

Brown Bag Dialogue Series



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2011 - 2015

Zimbabwe Recovery on Course but Challenges Remain, Say Experts

Photo Credit: Mikkel Rytter Poulsen

The Zimbabwe Medium Term Plan 2011-2015 has been crafted to respond to the challenges of placing the economy on a growth trajectory that is inclusive and sustainable, said UNDP Economics Advisor, James Wakiaga. Moderating a discussion on the MTP, Wakiaga challenged policy thinkers in Harare to proffer best practices that would ensure a seamless implementation of the plan.

Highlighting the country's economic challenges in the decade prior to 2008, Dr. Desire M. Sibanda, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion said the situation was characterized by hyperinflation, which reached 237 million percent in 2008, negative growth rates of -10% in 2008, cumulative

budget deficits and massive devaluation of the currency. Other negative indicators were the low productive capacity, loss of jobs, low savings and limited Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as well as food shortages, increasing poverty and massive de-industrialization.

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Editorial

It is my pleasure to present the Brown Bag Dialogue Series, a quarterly publication of UNDP Zimbabwe that seeks to provide a platform for discussion on a wide range of issues that are pertinent to the UNDP's mandate in the country.

These include programmes targeting pro-poor growth, poverty reduction and achievement of MDGs, as well as democratic governance and sustainable development.

The launch of this publication is timely coinciding with the recently finalised UNDP Country Programme Action Plan to support national development priorities in Zimbabwe, as the country moves from recovery to development assistance.

Furthermore, the 2012-2015 UNDP Country Programme aims at supporting Zimbabwe achieve its development goals through delivering on 6 out of the 7 national development priorities set out in the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) 2012-2015 document. UNDP will render its support through three main programmatic areas: (1) Citizen Participation and Good Governance; (2) Economic Management and Sustainable Development; and (3) Social sectors and resilient livelihoods.

The newsletter is part of a new strategic communications strategy that, among others, seeks to strengthen communication and knowledge sharing.

Other communication tools include a revitalised website and intranet, fact

sheets and project documents.

We have chosen the Brown Bag Dialogue Series as the title of the publication to reflect the ongoing exchange or conversation with our key partners, the Government of Zimbabwe, other UN Agencies, development partners, Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector in seeking lasting solutions to the plethora of development challenges facing the country.

The lead story of the inaugural edition is based on such a "brown bag" lunch held in October 2011, convened to exchange on the country's Medium Term Plan (MTP). There are other stories on aid effectiveness, the national budget, climate change and MDGs, just to mention but a few. As we look forward to future editions, we hope that you will provide feedback on publication. We aim to make this a truly interactive forum, a platform for an on-going conversation between you and us. Contributions in terms of letters to the editor, news and feature stories, photos and others are therefore most welcome.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to this new UNDP space.

Thank you,

Christine N. Umutoni
UNDP Country Director

Brown Bag Dialogue Series

The Brown Bag Dialogue Series is a quarterly publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Zimbabwe.

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

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But Government intervention measures such as the Short Term Emergency Recovery Programme (STERP) covering the period March to December 2009, aimed at attaining macro-economic stabilization in the country, seemed to have mitigated the situation. This was followed by the launch in July 2011 of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) which is Zimbabwe's National Development Plan, focussing on macroeconomic stabilisation and the recovery of the economy.

The broad objective of economic stabilization was achieved, with the economy recording a positive growth of 6.3% in 2009, after a decade long recession, said the PS. The strong positive growth trajectory continued in 2010, with a growth of 8.1%, and a growth of 9.3% anticipated in 2011. Hyperinflation was also contained during this period, and inflation is now in single digit territory of below 4%. The Permanent Secretary acknowledged that the recovery of economy remains fragile citing lack of working capital due to domestic liquidity constraints, limited external lines of credit, high utility tariffs, frequent power outages, influx of competitive cheap imports and high cost of labor, and wage pressures.

Addressing the same theme, Ms. Nadia Pifferatti, a senior economist with the World Bank in Zimbabwe said Zimbabwe has achieved "amazing" progress in the last three years, with the country witnessing a textbook turnaround in recovery following a decade of depressed growth. Ms. Pifferatti, cautioned however that "despite the 2009-2011 recovery, the economy remains very much vulnerable at this stage" with debt distress being a major bottleneck.

