



UNDP IN ZIMBABWE
Supporting A Sustainable Future
 2012 - 2015

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CONTENTS

3	Foreword
4	PROMOTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
6	New Constitution Milestone
7	Government Submits Mid-Term Report on Human Rights
7	Zimbabwe Participates in Universal Periodic Review
8	Supporting a Mechanism for Peace and Reconciliation
10	TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
12	Improving Fiscal Efficiency and Accountability
13	Reducing Gender Inequality and Promoting Women's Empowerment
16	Protecting Fragile Ecosystems
16	COMBATING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY THROUGH MDGs
18	Localising MDGs in Zimbabwe
20	Giving Voice to a New Generation of Technopreneurs
	UN VOLUNTEERS
22	National UNVS in the Front-line of Public Service
24	EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE
25	Developing Communities One Cooperative at a Time
26	INVESTING IN STRONG INSTITUTIONS TO DELIVER UNIVERSAL HEALTH SERVICES
28	Brighter Future for Children Born to Mothers Living with HIV
29	National TB prevalence Survey Launched



FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

As the 2012-2015 UNDP Zimbabwe programming cycle comes to a close, we are delighted to share with you the highlights of our development work in the country.

The assistance was broad, reflecting National Priorities, and anchored on the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) 2012-2015. Interventions cut across areas of democratic governance and human rights, poverty reduction and sustainable development, environmental management, gender equality and women empowerment as well as the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, complementing the work of other UN sister agencies, Government and development partners.

Through the Constitutional Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC), UNDP supported the historic constitution-making process culminating in the new Constitution that was promulgated in 2013. The Constitution is quite progressive, with a comprehensive Bill of Rights that covers civil, political, social and economic rights. A key aspect of this has been the support provided in establishing the constitutional basis for independent commissions, covering human rights, peace and reconciliation and elections and in helping build their capacity. This will enhance the rule of law and accountability in Zimbabwe by ensuring that more citizens have a say in matters that affect them.

The support to the country's economic transition at the national level including institutional capacity building of key ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, Lands and Rural Resettlement, Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development as well as Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development will strengthen service delivery.

As the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund Grants since 2009, UNDP facilitated effective and efficient delivery of support, thus contributing to major achievements in the fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and in strengthening health systems

across the country. This has significantly increased access to life-saving services across the country, benefitting millions of people.

While we achieved a lot, many challenges remain. The country has made some notable achievements with regard to some MDGs. These include: MDG2 on universal primary education; MDG3 on gender equality in schools; and MDG6 on HIV and AIDS. However, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) and improving maternal mortality (MDG5) remain unmet. These—and other critical goals—must receive greater attention in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) era.

Going forward, the thrust of the new Country Programme for 2016-2020 will consolidate on some of the gains made in the current Country programme. UNDP will focus on areas that have a multiplier effect through targeted build-up of institutional capacities, strengthening governance and human rights and downstream poverty interventions that are scalable

I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the development partners and the Government for their excellent collaboration with UNDP and the UN system in Zimbabwe.



Bishow Parajuli
Resident Representative

Promoting Citizen Participation and Good Governance

UNDP supported five key interventions to sustain Zimbabwe's political and economic recovery. These included: i) enhancing national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights, the rule of law and access to justice for all; ii) strengthening national capacities for peace-building and dialogue, national healing and reconciliation and integration; iii) improving accountability mechanisms and public service delivery capacity; iv) enhancing public participation in decision making and the democratic process, including constitution making; and v) promoting laws, policies and frameworks that ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Key support was given to the implementation of the new Constitution to strengthen capacity in democratic governance. The Country Office provided technical and financial support to (i) establish and operationalise the Human Rights Commission; (ii) draft the Gender Commission Bill; (iii) draft the principles of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) Bill; (iv) aligning local government legislation to the new Constitution; (v) orientation and induction of new councillors in line with the new constitutional mandate; and (vi) establish the Justice, Law & Order coordination policy. In anticipation of the establishment of the NPRC, national and local peace-building capacities for State and non-State actors were enhanced.

The Enhancing Justice Delivery and Human Rights for All project helped create important coordination mechanisms, including a coordinating platform for justice, law and order sector (JLOS), and a Capacity Gap Assessment Report and Implementation Strategy.

UNDP support to the Universal Periodic Review process additionally built up cross-sectoral partnerships between Government and other stakeholders, including CSOs, faith-based organisations, parliament and independent commissions.

Independent evaluation of the programme on good governance for sustainable development rated UNDP's contribution to constitution-making very high and found the programme was well on course to achieve its outcome. According to the report, the programme was relevant to Zimbabwe's context as it responded directly to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) that provided for the Inclusive Government (IG).

The evaluation report said the programme was well implemented and designed appropriately to respond to the complex political environment.





DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- Australia
- Denmark
- France
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Department for International Development (UK)
- European Union
- Embassy of Sweden
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

NEW CONSTITUTION MILESTONE

UNDP began supporting the Constitution making process in April 2010 through the 'Support to Participatory Constitution-Making in Zimbabwe' project. In addition to technical and financial support from UNDP, the project received assistance from a group of donors, including the governments of Australia, Denmark, France, The Netherlands and Norway. Others are the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Department for International Development (UK), the European Union, Embassy of Sweden and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This was a nationally driven process led by the Constitutional

Parliamentary Committee (COPAC). The process started with a First All Stakeholders Conference that agreed on the 17 thematic areas of the Constitution and established 17 subcommittees of COPAC.

This was followed by a public outreach programme in which the people were consulted on what they wanted in the new Constitution. Under this public outreach programme, 4,821 meetings were held throughout the country (reaching approximately 1.2 million people), and 51 written and 2,397 electronic submissions received, including from Zimbabweans in the diaspora.

