country by the various local government structures, aiming to combat and reverse the effects of deforestation. In partnership with Ministry of Education 600,000 trees were planted in 300 schools. Currently Zambia is experiencing climate induced hazards such as droughts, flood, shortened rain seasons and temperature increases. With these climate change related effects on farming and other local livelihoods, it is anticipated that women involvement in economic development will be limited due to pressing demands from issues such as fetching water from long distances in time of drought

## **Measures**

- Zambia through the reviewed National Forestry Policy is promoting Participatory Forest Management of men and women in which local communities and various stakeholders and private sector are considered active participants in the change process;
- Zambia is implementing programmes to which seek to reduce the labour burden, create a healthier environment for both men and women by introducing the improved stove which apart from reducing carbon emissions, uses less wood and produces less smoke and ash. The main target is to install 24 000 stoves on pilot basis implemented by the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) programme;
- Zambia is promoting use of clean energy such as electricity, solar and geothermal forms of energy in rural areas to reduce demand for wood energy through Private and Public Partnerships;
- Zambia commenced implementation of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), meant to strengthen Climate Resilience in the Kafue and the Barotse Basin The programme is centered on three core component:-
  - i. Participatory Adaptation.
  - ii. Climate Resilient Infrastructure
  - iii. Strategic Programme Support; and

One of the core objectives of this programme is to assist communities in highly vulnerable areas such as women, youths and the aged to identify their own climate change adaption options.

## **Challenges**

- Women and men working in the mining sector have been exposed to illnesses, such as Tuberculosis (TB). This has an impact on women as they are often left with the burden of caring for the sick miners;
- Inadequate sex disaggregated data in environmental issues;
- While the Zambian Government has put in place various policy documents aimed at creating public awareness on the effects of climate change on women, the media in Zambia has not prioritized issues of environment and climate change;

- Inadequate resources to deal with the effects of environmental degradation and climate change;
- Low investments and poor management of natural resources including inadequate human capacity and weak enforcement of the legal framework;
- Unconventional fishing methods resulting in the depletion of fish stocks from the rivers thereby threatening the ecosystem; and
- High dependence on wood as a source of energy and indiscriminate clearing of forest as for livelihood.

## **WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING**

In line with the international and regional commitments related to gender and development, the vision of Government is to achieve full participation of both men and women in the developmental and decision making processes at all levels in order to ensure sustainable development and the attainment of gender equity and equality.

### **Status**

There have been minimal changes in the representation of women in Cabinet, Parliament and Local Government. Currently, the rate of participation between women and men is as follows:

There are only four (4) female Cabinet Ministers out of a total of twenty (20) representing a 20 per cent. At Deputy Ministerial level, there are only six (6) Female Deputy Ministers out of a total of Thirty Eight (38) representing a 16 per cent. An analysis of the composition of decision makers in the Civil Service shows that men dominate decision making positions. Women's representation stands at 43 per cent.

At Permanent Secretary level, females represent 17 per cent. At Director level, women account for 23 per cent while at Deputy Director level and equivalent

female representation stands at 44 per cent. Female representation at Assistant Director Level is 21 per cent.

Out of 158 Members of Parliament only seventeen (17) are female. The Gender Status Report of 2010 indicates that only 14 per cent of the Parliamentarians were women. This dropped further in 2011 to 12 per cent and the current status in 2013 is at 11 per cent.

In the Judiciary, the top two officials are females. In this sector Zambia has performed fairly well in terms of equitable gender representation in decision making, as there are many female Magistrates.

The Zambian political system in its current form gives political parties leverage to determine the participation of women in politics. Despite the multi-party democratic system and proliferation of political parties, women have continued to be marginalised in political party structures mainly due to the patriarchal system in most societies.

Zambia has 287 gazetted traditional leaders, out of these, only 19 per cent are female. At local government level only 83 women were elected out of the 1,422 councilors that emerged as winners. This represents 5.9 percent of women representation and is a setback as the percentage of women in 2006 local government was 6.7 per cent.

### **Measures**

There has been a realisation that women's representation in decision making is cardinal for socio-economic development. Zambia is implementing measures to ensure increased female representation. These include:

- Ratification of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in September 2012;

- Provision of training and campaign materials for Local Government, Parliamentary and Presidential female candidates;
- Development of a Public Service Training Policy which addresses gender imbalances in terms of career progression; and
- Provision of training to women and
- Conducting advocacy campaigns on the importance of increasing the number of women in decision making positions in the public and private institutions.

### **Challenges**

The statistics above show that in spite of the massive awareness raising aimed at increasing women's representation in decision making, women are still under represented and continue facing a plethora of challenges that restrict them from participating in the electoral process, including the following:

- Non domestication of the SADC Gender Protocol and the CEDAW;
- Insufficient mechanisms to promote the advancement of women at all levels of decision making;
- The Constitution has no specific provision on the quotas or affirmative action measures to advance equitable representation of women and men in decision making positions;
- Party manifestos are ignored by all parties because women candidates are routinely vetoed at party level;
- The First-Past-The-Post electoral systems that has built-in-obstacles that disadvantage women;
- Women have limited opportunities to participate in the developmental process of the country as equal partners with men due to discriminatory which tend to favour the rights of men more than those of women;
- Stereotypical views where traditionally, men are perceived to be natural born leaders;
- Inadequate financial resources and training;

- Women candidates do not receive adequate coverage by the media; and
- Participation in politics is often incompatible with family, reproductive and household responsibilities that still fall mainly on shoulders of women.