Against this background, experts said that the way forward is to embark on fiscal restructuring to reduce subventions to public enterprises, increase domestic revenue mobilisation efforts and remove



Victoria Falls, a leading tourist destination in Zimbabwe. The economy is on the rebound, driven by growth in various sectors

Photo Credit: Rita Osei/UNDP.

any "unnecessary baggage" that may be lurking in the budgets. "There is need to start thinking of well structured Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to reduce the burden on governments for incurring huge initial costs for infrastructure development" said Raphael Otieno, Director of Programmes at Macroeconomic & Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI), adding the competitiveness question also needs to be addressed. At the same time, the country has to continue with the necessary enabling reforms and mobilise various government institutions to be involved in MTP implementation.

On his part, George Kararach, the Africa Capacity Building Foundation Knowledge Management Expert stressed the need to prioritize capacity development to ensure the delivery of the MTP. "It is very important

to factor in risks in order to accommodate shock," he stated.

Meanwhile, the Head of EC Delegation, Ambassador Aldo Dell Ariccia concurred on the need to address the debt issue as a major priority.

The specialists were speaking during a function at the UNDP Country Office in Harare on October 13, 2011 convened to review the country's MTP Implementation programme.

The MTP responds to the mandate set out in Article III of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) to support the restoration of economic stability and growth in Zimbabwe. It builds on the foundation laid by the Short Term Economic Recovery Programme (STERP), and the Three Year Macroeconomic Policy and Budget Framework (STERP II).

“The broad objective of economic stabilization was achieved, with the economy recording a positive growth of 6.3% in 2009, after a decade long recession, said the PS. The strong positive growth trajectory continued in 2010, with a growth of 8.1%, and a growth of 9.3% anticipated in 2011.”

Dealing with the Unfinished Agenda in Aid Effectiveness

The dilemma facing Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Welfare presents a typical aid dilemma: the ministry is concerned that assistance to the country's estimated 400,000 patients on HIV/AIDS antiretroviral drugs may be jeopardized, if major donors pull the support they are currently providing.



The aid effectiveness forum was convened in Harare ahead of the Busan High Level Forum (HLF-4).
Photo Credit: Sammy Mwiti/UNDP

"Only 80,000 patients are government supported; 64,000 are catered for by a US government funded program; 80,000 by the Extended Support Programme (ESP) and 156,000 by the Global Fund," says the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Dr. Gerald Gwenyi. The ministry is alarmed because the ESP came to a close in December 2011 while the Global Fund support will end in 2014.

In the past, that was not always the case. "In the early 90's through 2000, the health system was well funded and did not need substantial donor support," he says, pointing out that by then, government funding to the sector accounted for 90 percent while donors provided 10 percent. Today however, the reverse is the case, with donors accounting for 90 percent while the government accounts for 10 per cent.

So what happens when the donor taps run dry?

This is one of the questions participants tried to address during the Consultative Workshop on Aid Effectiveness: Towards the Busan High Level Forum, held in Harare on November 10, 2011.

As the clock ticked towards the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) convened in Busan, Korea from 29 November to December 1, 2011, to review global progress in improving the impact of development aid, experts in Zimbabwe are trying to forge a consensus on many issues. There is agreement for instance, on the need for capacity building, accountability—and predictability—national ownership of development processes, increased integration of the views of a wider cross-section of stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation as well enhancing the role of parliament in aid processes.

Dealing with the unfinished aid business agenda as UNDP's Karolien Casaer-Diaz describes it, is one of main items on the Busan agenda and UNDP, which was deeply involved in the preparations of the forum was keen to ensure the active participation of developing countries, including Zimbabwe, said Karolien, of the UNDP Regional Office for Southern Africa.

"Aid should be country driven and in line

with a country's development trajectory and aspirations," stated Dr. D.M Sibanda, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion (MoEPIP), adding that the Paris 2005 Declaration as well as the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action underlined the importance of ownership and inclusive partnerships.