The process was enhanced adopting international experiences and best

▲ Approximately 1.2 million people throughout the country were reached under the public outreach programme

practices from similar processes elsewhere. At the request of the national authorities, UNDP provided international experts to analyse the field data from the public outreach programme for drafting purposes. In addition, a Strategic Advisor with wide knowledge and experience in political dialogue and negotiations provided technical support to COPAC. This included the translation of the data into a Constitutional Framework, as well as identification of Constitutional Issues and Constitutional Principles used to guide the drafting process.

Following this process, a final Draft Constitution was adopted by all the main political parties and put to a national referendum on 16 March 2013 where it was endorsed by an overwhelming majority.

We congratulate Zimbabwe for this milestone.



GOVERNMENT SUBMITS MIDTERM REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In July 2014, Zimbabwe submitted its midterm progress report to the United Nations Human Rights Council, outlining the steps taken in implementing the 130 recommendations it had accepted. This report is a voluntary self-assessment statement by Zimbabwe stating the progress made, the challenges faced and the strategies for meeting the obligations assumed in the recommendations. This followed the adoption of a national action plan for implementing the UPR recommendations by all stakeholders in September 2012. The process is being monitored by a UPR Steering Committee comprising representatives of all stakeholders to ensure coherence and sustainability.

ZIMBABWE PARTICIPATES IN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The Universal Periodic Review is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council aimed at improving the human rights situation in each of the 193 United Nations Member States.

Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 4.5 years. Forty-two states are reviewed each year during three Working Group sessions dedicated to 14 States each. The sessions are usually held in January/February, May/June and October/November.

The result of each review is reflected in an “outcome report” listing the recommendations the State under Review (SuR) will have to implement before the next review.

At the 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council held in Geneva, Switzerland, Zimbabwe allowed the United Nations to review its human rights record. The Government accepted 130 of the 177 recommendations proposed by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group on Zimbabwe during its October 2011 review.

During the preparation process, UNDP and the UN Country Team

provided technical and advisory support on key principles and tenets of the UPR process and the dissemination of information guidelines, alerts and schedules from the UN Human Rights Council or the UPR section in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It also mobilised all the stakeholders for the national consultative process.

The process also entailed sharing information with other stakeholders, sensitising the Government on the importance of this process and reaching out to national human rights institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders to explain the process and its significance for Zimbabwe.

The list of recommendations accepted by Zimbabwe include the need to scale up efforts to combat human trafficking, ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and taking concrete measures to align Zimbabwe’s domestic laws, including customary laws, with international human rights instruments that it is party to.

A review of legislation related to human rights, anti-corruption efforts and the national reconciliation process and appeasement was also recommended. UNDP is continuing to work with the Government in implementing the recommendations.

UNDP and the UN Country Team provided technical and advisory support on key principles and tenets of the UPR process and the dissemination of information guidelines, alerts and schedules from the UN Human Rights Council

133

out of 177
proposed
recommendations
were accepted for
implementation



SUPPORTING A MECHANISM FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Through the initiative Support for Peace Building, Disaster Risk Management and Increased Access to Sustainable Livelihoods for Resilience Building and Social Cohesion, UNDP contributed to creating an enabling environment for peace-building and development

in Zimbabwe. Launched against the background of the 2008 political violence, it builds on previous UNDP-supported initiatives on dialogue and conflict prevention.

The programme was implemented by the Office of the President and Cabinet through the Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration (ONHRI). Other institutions involved were the

▲ 16 of the 72 Local Peace Committees established in 2014 are led by women

Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare; the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing; the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development; the Ecumenical Church Leaders Forum (ECLF); the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO); and Culture Fund Trust of Zimbabwe (CFToZ). The Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and

Economic Empowerment and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development were involved as strategic collaborative partners.

At the institutional level, the creation of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) and the approval by Cabinet of the draft principles of the NPRC Bill will provide the legal framework for peace-building and reconciliation in the country. The NPRC is an independent constitutional commission mandated to facilitate post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation.

Working with NGOs such as NANGO, Culture Fund Trust of Zimbabwe and the Church and Civil Society Forum, employees of key Government institutions and faith-based organisations were trained on conflict prevention, dialogue and mediation, resulting in a pool of 146

peace-building facilitators in the country.

In addition, five platforms for structured dialogue and consensus building processes have been strengthened across the country to sustain social cohesion and engagement on national development priorities. Consequently, a Community of Practice was constituted to further inform policy and practice of peace-building and reconciliation.

A total of 72 Local Peace Committees (16 women-led) were established in 2014 countrywide to consolidate community cohesion and spearhead conflict-sensitive development efforts at the local level. In addition, four schools in Mberengwa and Binga districts as well as two clinics and a community hall in Bulilima District were rehabilitated to enhance access to education and health services. In Mutare, Masvingo

and Gweru, youth information centres were established. The centres will provide space for youths to interact, thereby consolidating community peace and social cohesion.

A total of seven savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs) were established in Binga, Insiza, Mberengwa, Lupane, Umzingwane and Gokwe districts to facilitate access to micro-credit by rural entrepreneurs. Furthermore, six District Disaster Risk Management plans have been developed to respond to district-level disasters and to avert potential conflicts within communities.

A recent internal evaluation found that the peace-building initiatives at the grassroots level are key to continued progress in developing programming.

Local Peace Committees

play a key role in resolving disputes within communities, reducing the load on formal justice, law and order systems.

Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

The UNDP support under this pillar focused on two main areas:

i) strengthening the capacities of institutions responsible for economic management and evidence-based policy formulation and implementation, and ii) the management of land, natural resources and climate change to boost food security.

UNDP continued to work with the Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (Zimstat) to strengthen its capacity to generate, analyse and disseminate data. This boosted Zimstat's capacity, leading to regular field data collection for key surveys, notably the Agriculture and Livestock Survey (ALS), the Census of Industrial Production and the Quarterly Employment Inquiry (CIP/QEI), the Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS) and the Survey of Services.