## **WOMEN AND ECONOMY**

### **Status:**

Over the past decade, Zambia registered positive economic growth of over 5 percent mainly attributed to the implementation of sound economic policies and growth in the country's productive sectors. Zambia is one of the countries with a high Gini-coefficient of over 50 percent, mainly due to the huge gap between the urban and rural areas and the concentration of economic activities along the line of rail. Rural areas remain undeveloped and mainly dependent on subsistence agriculture, where majority of the farmers are women.

### ***Employment***

With regards to employment, women have higher unemployment rates than their male counterparts and are more likely to participate as unpaid family workers, particularly in rural areas.

#### *Formal versus Informal Employment*

There has been an increase in the number of employed persons from 4,131,531 in 2005 to 4,606,846 in 2008 and further increased to 5,499,673 in 2012. There has been marginal growth of the Formal sector. Formal employment accounted for 12 percent in 2005 and 15.4 percent in 2012. There were more females employed in the informal sector. Of the 2,702,410 employed males in 2012, 22.3 percent were in formal employment while of the 2,797,263 employed females, 8.7 percent were informal employment. The Labour Force Survey results indicate that labour force participation rate has increased from 74.5 percent in 2008 to 75.9 in 2012. The participation rate for females



increased from 70.3 percent to 76.3 percent while that of males reduced from 78.8 percent to 75.5 percent for the same period.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry has the highest percentage of employed persons at 52.2 percent. There are higher proportions of females in the agriculture industry with 53.4 percent than males at 51.0 percent.

### **Access to Productive Resources**

Available statistics indicate that only 60% of women are knowledgeable about procedures for land acquisition. Ninety four percent (94 percent) of land in Zambia is customary and 6 percent is statutory. Only 20% of statutory land is owned by women. Further, access to inputs under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) is dominated by men. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 Agriculture Season, Male Headed Household beneficiaries accounted for 84.6 and 83.7 percent respectively. In 2010/11 Agriculture Season, 83.7 percent of the FISP beneficiaries were Male Headed Households while 16.3 percent were Female Headed Households.

### **Social Protection**

The total number of beneficiaries from the Social Cash Transfer Scheme (SCTS) has increased from 48,981 in 2012 to 61,000 in 2013 in more females than males are recipients.

### **Measures**

- Citizen Empowerment Act No. 9 of 2006 prohibits discrimination based on sex in access to and control of economic resources and employment;
- The Trade and Industry Policy (TIP) is being reviewed and recognises that women are marginalized in the workplace and enterprises. It therefore encourages;
  - i. skills development and entrepreneurship in women

- ii. the teaching vocational technological and applied skills in tertiary institutions;
- iii. promotes education and training in gender equality issues ;
- Issuance of a ministerial an administrative Circular number ML/101/1 of 2009 instructing all councils to reserve 30 percent of all land being allocated for women;
- Political will, through a Presidential directive ,to promote women’s access to land;
- Intestate Succession Act Chapter 59 and Wills and Administration of Testate Estates Act Chapter 60 of the Laws of Zambia which outlaws reposing land and other properties from a person whose spouse is deceased;
- Establishment of the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs and the House of Chiefs to strengthen the link between traditional leaders and the Government;
- The proposal to legislate the 30 percent quota land allocation to women through the revision of the Lands Act Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia.
- Piloted Gender Responsive Budgeting in 2011 with support of UN Women focusing on Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Farmer Input Support Programme and Women’s Reproductive Rights in Ministry of Health and implemented by Zambia Association of Research and Development;
- Government is strengthening and developing the policy and legal frame work in order to provide for increased access to and security of tenure of customary land; and
- A number of Commercial Banks have introduced special products meant to take care of the financial needs of women.

### **Challenges**

- Delay in finalizing the National Land Policy;
- Extreme poverty and hunger at household level especially in rural communities;
- The strong belief in communities that the head of the house hold should be a man and he should access credit;

- High illiteracy levels among women including financial;
- Low levels of education especially among females;
- Strongly entrenched cultural beliefs and customs which do not support women to be in gainful employment;
- Most women are not aware of the land acquisition procedures;
- Negative cultural practices deny women ownership of land;
- Unreliable land information management systems;
- Lack of a decentralized land registration system, corruption and inadequate collaboration among different stakeholders; and
- Lack of a social protection policy for those in informal sector.
- Delayed finalisation of the National Land Policy.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN**

### **Status**

#### **Net Enrolment Ratio at Primary School**

According to the Ministry of Education 2003 to 2012 Educational Statistical Bulletins, Zambia has witnessed an increase in net enrolment ratio (NER) at primary school from 81.3% in 2003 to 109.91% in 2012. The NER for males in 2003 was 81.3% while that for females was 82.4%. The NER for males in 2012 was 108.15% while that for females was 111.70% registering an increase of 26.85% for males and 29.3% for females respectively. Zambia is on course in achieving the 100% NER target for achieving universal primary education by 2015 as can be seen from the table below.

#### **Completion Rates at Primary**

Zambia has achieved a completion rate of 107.58% for males and 107.65% for females and 107.61% for both males and females at Grades 1- 7 in 2012. The completion rate for males has increased from 72.87% in 2003 to 107.58% in 2012, while that for females has increased from 861.10% in 2003 to 107.61% in

2012, registering a 46.55% increase for females. The gender gap has been closing up over the years meaning that Zambia is on course in achieving universal primary education by 2015. This can be attributed to various measures which government has put in place to promote gender equity.

