

# CITIZENHEARING REPORT ON SDGS INITIATIVE FOR ZAMBIA.

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A CITIZEN DRIVEN INITIATIVE TO MONITOR  
SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA.

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Project summary: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a continuation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were implemented from 2000 to 2015. The new SDGs are different in that they are broader in their scope of eradicating all forms of poverty by calling for action by all countries, rich and poor, to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. More than 150 countries have pledged to mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The project by the African Monitor is about putting citizens at the centre of driving accountable implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The project will use citizen generated data, working with citizens' groups and youth champions, to engage decision makers to demand delivery and accelerate policy change. The project will support citizen-driven monitoring for policy change, where citizen-generated data informs SDG implementation, strengthens national and regional SDG review processes, and supports civic action for policy change at the national level. In addition, the project will support a regional civil society advocacy platform on SDGs, where the Africa CSO Working Group engages with and effectively shapes the agenda (policies, plans, and monitoring) for the implementation of the SDGs in Africa and globally.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 Overview of the Zambia's demographics**

Zambia is a landlocked country in Southern Africa bordered by Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola. The estimated 2018 population of Zambia is 17.61 million, which ranks 70th in the world.

The population estimation is based on a 2012 estimate of 14.3 million and a high 3.3% annual growth rate. It is the 30th largest country and is not densely populated with just 17 people per square kilometre (44/sq mi), which ranks 191st in the world (CSO, 2010)

The capital and largest city is Lusaka, with a population estimated at 1.7 million in 2010, but which is surely higher today. Much of Zambia's population is concentrated around Lusaka in the south and the Copperbelt Province in the northwest. Zambia is one of the most urbanized countries in sub-Saharan Africa with 44% of the population in a few urban areas while rural areas remain sparsely populated. (CSO, 2016)

### **Zambia Demographics**

The original inhabitants of Zambia were the Khoisan people. The region was eventually colonized during a Bantu expansion in the 13th century. There are now 72 ethnic groups in Zambia, most of which speak Bantu.

Nearly 90% of Zambians belong to one of 9 ethno linguistic groups: Nyanja-Chewa, Bemba, Tonga, Tumbuka, Lunda, Luvale, Kaonde, Lozi, and Nkoya. The ethnic composition of Zambia in 2003 was: Bemba (22%), Tonga (11%), Lozi (5.2%), Nsenga (5.1%), Tumbuka (4.3%), Ngoni (3.8%), Chewa (3%), white (1%), and others (45%).

Expatriates, most of which are from South Africa and the United Kingdom, are mostly in Lusaka and the Copperbelt. There were 70,000 Europeans in the country in 1964, most of them have left. There is also a small population of Indians and Chinese. It is estimated that 80,000 Chinese live in Zambia, with 13,000 Indians.

There are about 89,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Zambia, most of which come from the Democratic Republic of Congo (47,000), Angola (27,000), and Zimbabwe (5,000) and Rwanda (5,000). *(Population Data via United Nations WPP (2015 Revision, Medium Variant))*

### **Components of Population Change**

- One birth every 48 seconds
- One death every 4 minutes
- One net migrant every 65 minutes
- Net gain of one person every 1 minute

### **Zambia Population by Age**

There are 8,235,709 adults in Zambia.

*(Population Data via United Nations WPP (2015 Revision, Medium Variant))*

## Zambia Population Growth

Zambia's population is currently growing at a rate 3.2% per year. The country has one of the highest fertility rates in the world at 6.2 births per woman. The HIV prevalence in Zambia has declined and remained at 13.5% among adults.

*(<http://worldpopulationreview/continents/Africa-population>)*

## Socio economic context

Zambia has one of the highest poverty rates in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Bank estimates that in 2010, 60 percent of people in Zambia—or 8.8 million people—were living in poverty, with 42 percent experiencing extreme poverty such that they were unable to meet their daily consumption needs (De la Fuente et al., 2015). The highest rates of poverty are found in rural areas, where subsistence agriculture, minimal access to credit, and poor infrastructure (e.g., roads, markets) prevent people from increasing productivity, whether it be in agriculture or livestock, aquaculture, or off-farm enterprises. In 2010, the average annual income in Zambia was around US Dollars 3,200,<sup>1</sup> while income inequality is high and has increased over the past decade (World Bank, 2015a).<sup>2</sup> In comparison with other countries, Zambia's employed population supports a relatively high number of non-working people: When last measured in 2014, the age dependency ratio in Zambia was 96 (World Bank, 2015a).<sup>3</sup>

Much of the Zambian economy relies on mining, agriculture, construction, transport and communication sectors for foreign exchange and employment. Mining represents the most substantial industry in the country, as Zambia is the largest producer of copper in Africa and an exporter of a number of other minerals.

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<sup>1</sup> Gross national income per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP) rates in constant 2011 US dollars.

<sup>2</sup> In 2010, the GINI index for Zambia was 57.5, compared with 42.1 in 2003. The GINI index measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A GINI index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

<sup>3</sup> Age-dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents, people who are younger than 15 or older than 64 to the working-age population, who mostly are 15 to 64. The ratio is calculated as the proportion of dependents per 100 working-age population (World Bank, 2015a).

Throughout Zambia, significant livelihood opportunities derive from subsistence and commercial agriculture. The main crops are maize, sweet potato, cassava, wheat, groundnuts, soya beans and sugar cane (FAO, 2012; ZVAC, 2012).

In 2017, Zambia's economic growth recovered to an estimated 3.9% (from 3.8% in 2016) on the back of a bumper crop harvest and better electricity supply. Faster economic recovery was dragged by large government payment arrears, which exerted pressure on the financial sector. Non-performing loans rose to 12.3% of outstanding loans, and lending to the private sector declined, thus constraining private investment and consumption.

Growth is projected to strengthen to above 4% in 2018 and over the medium-term. The clearance of arrears and the pursuit of accommodative monetary conditions should bolster the recovery of the financial sector and unlock consumption and investment lending. High international copper prices and improved domestic production from newer and recently refurbished mines is expected to support exports.

High copper prices have eased external pressures, leading to a stable *kwacha*, which, together with a bumper harvest, helped contain inflation within the medium-term target of 6-8%. These improvements prompted the central bank to ease monetary policy at all the past six monetary policy committee meetings, for a total policy rate cut of 575 basis points.

However, the fiscal-debt remains fragile, as it remains higher than necessary to calm debt growth, despite being below its 2017 budget target. External debt rose to US\$8.7 at end-March 2018 from US\$7.9 at end-2017, and total public and publicly guaranteed debt is now estimated to be close to 61% of gross domestic product (GDP). In October 2017, a joint IMF-World Bank Debt Sustainability Analysis elevated the risk of external debt distress to high from medium.

The election gave Lungu a five-year mandate. He has called for an end to moral decay and national transformation to address high levels of poverty. Zambia will revise its Lands Act to avoid the indiscriminate and illegal sale of land in the country. The need to revise the act

was initiated by Lungu, who observed the government needed to come up with revisions that guarantee sovereignty over land, a key natural heritage.

The government has launched its 7th National Development Plan, 2017–2021, calling for a fundamental shift in the way resources are allocated. Its five pillars are:

- Economic diversification and job creation
- Poverty and Vulnerability
- Reduced Developmental Inequalities
- Enhancing Human Development
- Conducive Governance Environment for Economic Diversification

The strategic goal of the 7th National Development Plan is to create a diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and social economic development. It will also include a results-oriented, performance management system to be used to measure the progress of its implementation. *(Revised seventh national development plan 2017-2021)*

## **Methodology**

GCAP-Zambia with support from African Monitor carried out Citizens Hearing data collection in selected districts of Zambia. The citizens hearing was carried out in Kabwe, Chongwe and Chingola districts. These districts were chosen because of high levels of poverty and lack of economic opportunities which were caused largely by the privatisation policy which Zambia undertook under the Chiluba administration in 1991. Kabwe and Chingola are more peri-urban, while as Chongwe is rural. Chongwe was chosen due to its proximity to Lusaka though economically it is lagging behind.