The completion and dissemination of the 2012 PICES Survey was a major development. It offered fresh perspectives required for the precise measurement of the gross domestic product, including an accurate estimation of the size of the informal sector in the wake of the economic contraction that occurred between 1998 and 2008. These findings were important for the economic management of the country. The project was funded by DFID. Other donors were USAID, UNICEF, AfDB, UNFPA, ACBF, and the World Bank.

The 2012 Progress Report as well as the Accelerated Action Plan for MDG2 were produced with support from UNDP and other UN Agencies. In addition, UNDP facilitated policy advisory services leading to the publication of high-quality analytical products such

as the Quarterly Economic Bulletin; Bi-annual National Economic Reports; and Quarterly Economic Bulletins. UNDP also supported the preparation of Macro Fiscal Frameworks for the Mid-Year Fiscal Review and the National Annual Budget.

UNDP also supported Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Environment, Water & Climate and Tourism to enhance oversight and policy advice on prevailing environmental issues, conventions and wildlife conservation. In addition, strategies and action plans for a National Energy Information System, and a National Biodiversity and National Climate Change Response were developed and launched.

The country office continued to support key environmental and sustainable programming. Furthermore, a National Energy Policy was launched in 2012 and a Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) rapid assessment and a gap analysis study was carried out by the government with UNDP support. The National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) was developed, setting the stage for the formulation of a national climate policy.

Support was provided to promote organic farming and alternative energy at the community level, culminating in the award of the 2014 Equator Prize for sustainable development to the Makoni Organic Farmers Association (MOFA).





IMPROVING FISCAL EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Being the acting Chief Accountant of Government Accounting Services in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ms Madzwanya Chipo is used to crunching numbers, following the money trail and reconciling financial statements from government offices across the country.

The acting Chief Accountant relies mostly on the Public Finance Management System (PFMS), a financial management tool that was implemented in the public service with support from UNDP. The support was channelled through the Strengthened National Capacities for Planning, Public Finance, Aid and Debt Management project. The 2012-2015 project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. “All transactions are now being done through PFMS, reducing overspending by line ministries,” says Ms Chipo, adding that the system is now widely used in the provinces, ensuring

▲ Staff at a PFMS Call Centre. The project was funded by the UNDP.

“production of monthly financial statements promptly and accurately by line ministries, and reduction in errors and fraud”.

According to the World Bank, the PFMS is an essential part of the development process. Sound public finance management ensures accountability and efficiency in the management of public resources, which is critical to the achievement of public policy objectives, including the MDGs.

With UNDP support, the Government has institutionalised training on public finance management for accountants at the central and provincial levels. Some 2,000 accountants out of the 3,800 registered on the PFMS have benefited directly from the project. To sustain this initiative, a VSAT-link mobile training unit has been set up to support PFMS provincial training centres.

In addition, the PFMS was strengthened through the publication of the first Government Consolidated Accounts in 2012. As a result, all backlogs in the system from 2009 have been cleared, and there is now timely production of monthly financial statements within statutory deadlines. Also obsolete hardware and software have been replaced down to the provincial level. This has helped increase the usage of PFMS at the provincial level,

enhancing efficiency and reducing revenue leakages since receipting of transactions is now done at source, thereby strengthening accountability for public resources.

In another move meant to enhance efficiency, the National Development Fund (NDF) is being computerised to enable the Government capture all grant inflows, including the management of Global Fund grants. An IT Centre of Excellence has been established at the Ministry's headquarters in Harare to facilitate easy trouble-shooting and enhance service delivery. This has helped speed up re-connection of the system when it goes down.

Amorlett. G. Nyamweda, the UNDP Project Coordinator attached to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, said the implementation of the PFMS was intense because it involved training civil servants on how to use it. “The programme management arrangements for PFMS where UNDP provided advisory services and funding/resources enabled the attainment of greater transparency and accountability in the management of domestic and external resources,” she said, adding that the investment was paying dividends.

REDUCING GENDER INEQUALITY AND PROMOTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

What is the connection between the drilling of a borehole in a rural homestead of Bulawayo and the ability of a young mother to take her firstborn child to school? How can we convince policy makers that the common household chore of fetching water could stand in the way of poverty reduction and economic empowerment for millions of women in Zimbabwe and Africa?

Many policy makers do not appear to appreciate the burden of unpaid care work, and its deleterious impact on the vulnerable, especially poor rural women. Therefore, it is basic and seemingly mundane questions like these that the Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI) seeks to address.

Developed in 2010 by UNDP in collaboration with leading regional and international experts, GEPMI is a comprehensive capacity development and policy advisory services programme that aims to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by making economic policies and poverty reduction strategies deliver results equitably to women and men, girls and boys.

The programme is designed to respond to the urgent need to incorporate gender perspectives into national development frameworks. It was introduced in Zimbabwe in September 2011 and is managed jointly by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The three-week course is tailored to provide middle and senior-level managers from government ministries — including economists and budget planners — parliament and civil society organisations with hands-on skills to enable them to address critical gender issues in economic planning and management. The course consists of twelve modules on economic analysis, policy analysis, poverty reduction, statistics, employment, unpaid care work, macroeconomics, trade, taxation and gender-responsive budgeting.

The first batch of 73 senior policy makers formally graduated with a GEPMI certificate on 26 November 2012.

Zimbabwe's Constitution promotes gender equality to address past imbalances and protect the rights of women. To improve the status of women, the Government, through the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community

73

senior policy makers completed the Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI) training



GEPMI is designed to respond to the urgent need to include gender perspectives in national development discourse

Development, is also implementing targeted initiatives such as access to finance for women, broad-based women empowerment networks as well as women in health and trade programmes. As such, GEPMI will complement these initiatives through gender mainstreaming in policy.

Plans are at an advanced stage to introduce the course as an elective subject in one of the country's public universities in collaboration with Uganda's Makerere University.

"The issue is gaining traction because integration of gender in national economic development plans and other sector plans/policies would ensure that gender issues are not left out in key government policy documents, including budgets," says Ms Doreen Nyamukapa, the UNDP programme specialist on gender.