### **Gender Parity Index at Primary**

The Gender parity Index at primary (grades 1-7) has steadily increased from 93% in 2003 to 99.9% in 2012 with a significant increase to 100.45 in 2010. The gender gap seems to be closing up at primary level at 99.91% in 2012, meaning that females are almost being equitably enrolled in primary schools with 0.09 % gender gap in favour of males.

### **Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary Education**

The Gender parity Index (GPI) at Secondary (Grades 10-12) seems to widen in favour of males as pupils progress to higher Grades. The GPI at Grade 10-12 reduced from 82.7% in 2007 to 80.56% in 2012 registering a 2.14% decrease.

### **Ratio of Girls to Boys in Tertiary Education**

#### ***University Education***

Data from the two public Universities show that females lag behind males in terms of accessing University Education. This trend has continued over the years from 2003 to date in the two public Universities meaning that Zambia is still very far in achieving equal number of male and female enrolled in the Universities. However University enrollment has been increasing over the years with males dominating as can be seen from the two graphs below showing Students enrolment at the two public Universities. It must be noted that more Universities have been opened up in the country both public and private providing more opportunities for Zambians to access University Education. This is attributed to the good Government policies that provide an enabling environment for establishing Universities and promoting public private partnership in Education provision.

## **Technical Education, Vocation and Entrepreneurship Training**

General female participation in TEVET has improved from 41% in 2001 to 45% in 2012<sup>1</sup>. The gender parity index has increased from 70% in 2011 to 81% in 2012. The student enrolment trends are illustrated in the table of the student enrolments below.

### **Measures**

#### **Gender Parity at Primary and Secondary Level Education**

- Introduction of Free Primary Education to enable vulnerable children to attend from grades 1 to 7;
- Introduction of re-entry policy to encourage girls who get pregnant to go back to school after giving birth;
- Introduction of the Programme for the Advancement of Girls Education (PAGE);
- Introduction of Bursary Scheme for Girls/ or Orphans and Vulnerable Children;
- Construction of more schools/classroom space to accommodate more pupils and reduce walking distance to school;
- Recruitment of more teachers especially females who act as role models especially in rural areas;
- Procurement and distribution of teaching/ learning materials which contribute to quality of education as both teachers and pupils had reference materials;
- Introduction of school feeding programme in schools located in vulnerable communities to address nutritional status of children;
- Introduction of safe houses for girls and weekly boarding which enabled children from distant places attend school;
- Establishment of core-education schools to promote gender equity;

- Campaigns/Sensitization of communities/traditional leaders on the importance of the girl child attending school;
- Establishment of Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers in primary schools;
- Establishment of community schools and provision of teachers, learning and teaching materials to these schools; and
- Converting of community schools into Government Primary schools.

### **Gender Parity in Tertiary and TEVETA**

Government has put in place interventions to improve female participation and achieve gender equality and empowerment among which include the following:

- **Bursary Scheme and Admission Quotas**

The Zambian Government introduced a bursary scheme to support TEVET learners from low income families and other marginalized. The scheme has the incentive of 30% quota reserved for female admission. The Scheme has accorded students from low income families and other marginalized groups an opportunity to acquire TEVET skills. A total of 1,712 female students have benefited from the scheme from 2007;

- **Student Loans**

Zambia has introduced student loans for all students in public tertiary institutions. This has changed the course of the education system in Zambia. This was introduced with the aim of reducing vulnerability. A total of 1,352 females and 1,971 male benefited from the student loan facility in 2012. In 2013, 1, 658 females and 2,352 males benefited from the student loan facility<sup>2</sup>. All the students that have so far benefited were admitted in the Country's highest public institutions of learning;

- **Reduced Tuition Fees for Female Students**

The Government has introduced fee quotas where the female students are enrolled at a reduced fee structure. This has contributed to the increasing female student enrolments in TEVET;

- **Two Tier System**

The government has re-introduced skills training in formal education from grade 8 with two equally weighted streams of skills and academic, to form a two tier education system. This policy shift will not only focus on the impartation of academic qualifications, but also on TEVET qualifications starting from grade eight; and

The initiative is aimed at equipping marginalized groups with skills to enable them access either formal or informal productive employment upon completion of secondary school, in the event that they are not absorbed into higher education. This is aimed at empowering the youth and other marginalized groups to enable them contribute to national development through increased productivity and economic participation.

### **Challenges**

- Inadequate classroom space which led to increase in classroom number from 37 to 57 pupils per class;
- Limited resources to meet the demand of policy implementation;
- Inadequate teaching/ Learning materials;
- Long walking distances to schools in rural areas;
- Quality compromised by increased school expansion against low teacher recruitment resulting into high pupil teacher ratio of between 55.2 to 70 pupils per teacher;
- High rate of pregnancies compared to the number of girls returning after giving birth;

- The demand for TEVET still remains high but the quality of the teaching and learning environments are poor and therefore discourage participation in TEVET training especially for females;
- The financial support provided for training has not been adequate for the high demand of students wishing to enroll in TEVET;
- The lack of a targeted approach in promoting female participation in selected courses has contributed to the slow increase in female participation in these courses.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

### **Status**

Both women and men can be victims of gender-based violence. However in most incidents men are the perpetrators and women the victims. Violence against women, arising from their subordinate status, jeopardizes women's lives, bodies, psychological integrity and freedom. Women's subordinate status arises mainly from traditional attitudes, lower economic means, and lower education. The violence occurs in different spaces: in homes, perpetrated mainly by male relatives, in the general community through pernicious traditional practices, and also by the state through legal systems that disadvantage women. The Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, which came into effect in 2011, recognises 'any physical, mental, social and economic abuse against a person because of that person's gender' and lists fifteen categories of abuse, ranging from physical and sexual abuse to intimidation, harassment and stalking. There was a rising trend of reported cases, expected to reach 12,000 from 8000 in 2010.