The primary participants were drawn from all age groups, between the range of 14-60 years old youth (males and females), Women, Men and the elderly. The target number of participants in the hearing was 60 per district.

The CR- Citizens hearing were conducted through an interactive and participatory manner. Meetings were held with various specific key stakeholders such as community leaders,

district administrative officials before and during the hearings to inform them about the project in all the three districts. We also engaged in mobilisation activities ahead of the hearings and the data collection to raise awareness among communities about the CR-hearings and the data collection.

The two approaches were used to collect information; the first one was through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the participants in the three districts on the selected thematic areas or goals. The second was through data collection through a survey which we conducted in all the three districts targeting about 200 households per district. Data was collected via a mobile platform using Kobo collect and Google software. The discussions were proceeded by group work in which the participants were given an opportunity to plan and make recommendations for the selected thematic areas. During the study, FGDs and in-depth interviews were captured on audio recording and written notes. The FGDs were moderated by the youth champions' team with the help of a consultant and the national coordinator.

Prior to fieldwork, the team underwent three day training which was organised by African Monitor in Johannesburg South Africa in February 2018. The team which consisted of five youth champions and one focal point person participated in four preparatory meetings on qualitative data collection methods in Lusaka Zambia.

### **Key informant interviews**

Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted with people who were well informed of policy and practices at the national and community level. The purpose was to collect information from community leaders, professionals or residents who have first-hand knowledge concerning the laws and policies and how they are implemented at the community level. These experts, with their particular knowledge and understanding, provided insight on the nature of issues, procedures, challenges and proposed recommendations for solutions. The major technique that the study used to conduct key informant interviews was the face-to-face interviews.



### **Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)**

The three Focus Group Discussions were conducted in each district. The FGDs comprises of men, women, boys and girls between the ages group 14- 60 years old.

Broadly, the focus group sought to gain an understanding of community-level well-being and inequality in relation to SDGs. Participants shared views on whether women's and men's abilities to generate income and achieve a "good life" had improved or not.

Between 20<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, youth champions undertook citizens' hearing in Makululu Kabwe, Chingola and Chongwe on the SDGs. Those in attendance were youths, women, men and children. The majority of the participants were unemployed or involved in part time activities such as fishing and women whom the majority of them are marketers at the local market. The following was the schedule for Citizen Hearing, Makululu Kabwe district -20<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Chiwempala Chingola 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018, and lastly Chongwe 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

### **Main Objective of the Citizen hearing and the survey**

**Project Goal/overall objective:** The goal of the Citizens hearing Initiative is to work with African citizens and civil society to monitor SDG implementation in Africa for them to better demand delivery of commitments, to improve results and to improve policy responses.

**Project expected overall outcome:** The project's theory of change is that when citizens effectively hold their governments accountable for delivery, democracy is strengthened, development outcomes improve significantly for the poor, and citizens gain confidence to claim their rights and solve local problems. Through various activities, the Citizens hearing Initiative will ensure that:

- SDGs are implemented effectively in Africa, resulting in tangible improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable groups
- Citizens actively engage in the monitoring of SDG implementation for better development results, and to increase government accountability.
- New qualitative citizen-generated data and knowledge is produced to inform civic action and advocacy for improved SDG delivery.

- Increased capacity in the ability of these citizen representatives to generate data at the community level for monitoring;
- Citizen-generated data informs the African SDG review processes, thus leading to necessary improvements in service delivery, development approaches and policy responses.
- The Africa CSO Working Group is strengthened and recognized as the go-to network for civil society engagement in SDG implementation

## **Target Communities profiles (socio – economic profile)**

### ***Makululu Compound-Kabwe District***

Makululu is the largest shanty compound in Southern Africa and second largest in Africa after Kibera of Kenya. It is located in the central province of Zambia, particularly Kabwe district which used to be one of the big mining districts in Zambia but after the 1991 privatisation by the Chiluba regime the town has been reduced into a ghost town. Many people in Kabwe are former mine workers from the defunct Zambia consolidated copper mines (ZCCM) which was owned by the Zambian government. It provided a lot of employment to the residents of Kabwe.

The main livelihood in Makululu settlement is basically divided and typically informal. Trading and vending on the streets, domestic work, and daily wage work are among the most common employment opportunities. Most of the residents of Makululu are former ZCCM employees whose main source of income now is fishing from the nearby Lukanga River which is about 4hrs drive from Makululu.

The area has no council piped water, no electricity, the community has one clinic and only three government schools with their toilets in a deplorable state. This is a community of over 15000 people and the majorities are young people below the age of 35. Despite Lukanga Water and Sewerage Company putting up water kiosks in the area, the people complain that they are not enough besides the fact that they are made to pay to access the water from the few kiosks available. Many families cannot afford to pay the fees they are charged for the same water; ***a 20 litre container of water costs about 50 ngwee Zambian***

**currency.** Many people can't afford to pay this water fee on a daily basis and resort to drawing water from dirty wells and contaminated streams in the neighbourhood. This in turn increases the risk of water borne diseases such as cholera and dysentery.

### ***Chiwempala Compound- Chingola***

Chiwempala is one the shanty compound in Chingola district on the Copperbelt province. Chingola district has a population of 210,823 people according to central statistical office census of 2010 with females accounting for 48.9% and males 51.1%. The average population growth is at 0.5% per annum. One third of Chingola's population live in Chiwempala compound. Chingola district used to be one of the big mining districts in Zambia before the 1991 privatisation of the mines in Zambia by the Chiluba led government. It was home to one of Africa's biggest open pit mines and one of the cleanest cities in Zambia. Many people in Chingola are former mine workers from the defunct Zambia consolidated copper mines (ZCCM) which was owned by the Zambian government. It provided a lot of employment to the residents of Chingola. Most of the residents of Chiwempala are former ZCCM unskilled labourers. The main source of income for many people in Chingola especially the youths is illegal mining. Some have relocated to Solwezi leaving their families in Chingola in search of employment. Solwezi is now referred to as the new Copperbelt because of the vast mining activities taking place there. The majority of the residents are former mine workers or involved in part time activities such as trading at the local market, others are into cross boarder business between Zambia and the DRC. The main economic activity especially for the many unemployed youths is illegal mining in the district. The area has two government schools despite having a population of more than 10,000 people. There is no school for differently abled persons. There is no technical or vocational training centre in Chingola district.

## ***Chongwe District***

Chongwe district is located in the eastern part of Lusaka province. It is a rural district with most of the people living in the villages. According to CSO (2010) preliminary report, the District has a total population of 187,969 of which 26,341 reside in Chongwe urban and surrounding villages (Chongwe Central Ward). Of the total population, 93,934 are males and 94,035 are females. The average annual growth rate for the district is 3.2.

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the District and the major activities include crop production, horticultural production and livestock production. Over 75 percent of household incomes in the District are derived from Agriculture related activities, either as own production or sale of agriculture produce and by-products (CDC, 2006; 2007). Major crops include maize, cotton, groundnuts and sunflower. Apart from agriculture, the District has the potential in other economic activities such as mining and tourism though these economic activities have not been fully exploited. Chongwe is also home to the Chalimbana University of Education. Teachers shun serving in rural areas because of poor or no accommodation, no electricity and in some cases there is no network for mobile phones. A community with a population of over 15,000 people has only three government schools. Current school building and other structures do not favour the disabled.