"GEPMI modules can be tailor-made to country-specific context hence their popularity and relevance."





DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- Global Environment Facility
- DANIDA
- SNV

PROTECTING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

The Tugwi-Dekete wetland perimeter fence located in the Chitora area of Shurugwi District, Midlands Province of Zimbabwe, is strikingly pleasant. High and firm, it spreads far and wide, sealing off 23 hectares of prime land and keeping intruders at bay. Its construction has transformed the landscape and ushered a new era of sustainable management of the fragile ecosystem.

“Before the fence was constructed, there was widespread land degradation,” says Mr Deon Mhikuro, the chairperson of Tugwi-Dekete group, which manages the wetland. “Only recently, water sources were drying up due to uncontrolled livestock grazing.”

The wetland is home to many species, including different types

of grass, reeds, water weeds, tuber plants, and indigenous trees. Others are weaver birds, white stock birds and ducks as well as hares, amphibians and fish species like breams, catfish and carp.

Mr Mhikuro says before the fence was erected and a comprehensive wetland management strategy put in place, the wetland was on the verge of extinction. Currently the property is patrolled round the clock by scouts.

The fence was constructed as part of the US\$49,993.00 Conservation and Integrated Livelihoods for Biodiversity Conservation programme supported by UNDP’s Global Environment Facility- Small Grants Programme (GEFSGP). The 2013-2015 programme is implemented by Shurugwi Partners, a community-based NGO. This initiative targets three major

wetlands in Chitora, a rural area tucked inside one of the country’s most fragile ecosystems. In addition to Tugwi-Dekete, the other wetlands are located in the villages of Simbaravanhu and Faquar 1, bringing the area under protection to 57.48 hectares. In total, 117 households are benefiting from the programme.

The emergence of new animal and plant species in Tugwi-Dekete points to a successful reclamation of the wetlands. Mr Christopher Chapano, a member of the GEFSGP National Steering Committee in Zimbabwe and the Acting Head of the National Herbarium and Botanic Garden, sees this as a sign that land degradation is no longer a challenge here.

“The protection of wetlands in these areas benefits many people beyond the immediate communities. Several other households downstream are able to access clean drinking water for their families and livestock,” said Mr Chapano during a routine project monitoring trip in the first quarter of 2015.

People living adjacent to the wetlands were given fencing materials and encouraged to grow subsistence crops around the fragile lands. This had multiple positive results. One, it limited brushwood fencing and thus reduced deforestation of the surrounding catchment areas. Two, food security

improved as farmers brought more land under cultivation, and sold the surplus for income. Finally, the villagers were trained on organic farming, aquaculture and soil conservation methods, among others.

Organic farming is spearheaded by SNV through financial support from DANIDA to help the farmers produce more at the least cost. Furthermore, Shurugwi Partners is working with other stakeholders like JICA to improve the market infrastructure. The goal is to ensure that people living next to wetlands have sustainable income. Ultimately, this is expected to become an incentive for wetland conservation.

Mr Pascal Manyakaidze, the director of Shurugwi Partners, says the project has been a success and that other rural community development groups want to replicate it.

“Our model is based on engaging communities that already have ongoing initiatives by supporting them to address their gaps. This includes acknowledging their indigenous knowledge, structures and resources,” says Mr Manyakaidze.

Partnerships with GEFSGP and UNDP, he adds, enable quick development of community infrastructure and capacity building in terms of training grantees on

grant management, monitoring and evaluation as well as results-based management.

Wetlands, say experts, provide fundamental ecological services and are regulators of water regimes and sources of biodiversity at all levels.

“They are a resource of great economic, scientific, cultural, and recreational value for the community. They also play a vital role in climate change adaptation and mitigation,” says the Zimbabwe’s Environmental Management Authority (EMA) in a recent document.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the RAMSAR Convention, an intergovernmental treaty that calls for conservation and wise use of wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation.

According to EMA, Zimbabwe has approximately 1,117 wetlands covering 793,348 hectares or about 1.8% of the country’s surface area. However, 60% of wetlands fall within communal and resettlement areas, hence the high levels of degradation. GEFSGP has worked closely with the Government to formulate sustainable conservation policies. For instance, through GEFSGP support, the Conservation Society of Monavale (COSMO) initiated the drafting of a Local Environmental

Subject Plan for Monavale Vlei that was incorporated into the City of Harare Master Plan. Monavale Vlei was later awarded a RAMSAR status, making it one of the first wetlands to be recognised in Zimbabwe.

“This provided both local and national government with a blueprint for future management of wetlands and a model for other communities to replicate in wetland preservation,” said the programme’s National Coordinator, Mrs Tsitsi Wutawunashe, in a recent report.

Launched in Zimbabwe in 1993, GEFSGP strategically works with communities to address environmental challenges under its five thematic areas of Conservation of Biodiversity; Climate Change Mitigation; Reversal of Land Degradation; Elimination of Chemicals; and Protection of International Waters.

So far, 168 communities have benefited from Small Grants Programme (SGP) funding. A total of US\$5,866,115.00 has been allocated during the five operational phases.

23

hectares of prime land sealed off from intruders to protect endangered species of plants, animals, fish and birds

▼
Surrounding communities benefit from protection of wetlands, including increased food security and access to clean drinking water



Combating Poverty and Inequality through MDGs

UNDP facilitated the development and implementation of a national MDG Acceleration Plan to enhance attainment of specific off-target goals.

It also sought to strengthen national capacity to effectively track and monitor progress and report on MDG-related achievements; and finally to support advocacy for the MDGs and build awareness on – and commitment to – the MDGs. Under the latter, UNDP trained 157 civil society representatives (93 men and 64 women) on MDGs in Zimbabwe and donated reading, visual and audio material to the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO).

The programme implementing partners were the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Services; NANGO; the Netherlands Development Organisation; and the Development Reality Institute. A 2014 evaluation report praised the production of the MDG status reports as a positive development that “resulted in the creation of district databases which consequently enabled the monitoring of progress towards achievement of the MDGs”.