### **Legal Measures**

- Enactment of the Anti Gender Based Violence No.1 of 2011;
- The Republican Constitution, Chapter One of the Laws of Zambia;
- The Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia;



- The Penal Code (Amendment) No. 15 of 2005;
- The Criminal Procedure Code Chapter 88 of the Laws of Zambia;
- The Education Act No. of 2011;
- Anti Human trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008;
- The Marriage Act Chapter 50; and
- Matrimonial Causes Act No. 20 of 2007.

### **Administrative measures**

- Formulated and launched the National Gender policy in 2000. The policy is currently under review to take into account emerging issues;
- National Guidelines for the Multi disciplinary Management of Survivors of Gender Based Violence in 2010;
- Strategy for the Establishing of Partnerships for the Economic Empowerment of Women in Zambia;
- Sensitisation of traditional and religious leaders, media on gender responsive reporting;
- Radio talk shows to sensitise the public;
- Sensitization of the Police officers, psychosocial counselors, health providers, and Judicial officers on dealing with GBV;
- Provision of Resources to Combat Violence Against all Women;
- Establishment of the shelters for Survivors of GBV;
- Training of women GBV survivors in basic entrepreneurship skills;
- Establishment of One Stop Centres for survivors of GBV;
- Sensitisation of Judicial and police officers on the management of the Anti GBV Act;
- Ratified the SADC Protocol on Gender and Child Development in 2012; and
- Government commissioned research by the Technical Committee on the Strengthening of Laws : Enforcement Mechanisms and Support Systems Relating To Gender based Violence, Particularly Against Women and Children of July 2000.

## **Challenges**

- Inadequate human resources, budgetary allocation, office equipment, transport among other things by various service providers; and
- The law enforcement agencies still does not collect sex disaggregated data.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN**

### **Status**

Zambia has a dual legal system; which allows application of both customary and statutory laws in civil and personal cases. The Constitution of Zambia guarantees that every person in the country shall enjoy certain rights and freedoms, irrespective of sex, race, creed, colour, religious belief or political opinion. However, Article 23(4) (c) and (d) of the Constitution allows customary law to run side by side with statutory law in matters that deal with personal status, marriage, divorce and inheritance rights. This means that such cases can be decided according to state law or according to the customary law that applies to the litigants. Additionally, Article 23 of the amended 1996 Constitution purports to protect citizens from discrimination on grounds of sex and marital status but includes a clause, which exempts all forms of discrimination arising from customary law, family and personal law.

It is important to note that customary law varies between one ethnic group and another, but one common factor is that it legalizes discrimination against women. Since several injustices are committed against women in the name of culture, and there is a general lack of legal literacy coupled with inbuilt weaknesses in the institutional and legal framework. Although women enjoy human rights, it is evident in Zambia that matters of Customary law are often trivialised, as the Local Courts that administer customary law, treat women as minors or appendages of their husbands or male relatives.

## **Measures**

- The Amended 1996 Constitution is currently under review, and Article 23 has been repealed in the Draft Constitution;
- The National Gender Policy is currently under review;
- The Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) 2011-2015 outlines interventions on policy and legislative reform; socio-economic empowerment of women and children. The SNDP also has a section under the macro policies chapter to provide policy direction on gender mainstreaming in all sector chapters of the Plan;
- Government plans to domesticate protocols to which it has ratified;
- The Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2008 was passed criminalising trafficking of humans, especially women and children;
- The Industrial and Labour Relations Act; Sub-section (1) of Section 108 of the Industrial and Labour Relations Act, Chapter 269 of the Laws of Zambia prohibits any form of discrimination in employment on the grounds of sex, race, marital status, religion, political affiliation or tribal extraction;
- The Penal Code criminalises prostitution as follows: Section 140: Any person who procures or attempts to procure any child or another person to have carnal knowledge or other person for prostitution is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than 20 years and may be liable to imprisonment for life.
- The Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011 criminalises all forms of GBV. The Act provides for the protection of victims of gender-based violence; constitute the Anti-Gender Based Violence Committee; establish the Anti GBV fund and provide for matters connected with GBV crimes. Crimes such as emotional, verbal and sexual abuse; and
- It is worth noting that Civil Society Organisations contribute to the effort by providing services that aim skills development for reformed sex

workers. Notable in this regard is TASINTHA (We have reformed) Programme that continues to provide former sex workers with counselling and alternative survival skills.

### **Constraints**

- Generally, awareness of human rights remains very low throughout the country;
- The Zambia does not have adequate shelter nor does it systematically provide other services to victims of prostitution and trafficking throughout the country;
- In addition, victims are mostly reluctant to offer themselves for rehabilitation programmes; and
- There is generally inadequate research on the nature, extent, causes and consequences of trafficking in Zambia in order to inform Government policy, strategies or intervention.

## **THE GIRL CHILD**

### **Status:**

The research on the extent of child abuse in schools states that, child abuse is still a very real and pervasive practice in most communities in Zambia. It commonly manifests itself in the forms of child labour, sexual, physical and verbal abuse. The abuse stems from a constellation of factors relating to long standing practices such as early marriages, sexual initiation, children's role in the household economies and uneven power and economic relationships. Power and patriarchy drive sexual abuse in schools, community and families.