## **Main Findings of the Citizens Hearing**

This section presents the quantitative and qualitative findings from the Citizens Hearing. Analysis of the data revealed that while differences certainly exist between communities/district even when very closely situated, the focal communities share a number of similar characteristics around, for example, causes of poverty, access to education. The findings are discussed in relation to SDGs; 1- ending poverty, 4-quality education, 5-gender equality, 8-decent and economic growth, 10 –reduce income inequality and 16-peace, justice and strong institutions.

## Goal 1- End Poverty

Poverty is the most profound challenge that Zambia faces today. It is a social crisis with the majority of people denied a minimum decent living standard. Poverty differs from one place to another. In the Zambian context it can be defined as deprivation of a “long healthy life, educational opportunities, access to resources for a decent standard of living (e.g. income and consumption, housing, health, clean water and sanitation), and lack of freedom to exercise choice and participate in society. For the poor person poverty can be described as; "Poverty is pain; it is like a disease. It attacks a person not only materially but also morally. It eats away one's dignity and drives one in total despair.

After successful citizens’ hearings in Kabwe Makululu, Chongwe and Chingola, the following issues came out; the majority of the participants see that poverty is constantly increasing in their communities or household. The participants from Kabwe and Chingola pointed out that lack of employment, and lack of political will by government as the main causes of poverty. Lack of employment among the youths in the area has led to social vices such as gangsterism which has increased the crime rate in Chiwempala Chingola district.

In the situation of Chongwe a rural area, the levels of poverty/hunger are determined by the rainfall pattern. When the weather is good and they receive farming inputs on time, they don’t complain because they can manage to produce enough for themselves and sell the surpluses which enable them to even pay school fees for their children. The biggest challenge which they face and are a big threat to their livelihood is the change in the weather pattern due to the impact of climate change. It is very difficult to predict the onset of the rains nowadays.

*Last season the rain was unpredictable, it rained very well late February and march, by that time most of crops were getting dry. So I had to re-plant maize. If we do not have good rains, then we experience challenges in relation to food, school fees etc. there are no companies/jobs here and the only thing is to use the land well. FGDs: A man- Chongwe*

*Though some of our children migrate to Lusaka to look for employment. But this is their home land, they are free to come back and do farming if Lusaka does not welcome them.*

*FGDs: A woman –Chongwe.*

*We have seen also our children who are doing very well in Lusaka; they support us in our farming. FGDs: A woman-Chongwe*

Despite government's introduction of the social protection scheme for the people of Zambia especially the old people, the majority of participants confirmed the existence of the social protection scheme e.g. fertilizer and loan schemes but they alleged that it is not accessible to them. They said many times an officer from the social welfare department has approached them to get their details but has never returned to give them the benefits from the social protection scheme narrated

*One elderly person narrated that, "when you get old you feel like you have been condemned by society and are worthless." Things such as social protection schemes or social cash transfer do not reach them. Makululu-Kabwe.*

one old lady the matter hasn't yet been reported to the authorities and she feels even if it is reported nothing will happen. People have literally lost confidence in their leaders.

*The introduction of e-voucher by government for farm input provision is a good thing to improve farming but the problem is that inputs are supplied very late. Like this year, some received fertilize and seeds in March. So we ask the government to improve the system of e-voucher. Key informant: Tradition leader-Chongwe*

Like in many Zambian communities' today old people are finding it had to cope with life due to the high stand standard of living. The old who are mainly destitute now due to the fact that they lost all their children to HIV/AIDS Pandemic have no one to look after them.

Government's move to remove them from their undesignated trading areas such as the streets has made things worse for them and has led to an increase in crime in the districts. For instance the youth in Chingola and Kabwe have resorted into crime and there are a number of gangs formed by young people especially boys who are terrorising the community.

*“Since I came here in (Kabwe) in 2008, there is no sign of improvement. We are living with poverty because major companies were closed a long time ago”. Mulungushi Textiles and the mines AS you can see, there are no companies here in Kabwe. Our children have no-where to find employment apart from Copperbelt and Lusaka. 56 year old man- Makululu.*

*Everyone now wants to be a teacher or nurse because of lack of employment, even teaching or nursing now has become very hard to be employed by government. FGDs: A man- Makululu Kabwe.*

They do not know how it feels like to have three or more meals on an average day. Families that are perceived as well-to-do only have two meals on average per day. And the meal is not balanced, it's the local porridge made from maize called nshima. They can have nshima, in the morning and evening because this is the only food an average Zambian family can afford.

During the study, alcohol consumption emerged as a sensitive and in both districts especially Makululu and Chingola communities/districts, contentious issue. Discussants associated beer consumption with a loss of productivity, income diversion, poverty, school absenteeism and drop outs, and early marriage or pregnancy. While there was general consensus that excessive alcohol consumption is a significant issue affecting communities. Despite the regulations of the sale of beers by local government, local people are drunk as early as 08hrs in the morning. There is no time to be productive.

Young girls married off at a tender age are compounded with a lot of challenges such as deprivation of opportunities in life as most of them can't complete their education. There are other social problems such as high divorce rates among the young parents and parents are given another burden of looking after the girl and the children they bring from their failed marriages. Many young girls in Makululu, Chiwempala, and Chongwe are vulnerable to this vice.

*“A 16 year old girl narrated how she was married off at the age of 14 because her parents couldn't afford to pay school fees for her. The marriage didn't last because the boy who married*

*her couldn't afford to take care of her. She further says that she is back at her parents place and the problem has even become worse now because now her parents have to look after her and the child".*

- **Goal 4- Quality Education**

In 2001, the government of Zambia introduced free education policy. However, it can be argued that in Zambia, the free primary education policy has led to a fall in the quality of education with a high pupil to teacher ratio of 48: 1 (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, 2016)., from inception, the free primary education policy did not improve the quality of education but rather it only increased access as well as the quantity of the primary education in Zambia.

More important to quality of education is that, the participants were quick to point out that in most schools; teachers don't have adequate teaching materials and accommodation. Overcrowding in the classrooms is another challenge, a situation of about 75 pupils in one classroom on average.

*In my class, there are more than 70 learners and It is really challenging for me to teach such a big class." Apart from that, we have no teaching materials." A teacher-Makululu basic school Kabwe.*

Of particular importance is the school re-entry policy that was put into practice in the late 1990s, generally viewed by focus group participants as a positive educational reform as it has enabled adolescent girls or young women to return to school after giving birth. However, some participants claimed the re-entry policy creates an environment whereby students feel they can return to school after giving birth, and thus contributes to early pregnancy.

One of the participants narrated how the computer literacy is a great challenge in the schools as they have no computers. This led pupils walking for four hours to go and write exams at Mulungushi University where there are computers.*(This is a case of Kabwe*



*district*). As they were writing exams, they experienced power outages leading pupils to leaving the exam room at 22 hours which was risky for them. ***“They walked to and from school narrated one pupil”***. Distances to school is another challenge faced by majority of learners, nearest public school is 4km away from the community in Makululu.

Government recently introduced the policy to support and promote early education childhood in Zambia but the initiative is not producing the desired results due to the fact that these facilities are not provided by government schools or institutions. The provision of early childhood education has been entirely left in the hands of the private sector or those who run private schools. This has resulted in many people failing to access the service because the fees and other additional costs are too high for them.

Skill development programmes offered are not relevant to the current development needs of our society. In most cases the syllabus is outdated or the equipment used to teach students in most of these tertiary institutions are outdated.