The highlight of the programme was the launch of the MDG Virtual Learning Centre (VLC) in November 2012. The event attracted 194

participants drawn from Government, NGOs, media, academia and private sector.

As the curtain falls on the MDGs or what the UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon has described as “the most successful anti-poverty movement in history”, their achievements in Zimbabwe—like in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa—have been mixed.

According to the Zimbabwe 2012 MDG Progress Report.

Positive trends are mainly in MDG2 on universal primary education, MDG3 (gender equality in schools) and MDG6 (HIV and AIDs). Some of the toughest challenges that the country faces are in MDG1 (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger) and MDG5 (reducing maternal mortality). The report says that all the targets under MDG1 and MDG5 are unlikely to be met by the 2015 deadline.

With transition from MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNDP continues to provide thought leadership. This includes significant and strategic contributions to the MDGs and SDGs in Zimbabwe.





LOCALISING MDGS IN ZIMBABWE

University of Zimbabwe student Lisa Nyamadzawo was excited when she enrolled for a basic online course on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the MDGs Virtual Learning Centre (MDGs VLC).

“I registered in November 2012. Then I took the exams late May 2013. It was my first time to take an online course and at the end of it all, I graduated with a certificate,” says the 21-year-old student. She

says this experience has enriched her knowledge about MDGs and development issues in Zimbabwe.

Lisa is among the 5,000 people who have benefited from the online platform since it was launched in November 2012. It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Development Reality Institute (DRI), an NGO, and UNDP.

By logging onto the website www.mdgs.org.zw, users are able to access online courses such as

▲ University students take online courses at the MDGs Virtual Learning Centre in Harare

Climate Change Mitigation through REDD+; Climate Change and Business Course; Beyond the MDGs: and Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals as well as Mainstreaming Climate Change in Development Planning and Implementation.

Harnessing the power of mobile telephony, the programme has introduced the MDG Zimbabwe Mobile Application which enables learning, sharing and networking on development issues. So far, it has been downloaded by over 5,000 users

from Zimbabwe and across the globe. To promote linkages with academic and research institutions, the project has entered into partnerships with five universities in the country— Great Zimbabwe University, University of Zimbabwe, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Chinhoyi University of Science and Technology and Midlands State University. The goal is to provide an interactive platform for scholars and the public to discuss MDGs and other national development priorities through knowledge translation.

The programme's innovation potential has not gone without notice. One year after the formal launch in Zimbabwe, the virtual learning platform made it to the finals of the World Summit Awards 2013, becoming one of the 30 ICT innovations recognised worldwide for addressing MDGs. The World Summit Award (WSA) is the global follow-up initiative of the United Nations World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) organised by the International Centre for New Media (ICNM), Salzburg, Austria.

“The project has drawn from the experiences of partners such as UNDP to give learners a wide perspective of international development dynamics across sectors,” explains Mr Verengai

Mabika, DRI founder and director. He says this has enabled DRI to develop competitive and relevant courses for the virtual learning platform.

“We use cutting-edge ICT solutions to educate society on the effects of climate change and the best practices for using natural resources to boost the quality of life for all,” he says. Established in 2009, DRI works with Zimbabwean youth to promote sustainable socio-economic development and build the capacity of community-based and civil society organisations to transform the livelihoods of the marginalised groups through participatory and innovative solutions.

DRI specialises in knowledge management, research and process facilitation in the field as well as virtually through information and communication technologies. Mr Mabika says the partnership with UNDP has given the institution credibility to mount the programmes and become a reference centre for all matters MDGs in Zimbabwe.

“The organisation has the opportunity to move beyond the limitations of many other actors in making sense of big-data, and making data make sense,” he says. The virtual learning platform also provides participants with the opportunity to meet online



“This was my first time to take an online course”

Lisa Nyamadzawo



Verengai Mabika, DRI founder and director

with development experts from Zimbabwe, other parts of Africa and the rest of the world. This interactive interface is one of the strengths of this programme and it is expected that other platforms disseminating information on the MDGs will adopt it to give learners a wide pool of knowledge and experiences from all over the world to tap into.

As the debate on the Post-2015 development agenda continues, the MDG VLC has positioned itself as a coordination hub for organising national Post-2015 Agenda conferences, while at the same time providing space for constant engagement between academia and other stakeholders on national development priorities.

The virtual learning platform is one of the

30

ICT innovations recognised worldwide for addressing the MDGs

“One of the key lessons from undertaking this project is that the MDGs agenda can only succeed if all people and stakeholders are actively involved. Most people have only learnt about MDGs over the past two years, indicating that they had very little, if any, input into the programmes. Therefore they could not relate it to their daily lives or see why it matters to them,” says Mr Tawanda Maguze, DRI programmes coordinator.

GIVING VOICE TO A NEW GENERATION OF TECHNOPRENEURS

Ms Liliosa Mushonga, a Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science graduate, exudes confidence as she explains the advantages of the Energy Demand Prediction System. Her start-up has the potential to fundamentally transform the nature of energy services delivery in Zimbabwe.

“If adopted, this system would allow the energy management authorities to effectively and efficiently allocate the scarce energy based on historical consumption patterns.

Since Zimbabwe imports some of its energy from neighbouring countries, the system’s prediction ability will limit any wastage as the country will only purchase required amounts,” she says.

Zimbabwe faces serious power problems. Frequent outages and load shedding have slowed its economic and industrial potential. As a result there is a big unmet demand for electricity and energy conservation technologies across all sectors of the economy.

Liliosa says that measuring the current energy consumption would enable the country to predict future energy demand. “These historically



analysed consumption patterns can further feed into the existing energy policy in the country. This model is not country-specific; it can be adapted across the world,” she says.

The technopreneur is among the 10 beneficiaries of a three-month business incubation programme supported by the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), Sandown Corporate Limited and UNDP. The programme was formally launched in Zimbabwe in February 2015.