### **Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

Sexual abuse and exploitation are among deeply entrenched forms of violence against children in Zambia. It manifests in varied forms including physical violence, forced early sexual debut; early unplanned pregnancies; and child marriages. Available evidence shows that much of the violence against children

is perpetuated by close relatives and other people known to the children. This takes place in various settings such as homes, schools, and justice system institutions.

*The Zambia Situation Analysis of Children and women 2008* states that most child sexual abuse involves men who are known to the victims from within the family or community such as fathers, uncles, step fathers, siblings, and teachers. Also, although both boy and girl children are victims of violence, a large proportion of victims are girls. Therefore, violence against children is often analyzed from the perspective of gender-based violence, focusing on girls and women victims.

### **Physical violence:**

This form of violence involves physical injuries such as bruises, burns and scald, lacerations and fractures, some of which is related to child sexual defilement (Statutory Rape) of girls. The available data indicate that sexual defilement children mostly girls is on the increase. The Zambia Police Force, Victim Support Unit (VSU) received 1,676 in 2009, 2419 in 2010, 1003 in 2011, 1431 in 2012 and 2,234 in 2013 (Gender Based Violence; Victim Support Unit Experience, Zambia Police Force, 2013). Apparently, the reported cases do not necessarily reflect the actual incidence of physical abuse, which is much higher. The reported cases are low partly due to the unreported cases by the victims due to fears of reprisals especially where perpetrators are family members or close friends.

### **Early Forced Sexual Experience**

Although this form of physical violence affects almost all age groups, a high proportion of victims are adolescent girls (10-19 years). Like defilement, the perpetrators (older males) are often known to the victims especially in homes and school settings. The UNICEF Zambia (2013) assessment identifies several contributing factors including some deep rooted belief systems and cultural

practices such as initiation ceremonies for both girls and boys. These practices predispose adolescent girls to early sex experiences, ill-health, and unplanned pregnancies; resulting in high incidences of school grade repetition, and drop-out. According to UNICEF assessment, early pregnancies among school girls start as early as grade 3 and become an epidemic at grade 4.

### **Early Marriages**

Early child marriages among girls in Zambia is wide spread and entrenched by some traditional values and cultural practices. The MGCD (2012) assessment and the Population Council Survey (2004) indicate that about 46% of all women were married under the age of 18 years; and 68% of married girls have already given birth before marriage. In addition, Six out of ten married 15 to 19 year olds cannot read, and 68% have not completed schooling. This contributes to girls' health status being weak due to high levels of HIV and AIDS and other maternal child health challenges. The 2011 school census data indicate that Marriage (15.0%) and pregnancy (26.0%) are the major causes of school drop-out for girls at grades 1-9, and 10-12. Socioeconomic and cultural factors account for the early marriages. Given high incidence of poverty and vulnerability in Zambia, most parents with large families are not able to provide adequate care for children. Therefore, marrying off girl children early is one good option. Also, the deep-rooted patriarch culture may account for early marriages, as the girl children tend to be less valued relative to the boy children.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

This form of violence against girl children involves making children take part in sex activities for socioeconomic gains for perpetrators. It involves, among other things, using children in pornographic magazines and films; commercial sex exploitation or prostitution; early child marriage for economic gains through receipt of bride price money; and intergeneration sex exploitation in schools where teachers entice girl children for sex in return for good school grades.

## **CHILD LABOUR**

### **Status**

Child labour is widespread in Zambia; nearly half of all boys and girls under the age of 17 are involved in child labour. Child labour is affecting children in Zambia especially girls. The common forms of exploitation among girls are; domestic work, sexual work and farming. This is different from the normal household chores which the girls do but this is paid work. The girls engage in this work albeit on meager salaries because they need to contribute to the economic status of their families.

### **Measures**

The legal and policy measures that prohibit violations of rights of children particularly girls include;

#### **Legislative Measures**

- The Constitution of Zambia;
- The Penal Code Amendment Act No. 15 of 2005 ;
- The Juvenile Act Chapter 53;
- The Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act (No. 1 of 2011); and
- The Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 11 of 2008.

#### **Administrative Measures**

- The establishment of joint commissions with other countries to detect and prevent extra-territorial child sexual abuse and exploitation cases;
- Re-entry Education Policy;
- National Child Policy;
- National Cultural Policy;
- Youth Policy; and
- Sexual Reproductive Health Policy.

## **Challenges**

The information gap on the incidence of certain forms of violations of girls due to underreporting by victims:

- Contradictory legal systems (statutory and customary laws) based on different values relating to sex and marital practices;
- Discrimination and stigmatization hampers effective implementation of policies such as the Education Re-entry Policy;
- Inadequate friendly facilities for the girl child in schools; and
- Long distances to schools and inadequate boarding facilities making girl child more vulnerable to SGBV.

## **WOMEN AND HEALTH**

### **Status**

The status of women's health can be deduced in the levels of maternal mortality ratio, under five mortality rate, life expectancy at birth, HIV prevalence rate and the percentage of women of reproductive ages accessing family planning. There has been a reduction in the maternal mortality ratio from 649 deaths in 1996 to 483 deaths per 100, 000 live births. The major causes of maternal mortality in Zambia include complications arising from pregnancy and child birth.

### **Measures**

- Government is training and recruiting more qualified health personnel and increased supervised deliveries which will in turn ensure effective management of complications related to child birth; and
- Government has constructed 28 maternity annexes in order to increase access to maternity infrastructure.

### **Life Expectancy at Birth**

In 2010, life expectancy at birth was estimated at 49.9 years for women compared to 52.6 years for men. The trend over the years (2000-2004) has



been that of women having more likelihood to live longer than men until after 2004 when the reverse occurred.