- **GOAL 5- Gender Equality**

Women are expected to spend a greater amount of time performing home-based tasks compared to men in the focal districts. Activities such as cooking or caring for children and other family members take up a major portion of women’s time in a given day, leaving a limited amount of time for other activities: selling of vegetables, tomatoes etc, later alone engage in profitable business activities such as selling farm production maize, groundnuts and sweet potatoes; second hands clothing (salaula).

*Women can do most of the household work, which doesn’t give them money, while men are busy with well-paid jobs. 33 year old woman Chingola.  
They [women] are involved in a lot of activities like farming and businesses and they are able to safeguard their finances while men just spend*

Women pursue numerous income generating activities to secure food and other basic necessities, notably children's school fees and materials. However, men tend to gain greater economic benefits than women from these same activities.

*whatever they have on beer and ladies 29 year old woman Chongwe.*

Across the three districts, participants agreed that opportunities for girls and boys to attend school are more equal compared to long ago. In the past, boys were often socialized to herd the family's cattle and engage in other typically "male" activities. Girls on the other hand, were initiated into womanhood and prepared for domestic responsibilities, such as household chores, childcare, and water and firewood collection. Parents gave priority to the schooling of boys over girls because girls were not seen to benefit from education. In recent years, however, there has been an increase in the number of all children, boys and girls, admitted into school. Parents are beginning to see that well-educated youths (regardless of sex) are able to acquire good jobs as teachers, soldiers, and police officers, for example.

Discussants identified several key factors that prevent youths from attending school. For girls, pregnancy is a major concern that leads to dropping out and failing to complete secondary school. A second major factor is the high cost of sending both a boy and girl child to secondary schools in or around urban centers. Costs associated with school fees, student travel to and from school, and school boarding costs are prohibitively expensive for many households in Chongwe, Chingola and Kabwe. However in Chongwe Chieftainess Nkomeshya has been very strong on discouraging early marriages. They have set up village courts to punish families that force young girls into marriage.

In Chiwempala Chingola for instances, they indicated that there are high levels or cases of gender based violence. Though this did not come out from the other districts and it does not mean GBV does not happen in Kabwe or Chongwe. The women and the girl child are not safe. What makes the case even worse is the fact that even law enforcers such as the police are culprits when it comes to gender based violence. There have been many cases of women being abused by their husbands and some even being murdered. Discussants indicated that men abuse of beer is the main cause of GBV in Chiwempala Chingola.

*My husband whenever he comes back from drinking is very violent, in most cases he does not even give me money to use at home but he is always demanding for food. A woman in Chiwempala Chingola narrated.*

*Women are also battered. To a smaller extent, men are battered too by their women but cannot go to the police because they fear of being laughed at. FGDs: A Youth- Makululu Kabwe*

*There are cases of men been killed by their spouses because of infidelity, lack of support etc. Here in Chingola, we had two cases but also I heard from the Muvi TV of the similar cases. FGDs: A man Chiwempala Chingola*

- **GOAL 8: Decent and economic growth**

The prominent kind of employment for the people of Kabwe (Makululu) and Chongwe is self-employment. Most females are into hairdressing and selling vegetables and fish at the market. Fishing is the main source of income for most of Makululu residents and farming is a source of income for majority of people of Chongwe. Despite fishing being the main economic activity of the people of Makululu, it can't sustain them throughout the year as it is a seasonal business. During the rainy season government bans fishing to allow the fish to breed and many families are left with nothing to sustain them.

In all three districts, households engage in additional small-scale activities to supplement income. One of the Women participants in the FGDs repeatedly highlighted the profitability of making and selling baked goods, namely fritters and scones. Women also knit, and make brooms, baskets and other artisanal goods for sale.

Participants from Chongwe noted poor access to the market for their farm production. They cited things such as poor road networks as one of the biggest challenge they face to bring their products to the market. They also mentioned the increase in transportation due to high fuel prices. The other challenge is the existence of middle men especially in Lusaka when they bring their products for sell where the middle men will get the products and sell on their behalf and demand for a cut.

- **GOAL 10: Reduce income inequality**

The Zambia Lands Act of 1995 initiated a dual tenure system, which classifies land as either state-owned or customary. The original intent of the act was to promote a transfer of “customarily” owned land to state registered “titled” ownership (Brown, 2005; Malambo, 2014). The process of land transfer was seen as a mechanism to augment foreign investment and improve agricultural production by allowing smallholder farmers to use land as collateral for bank loans. However, recent assessments of the Lands Act indicate many of the promised benefits to low and middle-income landholders have not transpired (Ng’ombe and Keivani, 2013; Nolte, 2013).

Smallholder farmers have been largely excluded from titling and customary land rights have diminished. Rather, as Brown (2005) has documented in several chieftaincies, the majority of large conversions of customary lands have been awarded to Zambian elites and international investors, despite the requirement of approval from local chiefs. . In some instances, customary chiefs have additionally used the Lands Act as a revenue source, particularly in tourist areas (Brown, 2005). In rural areas, smallholders are often unaware of their right to obtain official land title. In addition to a lack of awareness of land rights, there are a number of obstacles to obtaining government-issued titles, particularly related to the costs associated with titling fees, official land surveys, and travel to relevant offices (Brown, 2005; Malambo, 2014; Ng’ombe et al., 2014).

During all group discussions, participants noted that land acquired from a local chief is passed down through generations, although the size of the land individuals acquire or inherit tends to differ in relation to socioeconomic status. In many cases, families of chiefs or influential people own larger portions of land compared to others. According to focus group participants, people most commonly acquire additional land when they have large families or superior negotiation skills. Discussants perceived that individuals with greater wealth or higher status are in an advantageous position to obtain larger tracks of land, despite consensus-based community decision-making processes. Discussion groups offered

examples of poor households who own smaller portions of land yet have more family members compared to better-off households or family members of local chiefs. Both women and men underscored the power relations at play in shaping people's control over and access to land.

In the event of looking for jobs, Women from Makululu Kabwe reported of being sexually harassed because of their poor economic status. Most jobs are offered to relatives, even teaching positions have also become very difficult nowadays noted one traditional leader during a key informant interview. To become a mine supplier you have to be connected to the senior government officials or mine management narrated one man –key informant Chingola.

*“One lady shared how she was asked for sex in exchange for a job in Kabwe.” 23 years female old FGD.*

*“It is so hard to find a job if you do not know anyone in top positions”. I am a qualified teacher but I am not posted since 2015. I know of a friend who has been posted to teach but she has not yet graduated leaving out some of us who graduated 2 years ago, 19 year old male Chingola.*

*Nowadays the political cadres have more powers than us civic or community leaders, they control the Land distribution, and bus stations/market places.....Key Informant-Kabwe.*

- **GOAL 16: Peace, justices and strong institutions**

Though Zambia is a peaceful country, the freedom of movement is threatened by increased unemployment due to lack of companies. The police, law enforcement have been manipulated/controlled by the government in power. This is a situation where one is persecuted only when he leaves the ruling party/government. While he/she is in power the law enforcement does not see the corrupted practices, immediately she/he leaves the ruling government, all corrupted practices are brought to light.

Like any other places, moving at night can be on one person's risk like in Makululu compound.

*There are groups of thugs like for example, “86 niggas”, “Junk 7”, “24 savages and “2 doors saballa”, which attack people in the area even during the day. FGDs: Makululu*

*The response from the police in the area is very poor. It is like they do not exist. They don’t respond with a sense of urgency to issues reported to them affecting the community such as crime and other related matters. FGDs: Makululu*

In all focus group discussions, Residents are not satisfied with public services because most public service workers, for example, nurses are mostly on Whatsapp, Face book and doing other activities on their phones despite long queues of people waiting to be attended to. Most Public offices are closed at hours they are supposed to be open to attend to the public. Most Public offices are closed at hours they are supposed to be open to attend to the public. They for instance take long lunch breaks, some can go out for lunch and leave their jackets on their desks only to come back to pick their jackets when it’s time to knock off.