The young technopreneurs are currently pitching their projects to investors for capital to enable them move to the next step of commercial production. The programme seeks to identify and support enterprising, tech-savvy

young people by providing them with an array of business support resources and services, including office space, media training, financial management, capital, coaching and networking.

“My presentation skills have improved, and I also gained insight on how to successfully run a business with proper financial management,” says Mr Tendai Nyamugudza. His Primary and Secondary Education Information System application provides a centralised web-based solution that collates, integrates, analyses and disseminates education data and statistics to critical stakeholders, leading to improved planning and decision making within the sector.

▲ Chenaimoyo Nhema explains to UNDP Country Director, Verity Nyagah & Deputy Country Director - Operations, Denise Findley-Antonio her small-holder farmers market linkages application during the launch of the business incubation process.



“This process equipped me with experience of what it entails to be a technopreneur,” says Ms Wumbidzai Jani, who has created an archiving system for local governments. “This experience cannot be obtained from a book. Recognising the opportunity to scale up service delivery, my project has potential to benefit the country.” Her Web-Based Electronic

Archiving System for Local Authorities allows for easy retrieval of data via an inbuilt and interactive search engine. Harare Institute of Technology Vice-Chancellor Quinton Kanhukamwe sees the programme as being in line with a call by African Heads of State and Government for “an urgent plan of action on employment creation

and poverty alleviation, as well as the acceleration of youth empowerment for sustainable development”.

Endowed with a highly educated and largely tech-savvy youthful population, Zimbabwe stands to reap big from this demographic group, most of whom are either unemployed or working in the informal sector. Experts say a crucial opportunity lies in putting the education and skills of this group to use in more meaningful economic activities, such as entrepreneurship, small and medium enterprises development, innovation and ICT-based activity.

“The UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017 is anchored on the principle of ensuring participation and voice in pursuit of equitable access to development opportunities and gains across the population,” says Ms Verity Nyagah, UNDP Country Director. “We are working with the poor and other excluded groups, whether women, youth, as agents of their own development.”

Building on the success of the initiative, UNDP, HIT and Sandown Ltd are exploring opportunities to scale up and replicate the Business Incubation Model through the Public Private Partnership framework to further contribute to youth entrepreneurship and employment.

The Business Incubation Process

1. DESIGN

JNDP designed and built linkages between partners; Provided seed funding; Secured piloting partnerships and resources for scaling

2. IDENTIFY

HIT identifies ten high performing graduates with technology oriented prototypes

3. ASSESS

HIT guides technical and business viability assessments patenting process

4. REFINE

Sandown provides mentorship and coaching through training on business skills

5. ENGAGE

Sandown engages in sourcing for local and international joint venture partners and markets

6. LAUNCH

Refined Business Incubation Pilot Prototypes launched



NATIONAL UNVS IN THE FRONT-LINE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

“If volunteering was a course, I would say I am a few months shy of completing it,” says Ms Armorlett Nyamweda with a chuckle. “In partial fulfilment of my degree, I have volunteered in three government ministries over four years now.” A National United Nations Volunteer (NUNV), Ms Nyamweda is currently based at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development where she coordinates the “Strengthening National Capacities for Planning, Public Finance Debt and Aid Management” project.

Her duties involve addressing policy issues on economic performance within the government at all levels. “The thrust of my experience has been the establishment of national

processes for pro-poor policy formulation and implementation and strengthening of economic management systems through analysis, dialogue, design, implementation and coordination of actions,” she says.

Armorlett has supported dialogue sessions on the localisation of the Post-2015 Agenda involving 159 community-based organisations. She also contributed to a paper on MDG and Post-2015 Development Agenda that was used to engage 22 Members of Parliament in six Portfolio Committees in discussions on alignment of the National Budget with MDG priorities.

She is among 11 National UN Volunteers who are in the front-line of UN’s work in Zimbabwe. The volunteers support national development by sharing their skills

▲ UNVs held a free medical camp in Norton to mark the International Volunteers Day in 2014

and expertise in various capacities. Nearly half of them are based in the rural areas supporting government sustainable livelihood projects such as fisheries, beekeeping, poultry, piggery and livestock keeping. Others are attached to UN agencies such as UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR. In addition to the NUNVs, there are 11 international UNVs based in Zimbabwe. At the same time, 37 nationals of Zimbabwe are serving as international UNVs in various parts of the world.

UNV’s vision is a world where volunteerism is recognised within societies, as a way for all people and countries to achieve peace and development through the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. In Zimbabwe, key implementing

partners include the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperation Development; the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development; the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; the Ministry of Labour; and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion.

Blending their professional acumen with good understanding of national systems and local social structures, national volunteers serve as vital intermediaries between upstream policy interventions and the needs of many communities in rural and semi-urban constituencies. Some of the UNVs are breaking new ground in supporting youth and women in business and consequently boosting the general social welfare of rural communities.

Through her work on Sustainable Livelihoods, Ms Daisy Bizeki, who is attached to the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development, takes pride in the fact that this initiative promoted income-generating activities in Gokwe, Binga, Lupane, Insiza, Umzingwane and Mberengwa districts.

With the support of UNDP, the ministry has opened six business centres, one in each district. The centres offer business advisory services, train entrepreneurs and disseminate business information.

► Mutandazo Maphosa, a national UNV, assists an elderly member of the Norton community onto the weighing scale during the medical camp to mark the UNV Day in 2014



Through the project, the ministry is spearheading formation of savings and credit cooperative societies (SACCOS) among rural women and youth groups to facilitate access to business loans.

“SACCOS are regarded as a tool to strengthen the communities’ capacities to eventually take a lead in community development processes,” Ms Bizeki said. She pointed out that 31 SACCOS have been formed, including four in Gokwe, 12 in Binga and six in Umzingwane. The total membership of the SACCOS is 1,501 (979 women and 522 men).

“Through this project these SACCOS are benefiting from the Revolving Fund that has been established. US\$70,000 has been loaned to SACCOS as seed capital for their income-generating projects. So far the fund has grown by 70%,” she said.