### **Child Mortality**

The Government's objective is to reduce the under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births from 119 in 2007 to 63. This is the MDG indicator as well. According to the Zambia MDG Report 2013, child mortality has declined by almost 30 percent since 1992, but is still unacceptably high. The mortality rate of children under five dropped from 190.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 137.6 per 1,000 live births in 2010. Similarly, the mortality rate for infants [death before first birthday] reduced from 107.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 76.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010. Progress in reducing child mortality has been attributed to increases in immunization coverage which averaged 85% between 2006 and 2008; exclusive breast-feeding. In 2009, 61% of infants 5 months of age and below were found to be exclusively breastfed. For vitamin and mineral supplementation, the coverage has remained above the 80% target ranging between 80% and 95% from 2008 to 2010. (National Health Strategic Plan 2011-2015).

Government acknowledges that inadequate and inequitable distribution of health infrastructure across the country has continued to present major challenges to the health sector. In rural areas, 46% of families live outside a radius of 5 kilometers from a health facility compared to 1% in urban areas. This makes it difficult for many people to access the needed health services (NHP, 2013). In order to increase access to quality health services, the Government has an ambitious health infrastructure development plan. A total of 26 District Hospitals and 1 General Hospital were constructed in 2011. A total of 125 health posts were planned and construction commenced within areas that are hard to reach. Further, Government has planned to construct 650 health posts, 250 existing health centres will be improved and expanded

and 4 General Hospitals will be expanded and upgraded (Revised Sixth National Development Plan, 2013).

### **Maternal Health**

The national target is to reduce maternal mortality ratio per 100, 00 live births from 591 in 2007 to 159 by 2015. The MGD target is 162. Although maternal mortality in Zambia has been falling, the decline is insufficient to reach the 2015 target of 162.3 deaths per100, 000 live births (Zambia MDG Report, 2013). Thirty eight mothers die each month due to complications of pregnancy or childbirth. However, the number of women dying during pregnancy and childbirth has decreased from 649 per 100, 000 live births in 1997 to 483 in 2010. It decreased further to 440 by 2012 (World Development Report 2013). The MDG report attributes the decrease to improved use of contraception for birth spacing; prevention of early marriages; improved referral systems; provision of and access to emergency obstetric care and the deployment of more trained midwives and birth attendants. The report recommends scaling up of these interventions.

### **Malaria**

The national target is to reduce the incidence of malaria for all ages from 252 cases per 1,000 populations in 2008 to 75 cases per 1,000 population in 2015. The annual malaria incidence rate has slightly reduced from 343 cases per 1,000 population in 2011 to 339 cases per 1,000 population in 2012 [Revised Sixth National Development Plan]. The national target is to maintain the malaria fatality rate at 41/1,000 in 2009 to 41/1,000 in 2015. According to the MDG Report 2013, the malaria fatality rate has remained over three times the target. Three children die every day of malaria. Zambia made significant gains in malaria control and prevention up until 2009. The drop-off in resources in the health sector then was the main cause. The Report recommends the continuation of the distribution and effective use of ITN and indoor residual spraying.

## **HIV and AIDS**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Zambia Report 2013 indicates that the number of Zambians infected with HIV has dropped to 14.3 percent of the population from 16 percent. It notes that that HIV incidence is consistently higher in women than in men demonstrates that the underlying causes of income and gender inequality need to be addressed.

The National and MDG targets are 6 percent reduction in prevalence rate by 2015. Zambia has also recorded a 56 percent reduction in AIDS related deaths since 2001. Further, a reduction of 95 percent in the number of new HIV infections among children has been recorded owing to the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission [PMCT] programme roll out for pregnant mothers. A total of 531,323 voluntary male circumcisions were carried out by August 2013. This has the potential of reducing HIV transmission by as much as 60 percent.

## **Nutrition**

Good nutrition underpins progress and will contribute towards achieving most of the MDGs and the Vision 2030. Good nutrition also leads to enhanced education and health outcomes that consequently contribute to improved productivity and overall national socio-economic development. In this regard, under Health, the focus is to advocate for increased access to and coverage of high impact community-based nutrition interventions whilst under Education, the sector is supporting the expansion of school nutrition services.

## **Measures**

In order to make quality reproductive and other health services more accessible to women and men, Government in collaboration with development partners and nongovernmental organisations have been implementing the following measures:

- Commencement of the construction of a total of 27 hospitals as well as 231 health posts. Various health centres were also rehabilitated and expanded countrywide. Of the 27 hospitals, a total of 8 were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010;
- Continued provision of Mobile Health Services which made it possible to reach communities in out lying areas where health infrastructure is absent or insufficient. These services have made it possible to reach the rural women who are the most vulnerable group with extreme poverty;
- Approval of the Reproductive Health Policy, which also encourages male participation in reproductive health;
- Approval of the Mental Health Policy;
- Implementation of the Human Resource Strategic Plan, which aims at retaining personnel in the health sector;
- Awareness campaigns on violence against women;
- Removal of user fees in rural areas, in order to increase access to health services particularly for women and children;
- Development of a policy to provide guidance on HIV and AIDS issues.
- Introduction of midwives training in general nursing schools, to increase the number of health care providers in maternal health care;
- Combating malaria through the roll back malaria campaign, which is aimed at ensuring that at least 60 per cent of all pregnant women, especially those in their first pregnancy, have access to chemoprophylaxis;
- Establishment of family planning, safe motherhood and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) programmes and expansion of maternity wards within health centres and hospitals;
- Capacity building for TBAs and community health workers to reduce the high Maternal Mortality Rates;
- Expansion of youth friendly corners that encourage girls to seek health care;
- Statutory instrument on the code of marketing of breast milk substitutes;

- Empowerment of adolescents with adequate information and education regarding reproductive health as a way of developing their capacity to make informed decisions;
- Promotion of partnerships in the provision of health services; and
- Constituting a Gender Management Team of the Ministry of Health to provide leadership and guidance for gender mainstreaming countrywide in the health sector.