For all the participants, they believe that the decision making process is not inclusive and responsive to their needs or concerns as a community. They cited issues such as whenever there is a development initiative taking place in the community they are not consulted and in most cases such has resulted in not tackling the real problem facing the community.

In all FGDs, the participants were quick to point out that *“they never held any consultative meetings with their elective representatives to engage on local development processes or initiatives”*. There are no platforms for locals to air their views in Makululu or engage with their local leadership. The only time they see their leaders is when they come to solicit for votes during campaign times or when there are bye elections.

While the participants of Chongwe felt that the decision making process is inclusive and responsive to their needs or concerns as a community. They cited issues such as whenever there is a development initiative taking place in the community they are consulted and in most cases such initiatives has resulted in a win/ win situation. They cited an example, when

government wanted to build a nuclear energy processing plant in Chongwe. The community and the local leadership were consulted and they expressed themselves on the matter.

Of all the districts or community visited for citizen hearing, Chongwe confirmed to hold consultative meeting with their elective representatives and their traditional authority to engage on local development processes or initiatives. There are platforms for locals to air their views in Chongwe or engage with their local leadership. This is done either through the traditional authority or the council.

### **Government Policies and Programs to advance the attainment of the SDGs**

There are a number of good policies in Zambia that would advance the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite having put in place good policies, Zambia has continued to face yet great challenges in implementing these policies.

#### **1. Poverty eradication**

Zambia has experienced a decade of strong economic performance, driven by renewed investment and high prices in the mineral sector. However, despite high levels of growth repeated hailed by the IMF and others as a 'success story' and a 'shining example' for Africa, there has been no increase in employment, and high levels of poverty and inequality have persisted. The high interest rates that attracted inward investment have constrained domestic participation in all sectors of the economy, especially agriculture. The benefits of growth have been limited to a small segment of the population. Indeed, it was growing popular discontent with the nature of Zambia's economic 'success' that led to a change in Government following the elections of September 2011.

The new Government, led by late President Michael Sata, faced the challenge of transforming an economy that sustained positive economic growth into one that supports equally positive inclusive, pro-poor growth. There is a strong political commitment to increasing employment, promoting labour-intensive economic activities, lowering interest rates and extending domestic participation in the economy. In doing so, it will be necessary to find a means of tapping into the country's vast unutilized natural resources (especially

land and water), whilst overcoming the challenges of being landlocked with poor internal transport infrastructure. Furthermore, the translation of policy into effective action requires the Government to address the weaknesses of key institutions of government, which have for many years operated with indistinct mandates and modalities, sometimes serving to block rather than promote development.

Indeed addressing poverty has remained the biggest challenge for successive governments in Zambia. Currently our external debt stands at closer to USD 10bn. There is need for the Patriotic front government to treat this as a national crisis and stop borrowing carelessly if we are to eradicate poverty, otherwise we must brace for more suffering as a country. In Zambia today things are bad to an extent that families can't afford three basic meals per day.

Government also must review some of its strategies of reducing poverty such as the farmer input support program (FISP) which it introduced to help vulnerable families to become food secure in rural areas. Late supply of farming inputs, poor follow up mechanism and the politicization of the process are among the major challenges this program faces. Furthermore there is need to ensure that people graduate from the program to create room for others to join the program especially the youths interested to pursue farming as a source of income and livelihood in rural areas.

**Social cash transfer:** Zambia has a policy on social cash transfer scheme implemented by the Ministry of community Development and Social welfare. Before 2014, the Social Cash Transfer Programme was implemented using four different targeting approaches: the 10 per cent inclusive scheme; the Child Grant Programme (CGP); the Multiple Categorical Targeting (MCT) scheme; and the Social Pension Scheme. These models were phased out between 2014 and 2017. A review of the targeting models led to a decision in 2013 to harmonize these approaches for a national programme. The model to be implemented nationwide is the 'Harmonized Inclusive Model.



At the end of 2015, the Social Cash Transfer programme was being implemented in 50 districts in Zambia. In 2016, the programme increased to another additional 28 districts using the harmonised inclusive model. Programme coverage per component of the programme is: CGP: Kaputa, Nsama, Shang'ombo, Sioma, Sikongo and Kalabo districts. MCT: Milenge, Chienge, Zambezi , Luwingu, Chitambo and Serenje districts. 10 per cent Inclusive Model: Kalomo, Monze, Chipata, Kazungula andimba districts. Social Pension: Katete District. Harmonised Inclusive Model (32 districts): Mufumbwe, Chavuma, Kitwe, Luanshya, Ndola, Mafinga, Lufwanyama, Lusaka, Luangwa, Livingstone, Gwembe, Itezhi-tezhi, Chinsali, Isoka, Nalolo, Shiwangandu, Lukulu, Senanga, Mitete, Chilubi, Mporokoso, Mambwe, Lunga, Mwense, Mungwi, Petauke, Kawambwa, Mwansabombwe, Nchelenge, Chipili, Samfya and Sikongo.

*(Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare- 2015 Social cash Transfer Fourth Quarter report. Lusaka: MCDSW.)*

According to people's experiences of the social cash transfer, many believe it's used as a political tool for the ruling party to buy votes from the poor communities during election times. Others believe it's nonexistent.

**Issues of employment:** issues of unemployment still remain a major challenge facing Zambians today especially the youths. According to peoples lived experiences, levels of unemployment continue rising. Most Zambians find their source of livelihood in the informal sector such as selling goods and food products on the streets but with the government's move of removing people from the streets due to the cholera outbreak, many people especially the youths have been left with no source of income. A few employment opportunities that the Zambian government has been talking about are in the construction industry and mostly temporal or casual. Collateral is another issue that limits the youths from accessing empowerment funds in Zambia. The Zambian government has developed an action plan to increase employment for Zambia's youth. These are some of the action plan's objectives:

- Make youth employment a strategic target for developing Zambia's economy.

- Rejuvenate the dynamism of the local labour markets by enhancing the quality of Zambia's graduate programs and students' skills. (*National youth policy on employment and empowerment: 2015*)

Ensure full participation of Zambia's young men and women in the design and planning of youth-centered interventions. These interventions still cannot be actualized in full due to lack of resources to implement the programs. The few jobs that the government boasts of creating are in the construction sector mainly owned or run by Chinese nationals especially in the road construction.

**High inequality levels:** Achieving equality in Zambia – income, access to services, gender and geographic – must be at the center of future development priorities for Zambians. As in many other countries, there are considerable and growing inequalities between urban and rural populations as well as men and women. Unfortunately the fruits of economic growth have not lifted all Zambians out of poverty. In contrary, with a Gini co-efficient of 0.65 and Gender Inequality Index value of 0.68310, Zambia is one of countries with the highest income and gender inequalities. The top 10 per cent of Zambians share more than half of the total national income. The bottom 60 per cent share less than 14 per cent. Extreme poverty is strongly linked with inequalities in literacy and access to economic opportunities. Reduction of poverty has not reached rural households and is also concentrated in urban pockets as Zambia has a high urbanization rate. Current statistics indicate that overall poverty has remained high at above 65 per cent, whilst rural poverty is even higher at around 80 per cent. Extreme poverty stands at 60.4 per cent in female headed households compared to 57.1 per cent in male headed households.