In Zimbabwe, aid inflows averaging USD 500 million per annum is not channelled directly to government coffers, but instead, is disbursed through other organs like NGOs and development partners. This has raised serious issues of ownership, effectiveness and accountability, with one expert decrying what he termed as "divergence" between donor country's accountability and the mutual accountability spirit. "Donor organisations are primarily accountable to their own taxpayers and parliaments and this often times makes it difficult for donors to practice the Paris Declaration Principles like use of country systems when their citizens have concerns about corruption in developing countries," said Dr. F. Bokosi, a Policy Advisor with the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD).

Expressing UN's continuing support to Zimbabwe's efforts to effectively participate in the Busan forum, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Alain Noudehou, called for a well coordinated, government-led effort to

“So what happens when the donor taps run dry?”

ensure coherence and relevance in development effectiveness. "A functioning aid and development results coordination mechanism would indeed facilitate overall alignment of development initiatives towards a robust implementation of Zimbabwe's development programs," said the Resident Coordinator.

"It is for this reason that the United Nations is committed to provide country-level

support to Zimbabwe towards building an effective aid and development results mechanism.”

With aid flows to developing countries generally being undermined by the recent global financial crisis and the problems in the Euro zone, participants called for increased South-South Cooperation and a comprehensive review of the prevailing aid architecture, as well as the move from Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness.

Inevitably, a “paradigm shift” is required to achieve Africa’s development and therefore, the aid architecture needs to be reshaped to accommodate this scenario, according to the UNDP Deputy Country Director (Programmes) Mr. Martim Maya. “The evolving landscape requires re-prioritizing development partnerships aligned to rights-based approaches, inclusiveness, transparency and the re-positioning of structures and targets, towards creating sustainable conditions for Africa’s development.”

“In fact, Zimbabwe represents a unique opportunity for Aid to demonstrate development impact since the country is faced with a major liquidity/credit constraint.

Meanwhile, Udo Etukudo, a UNDP Economics Advisor attached to the MoEIP, reckons that “The central issue is not about pushing money better, but about assisting countries achieve their development results.” He sees the challenge as being how to help a country like Zimbabwe come up with innovative development financing initiatives through for instance, domestic resource mobilization and the active participation of the private sector.

Mr. Etukudo noted that, “In fact, Zimbabwe represents a unique opportunity for Aid to demonstrate development impact since the country is faced with a major liquidity/credit constraint. This is the point in time when Aid, if directed to national priorities in the productive sectors of the economy (energy, infrastructure, agriculture), will demonstrate its strength in filling Zimbabwe’s financing gap and, as such, finance investments rather than consumption.”

Supported by the Government of Zimbabwe, UNDP and the European Union, the workshop was attended by key government and UN officials, representatives of civil society, Members of Parliament, NGOs and the private sector.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Rallying support for MDGs in Zimbabwe



The MDGs in Motion activities aim at demystifying the development discourse by bringing MDGs to the people, especially youth.

Photo Credit: Lisa Orrenius / UNDP

Exuberant and charming high student Talent Sithole, has a basic understanding of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Asked why the MDGs are important, she quips: “They enlighten us about the need for girls and boys to have equal rights because we are all the same as human beings.” Her colleague, Etwin Chifumba describes achievement of MDGs as necessary, saying this would “assist many of us from poor backgrounds to achieve our full potential in education.”

The girls were speaking in the sidelines of a soccer match, in which their school, Sakubva One High, took part. They were among hundreds of pupils— and fans—, who participated in a soccer tournament at the Sakubva Stadium in the provincial city of Mutare in Manicaland on 10 December,

2011. The event, involving a total nine boys and girls teams, was a culmination of a two-day MDGs in Motion Road Show, designed to inform and seek feedback from development actors and the public in the region about MDGs progress and challenges, as well as to engage youth through a soccer tournament.

Interactive and colourful, the occasion was interspersed with thrilling musical performances by a well-known dance group Patsime, learning episodes on MDGs and light-hearted remarks from members of the local administration, in a format well structured to appeal to the largely youthful audience.

The event was sponsored by UNDP and the United Nations Volunteers in

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Experts say that sports can serve as an effective medium for MDGs advocacy.