### **Challenges**

Despite the above outlined measures in making quality reproductive and other health services more accessible to women and men, Government continues to face the following challenges:

- Sustainability of programmes particularly those which are donor funded;
- Allocation of funds to the health sector from the national budget still falls far below the recommended US\$33 per capita by World Health Organisation (WHO);
- Brain drain among medical personnel remains a critical issue, thereby leading to a number of health institutions being under staffed;
- Private sector investment in health remains low;
- The referral system is hampered by poor transport and communication.
- Inadequate qualified health personnel; and
- Lack of sex disaggregated data.

## **INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT WOMEN**

### **Status**

The Government has continued to use the Gender Focal Point System in line Ministries, spending agencies, Provinces and Districts. In order to build the capacity of the Focal Point Persons and make them more effective, training in gender analysis and mainstreaming including gender responsive budgeting are being undertaken. To strengthen monitoring and evaluation of programmes, a sector wide Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was developed with clear

indicators set across all critical sectors. This plan provides a framework for preparing an annual *Gender Status Report*.

The government has maintained and enhanced a good relationship with the Civil Society Organizations through regular joint meetings and field visits to monitor programmes. In particular, collaborative efforts have increased with the women's Organization Non- governmental Coordinating Council (NGOCC). For instance, multi- stakeholder committees are in place across all sectors whose main function is to oversee the implementation of the National Development Plans. Further, another specialized committee is in place to support government in implementing the Anti Gender Based Violence Act no.1 of 2011(include core provision of the ACT generally).

The Parliament, through its select committees supports programme implementation by evoking its oversight role to ensure that the Executive Wing of Government and other stakeholders implement commitments on gender and child development. This is to ensure increased coverage of stakeholders, accountability for child development, gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, also a newly established Ministry, is mandated to oversee the welfare of chiefs and chiefdom development. The creation of this Ministry has provided, among other things, an opportunity to engage the chiefs to influence positive change in social and cultural beliefs and practices and protect children and young women from child marriages, early marriages, sexual cleansing and polygamy.

### **Measures**

- Development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to guide the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of information that enables the tracking of progress made in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women;
- The establishment of the shelters for survivors of gender based violence;

- The establishment of fast-track courts to expedite the prosecution of perpetrators of gender based violence;
- Strengthening mechanisms for mainstreaming gender through institutional capacity building; and
- The revision of the National Gender Policy to incorporate emerging issues.

### **Challenges**

- Inadequate gender mainstreaming skills and resources for gender focal point persons;
- The Ministry of Gender and Child Development has limited mandate to oversee and *enforce* gender mainstreaming in the sector ministries;
- Inadequate funding for all institutions for the implementation of gender mainstreaming;
- The gender mainstreaming perspective is not yet fully understood and institutionalized; and
- Inadequate human resources for the National Gender Machinery.

**Were there any countercyclical measures introduced in your country since 2009 to mitigate the consequences of global economic and financial crisis?**

### **Measures to Mitigate Global Economic Crisis**

If so, did these measures incorporate a gender perspective and/or include women as a targeted group?

**(Yes or No): Yes**

Have austerity policies/measures, such as **tax increases**, cuts in **public expenditure**, or **public sector downsizing**, been introduced in your country in the aftermath of the 2007/2008 financial crisis? **No**

### **SECTION THREE**

#### **Data and statistics**

Has a core set of national indicators for monitoring progress in gender equality been established?

Yes, as contained in the National Gender Monitoring & Evaluation Plan 2011-2015.

If so, please provide the indicators in an annex. (See **Annex I-[www.mgcd.gov.zm](http://www.mgcd.gov.zm)**).

Where is responsibility for collecting the data located?

*Central Statistical Office under the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Child Development*

Has data collection and compilation on the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators begun, which was agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013? To be clarified as the full set of gender indicators in the said document. **No**

If not, are there any plans at the national level to begin work based on the Minimum Set? **Not yet**

- b) Has data collection and compilation on the nine indicators on violence against women, as agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013, begun? Yes

(The list of indicators is provided in Part III).

If so, what is the status of data collection and compilation? Please describe plans that have been developed to produce these indicators at the national level.

Data has been collected on all except indicator Number 9 on Female Genital Mutilation. *The Zambia Demographic Health Survey Report* is produced every 4-5 years



What processes have been undertaken to collect data on the situation of particular groups of women, such as rural women, older women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, women living with HIV and AIDS, or other groups?

**Please describe briefly.**

- Census of Population and Housing every 10 years;
- Living Conditions Monitoring Survey every two to three years;
- Annual Returns by Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health;
- Zambia Health Demographic Survey. Survey is a national sample survey designed to provide up-to-date information on the background characteristics of the respondents, fertility levels, nuptiality, sexual activity, fertility preferences, awareness and use of family planning methods. The target group is men between the ages of 15-59, and women between the age of 14 – 49 in randomly selected households;
- Annual Health Statistical Bulletin;
- Annual Education Statistical Bulletin;
- Gender Status Report and

This is a report that highlights the status of women in various sector. It provides the status, achievements and challenges in mainstreaming of gender.