This notion of relative difference between rich and poor, men and women may also hold for other non-economic domains of life including human development, with some geographic regions positioned far ahead and many others far behind. For example, Western Province has a much lower human development index value (0.321) than Copperbelt (0.480)<sup>14</sup>. HIV prevalence in adult women is higher at 16 per cent compared to men at 12 per cent. Zambia has signed the African Union and South African Development Community (SADC) protocols that call for a more equal participation of women in the formal economy and in political

representation. Women made up 52 per cent of the voting bloc in the 2011 elections, and yet women's representation in Zambia's parliament is at 14 percent is one of the lowest in the region.

Women make up a large share of the informal sector work force and many are in unpaid or underpaid jobs, receiving as little as two-fifths of what men receive. Girls and women face gender-based violence (GBV) and problems in accessing credit facilities, as they often do not own land or asset for mortgage. Disability is another common and widely ignored source of inequality. Many children with disabilities do not attend school. (*Post2015 report-Zambia 2013*)

## **2. Policy on Education**

Since 1964 Zambia in contrast to most of the countries it borders, has experienced a period of political stability. With strong and sustained economic growth over the last decade, Zambia is now classed as a lower middle-income country. The Government's commitment to education has been clear since it passed the 1964 Education Act governing the financing and management of education in Zambia. Education development has been among the Government's main priorities, as indicated by the stable share of government spending devoted to education, as well as successive education sector plans, **national implementation framework** (NIF-I, NIF-II, NIF-III) and associated policy reforms. Following a period of decline in education delivery and performance, due to growing poverty and underinvestment in education between 1980 and 2001, Zambia has undertaken considerable policy development and reform to meet evolving national aspirations and social demands to improve its national education system. Free basic education (FBE) was, for example, introduced in 2002, through the Basic Educational Sub-sector Investment Programme (BESSIP). Such policy initiatives have resulted in increased access to basic education, improved infrastructure, and enhanced equity at primary level. Zambia is not only close to achieving universal primary education (UPE), but is also approaching universal lower secondary education. The question of the UPE, which entails that there is free education in Zambia, was highly criticized by the people in all the three communities. ***One parent in Kabwe (Makululu) asked us that "How can education be free in Zambia from***

***grade 1-7 when people still pay parents and teachers association funds (PTA) in government schools?". They further said that schools have resorted to exploiting the communities by forcing them to buy school uniforms at the schools at very high prices when compared to the normal market price.*** Government has argued that they banned the selling of uniforms in schools but the people are arguing that it was a mere political statement as measures were not put in place to bar school authorities to sell school uniforms. One parent in Makululu even produced a receipt from a named government school in Makululu as evidence that they are paying school fees in the form of PTA despite government's pronouncement that education is free in Zambia. The other area that raises grey spots among most community members is the issue of private schools and early childhood education in Zambia. This sector has been left in the private sector and people feel they are being exploited. One parent in Chongwe asked, why the council can't take up the role of providing early childhood in Zambia to enable all the children especially those from poor households and rural areas to benefit from this service. There is need too to regulate private schools which are treating education as a commodity in Zambia. The Government's current education strategy is to expand investment to develop upper secondary education, technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training (TEVET), and higher education. This strategy is not only in line with the Education2030 Agenda, but also drives to the country's vision 'to become a prosperous middle income country by 2030'. It is important to note that Zambia's sustained economic growth has not yet been translated into significant poverty reduction. Almost 60 per cent of the population still lives below the poverty line. Wide disparities exist between population strata, as well as between urban and rural areas, particularly in education. This was evident in Makululu in Kabwe and Chongwe where children still walk long distances to go to school. Despite the improvements made in education, huge challenges remain in terms of education quality, relevance, internal efficiency, and equity, as well as in the effectiveness and efficiency of educational service delivery. For example, notwithstanding the progress made towards UPE, an estimated 195,582 Zambian children were out of schooling 2013 (World Bank, 2015). Furthermore, the transition rate to upper secondary education has fallen steeply, from 50 per cent in 2007 to 37 per cent in 2014. The dropout rates are significantly higher for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), students from poorer families, and those attending

schools in rural areas. Student performances in national examinations, and national and international large-scale assessments, are well below expectations, as witnessed by the countries Southern and Eastern African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) results. Performance in Zambian schools remains below the minimum standards established by the Ministry of Education (MoE) Weak policy implementation, combined with inadequate funding, has undermined the effectiveness and efficiency of education service delivery in Zambia. This was particularly evident in the poor implementation of decentralization policy, inefficient intra-sectoral budget allocation, and the erratic and often late release of the education budget. All these difficulties have been exacerbated by weak education planning and management. More promisingly, however, Zambia is striving to address these challenges, though its success will depend on how well these efforts are sustained. Under the revised Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP), the National Implementation Framework (NIF) III provides a comprehensive sector development plan with clear targets, aligned with the national Vision 2030 as well as with the fourth Sustainable Development Goal, to ensure inclusive and quality education for all. Given the recommendations of a number of recent appraisals, this one included, it is expected that the Government will make the necessary efforts to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of its sector development plan. *(UNESCO Report on Education-2015)*

### **3. National youth employment Policy**

This Policy was informed by Government strategic focus areas as contained in the Revised Sixth National Development Plan, Industrialization and Job Creation Strategy and other Sectorial Policies such as the Education Policy, National Agriculture Investment Plan, 2013 Revised Education Curriculum Framework and 2009 Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET) Policy, among others. In addition, there was wide consultation with stakeholders which included the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations when coming up with this policy. The policy is built on the premise that Zambia, like most African Countries, has a significant proportion of its county's population comprising people under the age of 35 years. This youthful demographic variable presents an opportunity for national development by harnessing the potential that youths have. In

line with this, it is critical that Government, in partnership with key stakeholders provides the youth with equal access to opportunities that enable them to grow, develop and prosper as fully engaged, responsible, patriotic and productive citizens. This policy was therefore prepared for the Zambian Youth Sector with the objective of mitigating the gaps and challenges, strengthening the existing interventions, maintaining and adopting best practices, discarding interventions that have not worked, enhancing access to and quality of services, extending coverage and increasing impact. As a means of achieving empowerment for the Zambian youth, the policy highlights target groups within the Youth Cohort and provides key interventions that will provide for holistic and meaningful development of the Youth. The key policy priority areas under which interventions have been crafted include employment and entrepreneurship development; education and skills development; health and cultural, creative industries and sport. Cementing these policy areas are crosscutting issues such as gender, disability, environment, HIV and AIDS and participation. It is envisaged that the latter can be harnessed by inclusion and active participation of youth in decision-making processes, policy development, programming and project implementation. Critical to the successful implementation of the policy are partnerships across sectors to foster ownership through mainstreaming of youth issues in all development programmes and clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the sectoral stakeholders. This calls for intergovernmental 2015 NATIONAL YOUTH Policy coordination that will be heightened through the strengthening of the capacity of stakeholders within the youth sector. It is hoped that professionalization of youth work will strengthen capacity of the youth sector while promoting the provision of quality services (***national youth policy 2015***).

Having highlighted the above, the reality is quite different on the ground. We still have high numbers of youths roaming the streets because they can't either

- Find a job
- Or due to lack of youth empowerment funds in Zambia.

For instance the year 2017; the Ministry of youth could not give out youth empowerment funds to the young people in Zambia because it was not provided for in the national budget. In cases where this fund has been provided, it comes with strong political attachments. One

has to be a member of a certain political part and in most cases the party in government to access the fund. The youth empowerment fund is a political tool for the ruling party to increase its political mileage among its cadres. It's also not adequate to cater for the large youth population in Zambia.