In Zimbabwe, the UNV programme is a member of the National Committee for Development and provides support to the relevant sub-committees. UNV brings together all the different organisations working

with volunteers, and conducts workshops and presentations at different levels: the academia through universities, the youths through schools, the decision makers through government, the corporate sector through public-private partnerships and the public through outreach programmes. In addition, UNV and the National Committee organise celebrations of special UN days like World Environment Day and International Volunteerism Day (IVD).

The post-2015 development agenda coupled with the launch of the 2016-2020 ZUNDAF presents new possibilities for the UNV programme. “With these developments in mind, the UNV Field Unit Office is positioned to identify opportunities to integrate volunteerism in relevant areas of programme delivery in Zimbabwe,” said programme officer Chiidinma Amakwe, adding that UN entities are more effective in delivering their results by integrating high-quality and well-supported UN volunteers and volunteerism in their programmes.

The UNV programme is the UN organisation that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Based in Bonn, Germany, UNV is active in around 130 countries every year. UNV, with field units in 86 countries, is administered by UNDP.

Empowering communities for sustainable livelihoods & Resilience

The UNDP focused its support on piloting innovative and high-impact projects to restore community livelihoods and government structures supporting livelihoods creating. The programme focused on creating opportunities for income-generation in targeted districts. Interventions targeted community level, including support to infrastructure and livelihood stabilisation, local economic recovery for employment and income-generation and support to market creation and market linkages.

Furthermore, UNDP has been focussing on the cooperatives sector as an engine for socio-economic recovery. Sustained access to microcredit can contribute to poverty reduction by generating income and creating employment hence enabling families to meet basic needs such as school fees and healthcare services. However, the demand for micro-credit by rural entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe surpasses supply because of a number of challenges such as limited number of micro-credit institutions in rural areas and also stringent lending conditions.



Market Fairs - supporting market creation and market linkages for women empowerment



DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES ONE COOPERATIVE AT A TIME

In partnership with the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development (MSMECD), UNDP supported the formation and capacity building of 30 Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) in Binga, Mberengwa, Gokwe, Insiza, Lupane and Umzingwane Districts. The SACCOs have managed to mobilise more than \$350 000.00 through savings and interest generated from internal lending. The average monthly savings per group is \$313.00 with a total membership of 1295 people.

In addition, a total 3 cooperatives in Umzingwane, Insiza, Lupane and Mberengwa districts are being supported to enhance innovative processes through value chain development initiatives in honey production. The honey producers in the respective districts have managed to consolidate fragmented small scale honey production and are now able to better harness the bargaining power in selling processed honey and its residue products. Other cooperatives such as the kapenta fishing in Binga and cattle fattening in Mberengwa districts have grown significantly and are enhancing household economic capacity of their respective cooperatives members.

▲ Honey harvesting in Insiza district, Matabeleland South. The initiative is facilitated by Sisonke Cooperative

Investing in Strong Institutions to Deliver Universal Health Services

In line with the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, UNDP is supporting Zimbabwe to strengthen institutions to deliver universal access to basic services. This includes building resilient health services for a sustainable response in the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria.

Thanks to the UNDP partnership with the Global Fund, the country has made significant strides in the fight against the three diseases.

The Global Fund was created in 2002 as an innovative public-private partnership to fight AIDS, TB and malaria. The purpose of the Global Fund is to facilitate rapid disbursement of funds to halt and reverse the effects of the three diseases that are endemic in low- and middle-income countries. The funds are disbursed as grants to governmental and non-governmental institutions. The Global Fund has disbursed more than US\$1 billion in grants to Zimbabwe since 2003.

UNDP was selected by the Global Fund as Interim Principal Recipient for the Global Fund grants in Zimbabwe in August 2009.

NATIONAL PARTNERS

The MoHCC, which is responsible for the delivery of health services, is one of the key Sub Recipients (SRs) of the Global Fund grants. Among other SRs are the National AIDS Council (NAC), the National Pharmaceutical Company (Natpharm) and the Southern African AIDS Trust (SAT).

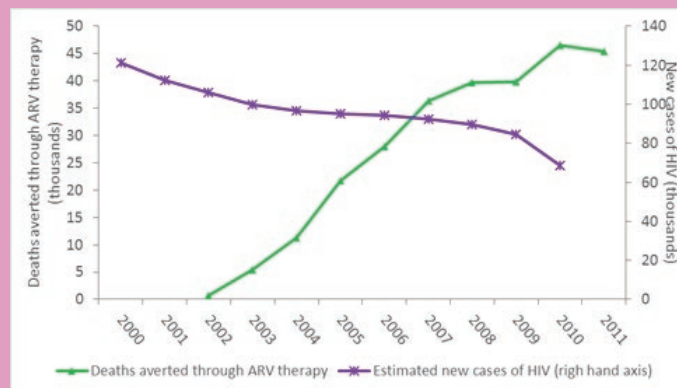


Chart: HIV deaths averted due to antiretroviral therapy and number of new cases of HIV (Source: UNDP)

HIV/AIDS

With these investments, the number of HIV-positive people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) rose from 363,261 in 2010 to 508,690 in 2012 and 849,515 in June 2015. The percentage of adults and children with HIV on treatment 12 months after initiation of ART has improved from 75% in 2009 to 86% in 2013. According to 2013 HIV estimates, deaths averted by the ART programme rose from 624 (2004) to 36,315 (2009) and 45,422 (2013). Significant strides have also been realised under the Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission (PMTCT) programme. The percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women who received anti-retroviral treatment to reduce the risk of mother-to-child-transmission has increased from 85.4% in 2010 to 92%, in 2012 and 93% in 2014.



Chart: Prevalence and incidence of TB in Zimbabwe 2010-2014 (Source: UNDP)

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of patients on Multidrug Resistance TB (MDR-TB) initiated on second line treatment increased more than fourfold in three years from 74 (2011) to 354 in 2014.