## **EMERGING PRIORITIES**

### **Trends and New Approaches to Issues Affecting the Situation of Women or Equality between Women and Men; Key Gender Equality Issues to be reflected in the Post 2015 Development Framework**

#### **Introduction**

This section highlights a number of emerging issues in the gender and development sector that are affecting the situation of women and men. Further, the section highlights gender equality issues to be reflected in the post 2015 framework taking into account Zambia's performance in the implementation of the MDGs. Some of the emerging priorities are:

#### **Climate Change and Environment Sustainability**

Gender inequalities intersect with climate change risks and vulnerabilities. Women's historic disadvantages, their limited access to resources, restricted rights and a muted voice in decision making make them highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change effects in Zambia have mostly been experienced in the form of drought and flooding which affects household food security and income levels especially for rural households who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Zambia is implementing programs aimed at reducing the negative effects of climate change arising from the high consumption of wood fuel by promoting renewable and alternative energy sources such as development of mini hydro power and solar energy sources.

Government has realigned the portfolio of environment and natural resources to Lands Ministry as a way of giving emphasis to issues related to climate change.

### **Cervical Cancer**

Cervical cancer is of special significance, not only due to its relatively high incidence, but also because of its strong link to sexual behavior. The risk factors include, early first time intercourse and high lifetime number of partners. Therefore, the safe-sex campaigns against HIV are applicable to the prevention of cervical cancer. Just as in HIV, there is great merit in targeting young girls.

### **Human Trafficking**

Zambia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Most trafficking occurs within the country's borders and involves women and children especially those from rural areas. Zambia's geographic location and numerous porous borders make it a nexus for trafficking from various countries in the region.

While orphans and street children are most vulnerable to this vice, children of more affluent village families are also vulnerable to human trafficking. This is because sending children to the city for work is still perceived as a status symbol by most poor communities.

To address the problem of human trafficking, the Government of Zambia enacted the Anti Human Trafficking Act of 2008. During the reporting period, the government increased law enforcement efforts by convicting trafficking offenders under its 2008 Anti-Trafficking Law.

### **Children on the Streets**

The HIV and AIDS pandemic has created many orphans and vulnerable children whose current estimate stands at 1.3 million. This suggests that Zambia is among countries in the sub-Saharan region with the highest number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children who are more likely to end up on the streets to find some form of economic survival.

Children who either live on the streets or seek some livelihood in the streets are extremely vulnerable. At present there are estimated 13,000 street children in Zambia. The majority of the children who take to the streets are mostly boys, although the numbers of girls on the street is also on the increase. This emerging problem has made boys and girls highly vulnerable to Human Trafficking, substance abuse and prostitution thereby increasing their risk of sexual abuse, early pregnancy, HIV and AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The records indicate that all over 1,600 vulnerable children were assisted through district child protection committees and further 150 families are counseled. Some were given seed capital and training.

The vision of Government in Child Welfare and Development is to provide long-term guidance and a framework for the implementation of child survival, development and protection intervention through a well-coordinated and multi sectoral approach in order to improve the quality of life of every child in Zambia.

### **Key Gender Equality Issues to be reflected in the Post 2015 Development Framework**

Zambia recognizes the importance of attaining the millennium development goals to the lives of its citizenry particularly women and remains committed to this effect. Notable progress has been made in access to education, child nutrition and in the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS although more remains to be done. Delay in meeting these goals continues to have disproportionate impact on women. A quick look at selected key Millennium Declaration and Development Goals reveals the following:

- (a) Zambia is still far from eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (**MDG 1**).  
According to the 2006-2010 CSO Living Conditions Monitoring Survey

Report, extreme poverty marginally reduced from 42.7 percent in 2006 to 42.3 percent in 2010.

- (b) Regarding achieving universal primary education by 2015 (**MDG 2**). Zambia is on course as evidenced in the 2011 Annual Progress Report of the Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP). However, it is still experiencing challenges in achieving parity at post primary education where women account for only 45 percent.
- (c) Little progress has been recorded in gender equality and empowerment of women (**MDG 3**) as women continue to lag behind men in all sectors of national development. Further, whilst Government is committed to empowering women, the benefits of women's economic empowerment programs usually do not trickle down to the vulnerable women.
- (d) Maternal mortality still among the highest in the sub region with 591(483 CSO source 2010 census) deaths per 100 000 live births. This is evidently far below the MDG target of 162 deaths per 100 000 live births by 2015.
- (e) With regard to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (**MDG 6**), HIV infection rate continues to be biased against women who account for 16.1% of the infected against 12.3% for men. Though treatment has been scaled up covering 70% of all PLWHA eligible for ART, and prevention efforts have increased coverage of PMTCT poor gender relations continue to affect safe sexual behavior and adherence to treatment schedule( subject to verify the stats on maternal mortality).

## **WAY FORWARD**

The government will continue pursuing policies and programs that are gender responsive in order to achieve gender equity and equality which are critical for

accelerated national development. Government will continue to prioritize Gender Mainstreaming and the empowerment of women in the country's development agenda by:

- (a) Engendering macro-economic and structural policies that promote employment, socio-economic empowerment especially that of women and social investment in order to reduce poverty;
- (b) Prioritizing investment in the household economy including labour saving technology that would free women's time for more productive work, and for themselves;
- (c) Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration with all stakeholders for increased efficiency and effectiveness of national gender programs;
- (d) Continued sensitization of all stakeholders and the use of media practitioners, opinion leaders such as Chiefs, traditional and religious leaders on the need for gender mainstreaming in line with the National Gender Policy and other National Plans in order to change mindset and attitude.