Photo Credit: Lisa Orrenius / UNDP

collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Services, and dozens of non-governmental organizations working in the area of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Other Outreach activities undertaken included a workshop held with relevant stakeholders in the region exchanging views on the current MDG-status in Zimbabwe as well as opportunities and challenges ahead and the important role local organizations can play for MDG achievement. The workshop also contained a practical session on the tool of MDGs Acceleration Framework (MAF) and the prioritized Goals by the Government of Zimbabwe.

"The MAF is a practical tool designed to help countries develop a concrete and much focused accelerated action plan on MDG targets needing urgent attention and coordinated actions. It should be seen as a tool facilitating the operationalization of ambitious national development plans, such as the Medium Term Plan. The MAF in Zimbabwe will be at a first stage be applied to MDG 2 on achieving universal primary education," UNDP Programme Specialist Lisa Orrenius, explained.

Expressing gratitude to UNDP and UNV for conducting the MDGs advocacy campaign in the Manicaland region, Provincial Social Services Officer, Ms. Charity Ndadzungira said the activities served to demystify MDGs, and therefore, winning public participation and ownership. "This is a very significant step towards marketing MDGs in Zimbabwe," she said observing that youth involvement is part of the psycho-social support necessary in achieving MDGs because young people comprehend issues better through the medium of playing. "Children make more friends than adults as they interact closely

in schools, worship and play ground centres and this creates more awareness about MDGs."

The first MDG in Motion Road Show took place in Bulawayo in October 2011 and similar activities will be extended to other towns in Zimbabwe for 2012. The events follow the National and provincial launches of the 2010 MDG Status Report, which aimed to inform and discuss the findings of the report with Government officials and other stakeholders. The report provides the current status on each of the MDGs in Zimbabwe and indicates trends over the last decade in terms of the progress attained in socio-economic development.

According to the report, significant strides have been made in a number of key areas of development such as attaining universal primary education, halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS, and attaining gender parity in primary school enrolment. The 2010 status report also highlights challenges in the attainment of the MDGs and provides intervention strategies that could be instituted by Government to move faster towards the realization of set targets.

Consequently, a Government MDG taskforce recently re-prioritized the MDGs which will be the focus of the accelerated action: MDGs 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger); 2 (achieve universal primary education); 4 (Reduce child mortality); and 5 (improve maternal health).

Organizers of the MDGs in Motion say they would like to build on its momentum by involving the participation of civil society organizations, NGOs and the general public, reinforcing the need for common action to achieve the MDG targets. "It will also provide

an opportunity to engage with CSOs and NGOs and exchange information about their experiences. In addition, the event will avail to the general public, a platform to see firsthand, the activities that the Government and partner organizations are doing to further the cause of MDGs," stressed Lisa.

"Coordination is a must to avoid parallel efforts that tend to be wasteful, and I thank UNDP and UNV for bringing us together," reckoned Shelton Jannie, an official of the NGO, Environment Africa.

The effort is buttressed by the involvement of the extensive volunteer's network in Zimbabwe, representing change agents of all shades and hue. "Volunteerism can have a local component where issues can be owned by local people principally because they understand the local context better and therefore, how challenges can be overcome," states the Programme Officer of the United Nations Volunteers, Mr. Johann Atzinger.

"This spirit is sustained by the giving of a portion of humanity from one person to another," says Atzinger, adding that volunteerism is cost-effective and sustainable because it does not require a huge financial or infrastructural investment.

The MAF methodology was piloted in 10 countries in 2010 and has in 2011 been applied by many more countries globally and in Africa. The MAF provides a systematic way of identifying bottlenecks and possible high-impact solutions, leading to a concrete plan of action with coordinated roles for the government and all its development partners for achieving the country's MDG priorities. The identified solutions should lead to impacts that can be sustained beyond 2015, or can be complemented by such efforts.

State of the Economy and the 2012 Budget Highlights

*The Zimbabwean economy is on a rebound, with growth performances across all sectors of the economy remaining positive though the sluggish performance of domestic industry and the manufacturing sector in particular is of continued concern, **UNDP Economic Advisor, Udo Etukudo** has argued.*

In his 2011 budget analysis, the economist notes that real GDP growth rate for 2011 is a revised 9.3%, compared to 8.1% in 2010, "For 2012, the real GDP growth rate is expected to quicken slightly faster at 9.4%." Nominal GDP, on the other hand, he argues, continues to rise rapidly. "For example, nominal GDP grew by 41% between 2009 and 2010 from US\$5.8 billion to US\$8.2 billion."