A TB Prevalence Survey was conducted for the first time in Zimbabwe and the findings are expected to determine the actual disease burden on the country and the results will be used to inform programming.

MALARIA

The Global Fund contributed about 57% of the 4,375,812 million long-lasting insecticide nets distributed in the country from 2012 to 2014. Further, an average of 3.38 million people were protected from malaria through indoor residual spraying in the 47 moderate to high malaria transmission districts between 2012 and 2014. These interventions contributed to a decrease in malaria incidence from 49 per 1000 in 2010 to 41 per 1000 in 2014.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

More than 21,000 critical health workers (doctors, nurses, environmental health officers, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, human resource officers and radiographers) were paid retention allowances to provide quality health services to the people. The annual retention for both nurses and doctors improved from 96.5% and 92.1% respectively in 2011 to 98% and 95.2% in 2014.

E-HEALTH INITIATIVES

With leadership from the MoHCC and in collaboration with other partners, a number of investments have been made to strengthen the public health systems. These include DHIS-2 rollout, In-patient Morbidity and Mortality Information System (IMMIS), Weekly Disease Surveillance System (WDSS) and internet connectivity at provincial and district offices as well as most hospitals. The electronic Patient Information Management System (ePMS) has been introduced and rolled out in 246 high-volume ART sites while a Malaria DHIS-2 Tracker for the malaria pre-elimination surveillance system has been developed. Through these investments, the completeness and timelines of the weekly and monthly reporting improved from under 50% in 2010 to above 90% in 2014.



BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN BORN TO MOTHERS LIVING WITH HIV

Sister Mabaera's joy is attending to an HIV-positive mother whose six-week-old baby tests negative for the HIV. The registered nurse at the Wilkins Hospital in Harare will have introduced the mother to the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme in pregnancy.

"When the child is born and the mother comes back in about six weeks saying the baby is HIV-negative, that brings a lot of joy to us," she says.

The PMTCT programme, which is supported by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria that is managed by UNDP, has

resulted in a significant decline in the mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

"We started off in 2009 with around 30,000 new HIV mother-to-child-transmissions. In 2014, we had about 6,800 new infections. Our goal of having less than five per cent infection rate in 2015 is very close," says Dr Nyikadzino Malachi, the deputy coordinator of the National PMCT and Paediatric HIC Care and Treatment in the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

The PMTCT programme has realised significant strides with the percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving anti-retroviral treatment (ART) to reduce the risk of mother-to-child-transmission increasing from 85.4 per cent in 2010

▲
Attending
to a child at
Concession
Hospital in
Mashinaland
Central.

Number of
women who have
benefitted from
PMTCT services

in 2010
40,565

in 2011
44,770

in 2012
59,224

in 2013
55,598

to 92 per cent in 2012 and 93 per cent in 2014.

It's a success story that symbolises the phenomenal gains made in combating HIV in Zimbabwe.

National AIDS Council director of operations Raymond Yekeke describes the transition of HIV from being an emergency to a chronic disease. Finally, he says, "we have a situation where people are living longer with the disease and thousands of lives are being saved."

The Ministry of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe has the primary responsibility of healthcare delivery and plays a key role in the implementation of Global Fund grants.

UNDP works closely with the National Pharmaceutical Company and the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe to strengthen the health system, providing funds and technical support to increase capacity.

The Global Fund grants have performed consistently well and have achieved significant results in increasing access to life-saving services that have benefitted millions.

In 2013 Zimbabwe was one of the pilot countries for the Global Fund New Funding Model (NFM), making

it a “best practice” case for other countries. Quality data and national planning contributed towards the success.



Brigadier-General (Dr) Celestino Basera, Project Coordinator of the MoHCC Program Coordination Unit for Global Fund Grants

“With UNDP’s and other partners’ support, we have made great strides in health services delivery. The number of people on ART has been increasing annually and we are now aiming at universal coverage. The District Health Information System (DHIS-2) is working wonders. The Frontline SMS data capturing software has dramatically improved the weekly disease surveillance system and the electronic patient management system is promising to provide patient level data. Fifty-two health storage facilities were renovated and over 80 microscopy centres established.”

► Respondents queue for examination in one of three mobile TB testing units acquired with assistance of Global Fund grants.



NATIONAL TB PREVALENCE SURVEY LAUNCHED

The launch of the National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey (TBS) — the first in the country— heralded a significant development in mapping the TB burden in Zimbabwe. The findings will determine the prevalence, incidence, mortality and trends, as well as what experts call the TB-HIV co-morbidity, meaning the prevalence of HIV among adult patients with bacteriologically confirmed TB.

The survey will provide data for measuring progress towards achieving 2015 global targets. The 2015 Millennium Development Goal on TB is premised on halting and reversing TB incidence. The Stop TB campaign targets halving TB mortality and prevalence rates by 2015 compared with a baseline of 1990.

The survey was conducted by the Ministry of Health and Child Care in partnership with the Biomedical Research and Training Institute

(BRTI), with financial and technical support from the Global Fund, WHO, UNDP and TB Care. The Global Fund provided US\$3.2 million through the Round 8 TB grant.

Describing the survey as long overdue, Dr Charles Sandy, the deputy director AIDS and TB Unit in the Ministry of Health and Child Care, said the findings will inform decision making based on accurate information.

“Due to resource constraints, we had never as a country managed to conduct this important survey. A high TB burden country like Zimbabwe should be taking stock of the situation on a regular basis,” said Dr Sandy, who is also co-principal investigator of the survey

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Zimbabwe ranks 17th among the world’s high TB burden countries, and 4th according to incidence per capita, defined as 782 persons in every 100,000 people.



A bakery in Umzingwane District that has benefitted from a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO). UNDP supported the formation and capacity building of 30 SACCOs in Binga, Mberengwa, Gokwe, Insiza, Lupane and Umzingwane Districts. See page 25.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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