In terms of youth employment which is the main pillar where this policy was crafted, it has failed to reach its goal or objective. Many young people are still not employed in Zambia; the majority of them are on the streets of major cities with their diplomas and degrees searching for employment. One youth during the hearing in Chingola alluded to the fact they used to survive by engaging themselves in informal employment such as street vending in town or in their compounds but after the Cholera outbreak government banned street vending accusing it of increasing the spread of the disease. A few jobs that were created are those in the construction industry which in most cases are short term and not sustainable. There is need for government to review the national youth employment and empowerment policy of 2015. Otherwise it is good in theory but very poor in practice because many young people haven't benefited from it. (*National youth policy on employment and empowerment: 2015*)

#### **4. Gender Policy**

This policy is the revised version of the National Gender Policy (NGP) of 2000. Since the adoption of the first Policy in 2000, Zambia has made progress in the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women in some sectors, though critical challenges still remain. The first National Gender Policy was aimed at achieving full participation of both women and men in the development process at all levels in order to ensure sustainable development and attainment of equity and equality between sexes. In implementing the Policy, the focus was to:-

- i) Facilitate the repeal and amendment of legislation that discriminate against women;

- ii) Increase access to and control over productive resources such as land and credit facilities;
- iii) Enhance access and utilisation of information and technology; and
- iv) Mainstream gender in all socio-economic and political policies, programmes, plans, projects and the national budgets to ensure that they are gender responsive. The revised Policy gives a clear mandate to the Ministry of Gender and Child Development and other Line Ministries to mainstream gender in their operations. It sets priority areas of action at the National, Provincial, District and Community levels in terms of planning, resource allocation and implementation of development programmes to promote gender equity and equality.

The ultimate objective of this Policy is to create a Zambian society which has achieved the Vision of **‘A nation where there is gender equity and equality for sustainable development’**. Notably, there has been an increase in general awareness on gender issues and some of the key achievements during the implementation of the first National Gender Policy include:-

- i) The enactment of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 and the Matrimonial Causes Act No. 20 of 2007;
- ii) Establishment of the institutional framework that led to the creation of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development;
- iii) A Strategy for engendering the public service is in place; and
- iv) Several affirmative action policies have been put in place especially in the education sector and these will need to continue to fill the gender gaps that are reducing but continue to exist.

Despite some of the achievements cited above, the following challenges, among others, were encountered:-

- i) Limited understanding of gender mainstreaming among implementing institutions;
- ii) Inadequate Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework in the previous policy;



- iii) Inadequate policy implementation framework; and
- iv) Limited co-ordination between ministries, their statutory bodies and other government agencies.

The revision of National Gender Policy 2014, therefore, seeks to address the shortcomings identified during the implementation period of the first policy and takes into account:-

- i) Changing socio-economic landscape,
- ii) Persistence of feminization of poverty,
- iii) Rising gender dynamics in the HIV and AIDS pandemic,
- iv) Increased incidences of gender based violence,
- v) Human trafficking,
- vi) Negative impact of Climate change on women and children, and
- vii) Increased involvement of women in drug trafficking.

In addition, the Policy takes into account the priorities and aspirations of the Government as set out in Development Plans such as the Vision 2030, Revised Sixth National Development Plan (RSNDP), Millennium Development Goals/sustainable development goals (MDGs/SDGs) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development. It also outlines broad measures for promoting gender equality including transforming mind sets as well as removing negative attitudes and cultural practices. It, therefore, identifies areas of action that include:-

- I) Gender audits and plans of action based on the issues identified;
- II) Revision of policies, programmes and legislations;
- III) Awareness campaigns on gender issues in communities;
- IV) Empowerment of women by facilitating participation in education and economic activities;
- V) Addressing issues that hinder women's rights such as Gender Based Violence (GBV), forced early- child marriages and child-teenage pregnancies;

- VI) Tackling gender-related land issues; and
- VII) Adherence to reproductive health rights especially for women and girls.

This Policy, therefore, builds on the previous policy on the goal of attainment of gender equity and equality. But the reality on the ground is that women still face gender inequalities in their homes, work places etc. This is evident if you look at the roles played by either girls or women and those of their male counterparts. Despite females being involved in all the activities that men do such as tiling the land, they also have to spend long hours doing household chores while the men and boys will be relaxing or studying. On average, we discovered that a female head of the house spends about 6/8 hours doing household duties in most communities in Zambia. A girl child besides, doing her household duties is expected to attend to her school assignments which in most cases has disadvantaged the girl child when it comes to academic performance.

This is more evident when we look at women's involvement in key decision making processes or in the corporate world. Women's participation is still very low. Females' representation in parliament in Zambia is still at 14% lower than the SADC declaration of 50/50 representation. Accesses to economic activities such as land, financial empowerment from banks etc still remain a preserve for the men. To realize gender equity and equality in Zambia more needs to be done especially at household levels in raising boys and girls in an equal manner. We must transcend our cultural barriers that hinder the progress of the girl child to fully realize gender equality in Zambia. *(Revised Gender Policy of 2000)*

### **Public Participation**

In recent years, there has been a trend in international human rights law to expand the responsibilities of governments to include and consult stakeholders in decision making processes. Participation has been incorporated into the human rights based approach to development as a goal in itself as well as a cross cutting principle. Public participation is an instrument of deliberative democratic systems that seeks to capture the concerns and opinions of the people affected by governments' decisions, or of the citizenry in general. Effective and meaningful public participation can therefore have a profound impact on democratic governance and the realisation of other human rights such as economic, social

and cultural rights. In Zambia unfortunately this remains a huge challenge; the Citizens are not involved local decision making process. This was evident from all the three surveys we carried out in Makululu, Chiwempala and Chongwe. In two communities residents attested to the fact that they rarely have meetings with their local leaders or elected representatives who affect their participation in local decision making processes or the development of their communities.

Part of the survey was to examine the current situation of public participation and identify the obstacles and opportunities for meaningful public participation in local development in Zambia. Public participation is driven by interplay of factors including individual capacity, available channels, platforms and willingness on the part of government authorities to provide platforms and engage genuinely with the public. There are opportunities for public participation within and outside government at various levels. Periodic elections allow citizens to vote and hold leaders accountable. Parliamentary Select Committees are open to public or expert submissions and Council meetings are open to the public. Sector specific initiatives also hold public meetings to create awareness and engage communities. Additional platforms for participation include the Sector Advisory Groups and Provincial and District Development Coordinating Committees.

In Zambia today public participation framework remains incoherent and uncoordinated. Respondents in this survey found it difficult to adduce clear mechanisms through which participation is organised. There are a number of reasons many citizens and civil society organisations may find it difficult to participate in public affairs. First, although public participation is considered “open” to citizens and other non-state actors, there is only implied basis in the legal and policy documents on which stakeholders can participate. According to the submission we got from one key informant, ***“in the majority of instances, participation is based on the personal goodwill of the concerned technocrats or the political will of the politicians”***. While there has been a progression towards individual driven initiatives, the past culture of government led public initiatives appears to have become embedded in society and continues to inform current participation. This makes the population slow in responding appropriately to the dynamics of market led participation, which is dependent on individual initiative, creativity and capacity. Unfortunately the government has been slow to decentralize its structures to encourage individual and local

participation since independence in 1964 and the population has been accustomed to a top down approach in participating in public affairs. **Furthermore, another key informant in Chongwe district said, that where there is no direct monetary benefit for those involved, participation is usually low. Secondly, public participation seems to be much more facilitated at the national level, making it difficult for those located in outlying rural areas to participate and influence public policy. In most cases only a few CSOs, business entities and traditional leaders – the so called “usual suspects” – are regularly involved in participation.** In most instances civil society and business actors participate by giving feedback to a proposed position; in other words, participation is reactive rather than proactive. Thirdly, the extent of government accommodation and responsiveness to civil society participation appears to be limited. Finally, it is also important to note that the formal public participation framework has not mainstreamed gender, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable groups. Gender is only accommodated at the level of the Sector Advisory Groups and District Development Coordinating Committees, while other vulnerable groups are not accommodated. Even in this regard, gender is incorporated in the District Development Coordinating Committees only in cases where stakeholders find it necessary to set up a sub-committee on gender. Inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups are yet to be mandatory considerations in the public participation framework in Zambia.

### **Section 3: Conclusion and Policy recommendations**

#### **Recommendations from the Hearing in Zambia**

- Sensitize people on their rights and role in community development
- Youth empowerment through putting up skills training centres in the community, provide loans and access to information and technology.
- Frequent consultative meetings with their elected leadership
- Sensitization on the dangers of early marriages and ending it.
- The authorities should put up more public water kiosks in the area

- Entrepreneurship training programmes and funding for the residents.
- The government should build better markets for the locals
- Reduction on regulatory requirements to start a business. Taxes, levies and registration fees for start-ups in Zambia are too high.
- Equal opportunities in terms of employment for youths, women and old people
- Consider reducing the Price of fuel because it has a huge impact on the cost of living and doing business in Zambia
- The government should construct proper roads and drainages in the community to prevent poor sanitation and outbreaks of water borne diseases such as Cholera and dysentery.
- School fees should be reduced in government schools in accordance with the government policy of free education from grade 1-7.
- The government should increase availability of drugs in the hospitals and clinics.
- Public participation in local or community development must be encouraged and promoted in Zambia.
- Timely distribution of farming inputs to the farmers
- Construct processing plants within the farming districts to reduce on the transportation costs incurred in transporting farm products to the markets by farmers.

**By: Dennis Nyati**

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## **Appendices**

### **References**

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2. *UNESCO report on education, 2015*
3. *Revised gender policy Zambia, 2000*
4. *Revised seventh national development plan,(RSNDP 2017-2021)*
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6. *World Bank Report Zambia, 2015*
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### **Citizens Hearings list of participant**

#### **1. Kabwe-Makululu**

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ANGEL MWAPE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0966 126867
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RUTH KAUNDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0974 441548
LEWIS MWILA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0977 4332214
EDISON SINKAMBA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
KABILA CHAMA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
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THERESA CHUMBO	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JOSEPH MAWELE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0953 116005
MILDRED MUTOBA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0972 422943
ENOCK BUSA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JUDITH KUNDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JEFF BANDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
HONEST KAMULU	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
ELIJAH SIMFUKWE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0973 697220
ROBBY KAFUTA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	

BRIAN MWALE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0954 842005
ANTHONY WITO	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JAILOS LUNGU	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0964 597954
CLIFFORD CHANDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
DAINESS KANDEKE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
DORCAS NSOFWA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JUNITER MUTIMA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
LUCKSON MWAPE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
LINDA MUTIMA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JEREMIAH KAUNDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
NKOLE SOSALA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
MICHAEL MAPILI	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
VIVIANA MATINDI	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
CHRISTOPHER	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
CHRISTINE MUTIMA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
JUSTINA MWILA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
RUTH KUNDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
FREDRICK KATABABA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
MIRRIAM SANDALA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0969 586913
MIRRIAM MUSANGE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
CHRISTINE KASHINTE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
DOROTHY MUSANGE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
PRECIOUS LUNGU	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0972 072365
OBERT CHAMA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0969 010364
JOSEPH KASONGO	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0966 060921
DOROUS MUSOLE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0965 040664
BENNY MATINDI	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0972 072369
JACQUILINE SAIDI	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
FRED KUNDA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0964 861548
NANCY KAPENGE	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0979 282548
ROSEMARY CHOMBA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	
ANWELL MWABA	FAITH COOPERATIVE	MAKULULU	0979 858957

### 1. Chingola- Chiwempala

CECILIA KABABA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MACHAYI ELLAH	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
JUDY CHINJAVATA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MILINGU MUSOLE C	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
DOREEN SANDOLO	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
JOYCE LAMBI	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
JANET NYASUMBI	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
KASOKA CHRSTINA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	

SAMUKONGA PHYLLIS	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MBEWE NYUMA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
DOROTHY CHIMWANGA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MUYUTU CHRISTINE	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MAGGY MULWANDA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
SILA SOMILI	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
EXILDAH LUKAMA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
P. CHIWAYA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
PHILIS SHINKALA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
CHARITY SAMUNGOLE	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
CHRISTINE LUNETTA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MAUREEN NIAMWIZA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MAKUWA CHRISTINE	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MPONDA CHRISPINE	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
CHINYAMA DOREEN	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
EXILDHA KADILILA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
JOY KALENGA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
GLENDA SAKUHUKA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
ANNIE LUPASA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
ROSE NDULINGA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
KASOLE LUMAYI	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MRS LUBINDA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
KABANGWE MALAMA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MWEEMBA BERLINGS	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
YOTHAM MUSONDA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MODEST SIMUNTALA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
ELIZABETH L MUTETO	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MUSONDA JOHN	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
NDOLA FRANCIS	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MUSANYA KESTINE	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
PHIRI CLEMENT	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
MAGGIE CHIRWA CHOLA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
LILLIAN MULENGA MUNAKOMBWE	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
CHIBILA GEOFFREY	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
DENNIS NYATI	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	



OBERT MUMBA	Resident of Chiwempala	Chiwempala	
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## 2. Chongwe

Name	Organisation	Location	Contact Details
Robison Phiri	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Rueben Banda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Sindi Mulaisho	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Themba Moyo	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Christopher Mtonga	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Margret Mwansa	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Sylvia Lombe	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Idah Mwamba	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Mutinta Mwiya	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Jacqueline Nkata	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Anastazia Lungu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Emeldah Masupelo	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Derrick Banda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Augustine Jambo	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Muyunda Moya	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Albert Kalenga	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Vincent Bwalya	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Chkondi Lungu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Linos Mwanda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Gabriel Zulu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Faidesi Mbozi	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Edith Moroma	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Enelesi Moyo	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Olipa Chanda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Modester Zimba	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Elijah Sibanda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Rueben Njobvu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Lucy Musokotwane	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Douglas Lubanga	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	

Elliot Mwauluka	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Progress Hamoba	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Miracle Lungu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Alinafe Phiri	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Elisha Zulu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Modris Ziyambo	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Kenneth Kalaluka	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Moses Lupiya	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Alines Zulu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Zelipa Banda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Mwamba Lukwesa	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Senzeni Mulamabo	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Mulenga Mwansa	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Ngoza Lungu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Lidya Hara	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Gibson Nyoni	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Sam Daka	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Patrick Mooba	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Elestina Zimba	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Elisha Nyirenda	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Ronald Kapembwa	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Monalisa Zulu	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Hilary Miti	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Euphrasia Funga	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Mailesi Kalima	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Susan Kalima	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Jacqueline Funyina	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Donatos Longwe	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Zikali Zimba	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	
Abel Miti	Chongwe Resident	Chongwe	

## **List of Key informant interviews**

### **Kabwe**

Abraham Fumbe: Teacher Makululu

Donald Mwila: Senior Citizen Makululu

Agness Mbewe: Resident Makululu- Marketer

### **Chiwempala**

Adrian Kalumba: Resident Chiwempala

Mr. x : district administrative office( didn't want to be recognized)

Zelipa Lungu: Youth from Chiwempala Compound.

### **Chongwe**

Martha Muyunda: Peasant farmer Chongwe

Derrick Tembo: Teacher at a rural school

Vincent Mazyopa: Local Farmer

### ***Citizen's Hearing in photos***