It grew a further 21% between 2010 and 2011, reaching US\$10 billion. Nominal GDP growth is expected to rise at a slower pace of 19% by the end of 2012 to reach almost US\$12 billion. "This represents a cumulative increase of 72% in economic production between 2009 and 2011, thus providing further evidence of Zimbabwe's continued economic recovery," the Advisor observed.

Highlighting the key fiscal issues confronting the country, he cited the increased budgetary stress and squeezed capital spending in an effort to deal with the rising employment costs. In addition, there's what he described as the continued underperformance of the Capital budget which threatens economic growth projections and, indeed, the fragile process of economic recovery. Consequently, "There is need to both ring-fence the capital budget, through a "fiscal rule" legislation, and at the same time strengthen efforts to mobilize additional non-tax revenues so as to safeguard recent economic gains." Should employment costs continue to rise, without a concomitant improvement to the performance of non-tax revenues, he said, this would compel Government to compromise its Capital budget.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Real GDP (%)	5.4	8.1	9.3	9.4
Nominal GDP (US\$ billions)	5.8	8.2	10.0	11.9

Table 1 : Economic Growth Trends

Source: 2012 National Budget

Among the key structural issues facing the economy, the UNDP Advisor noted the US\$40 million Distressed and Marginalized Assistance Fund (DIMAFA) to assist the recapitalization of Industry in Bulawayo launched by the Government in October 2011, the rise by about 30 percent in electricity tariffs to help the electricity supply company ZESA recover some investment costs and the need to strengthen food security, with the Government targeting 1 million

maize producers as beneficiaries for a US\$75 million Input Support Facility. This Facility is expected to be co-funded with development partners for the 2011/2012 summer cropping season.

Sector	Threshold	Share of Recurrent Expenditure	Share of Total budget
Education	12%	31.4%	25%
Health	15%	10.8%	8.6%
Water & Sanitation		3.5%	2.8%
Social protection		1%	0.8%
TOTAL		46.7%	37.6%

Table 2 : Social Sector Allocations in the 2012 Budget

Source: 2012 National Budget

Etukudo also referred to a 2011 survey by the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) which revealed a significant increase in industrial capacity utilization. The 2011 CZI survey showed capacity utilization currently at 57.2%, compared with 43.7% in 2010. This increase is being attributed to the beverages and agro-processing sub-sectors where rising consumer demand has helped boost capacities to full utilization.

The economy continues to be constrained by a wide range of factors including insufficient aggregate demand, low capacity utilisation and productivity, and the liquidity/credit crisis. Others are the irregular energy supply, high electricity tariffs, manpower deficits in the productive sectors; and extensive Infrastructure deficits.

Estimates suggest that total revenue collections in 2012 will amount to some US\$4 billion, of which about US\$3.4 billion will come from traditional sources (tax revenue plus non-tax revenues), and about US\$600 million will come from diamond revenue collection. Within the total resource envelope, about US\$3.2 billion or 80% of the budget is earmarked for recurrent expenditure and the remaining 20% or US\$800 million will go towards capital/investment spending.

Social sector spending, he said, "comprises a healthy 46% of recurrent expenditure, with the education sector comprising the bulk of that at 31% and surpassing the set target of 12% prescribed by the education-for-all agenda by a very wide margin." Meanwhile, the health sector spending represents some 10.8% of the recurrent expenditure, well below the threshold of 15% set by the Abuja declaration on health sector budgets. In addition, poverty reduction efforts will face serious challenges given insufficient funding for social protection, which has been allocated just 1% of the budget.

Going forward, he identified the generally low level of domestic savings; bureaucratic constraints faced by those looking to invest; very slow improvements to the erratic supply of energy; high and growing proportion of employment costs in public expenditures, which is now crowding out investment spending; and the generally low level of domestic savings, as some of the issues that could impact performance in 2012.

Opportunities for Support by the United Nations

In a related development, fellow **UNDP Economics Advisor James Wakiaga**, has outlined several opportunities for support by the United Nations, based on the budgetary projections. They are as follows:

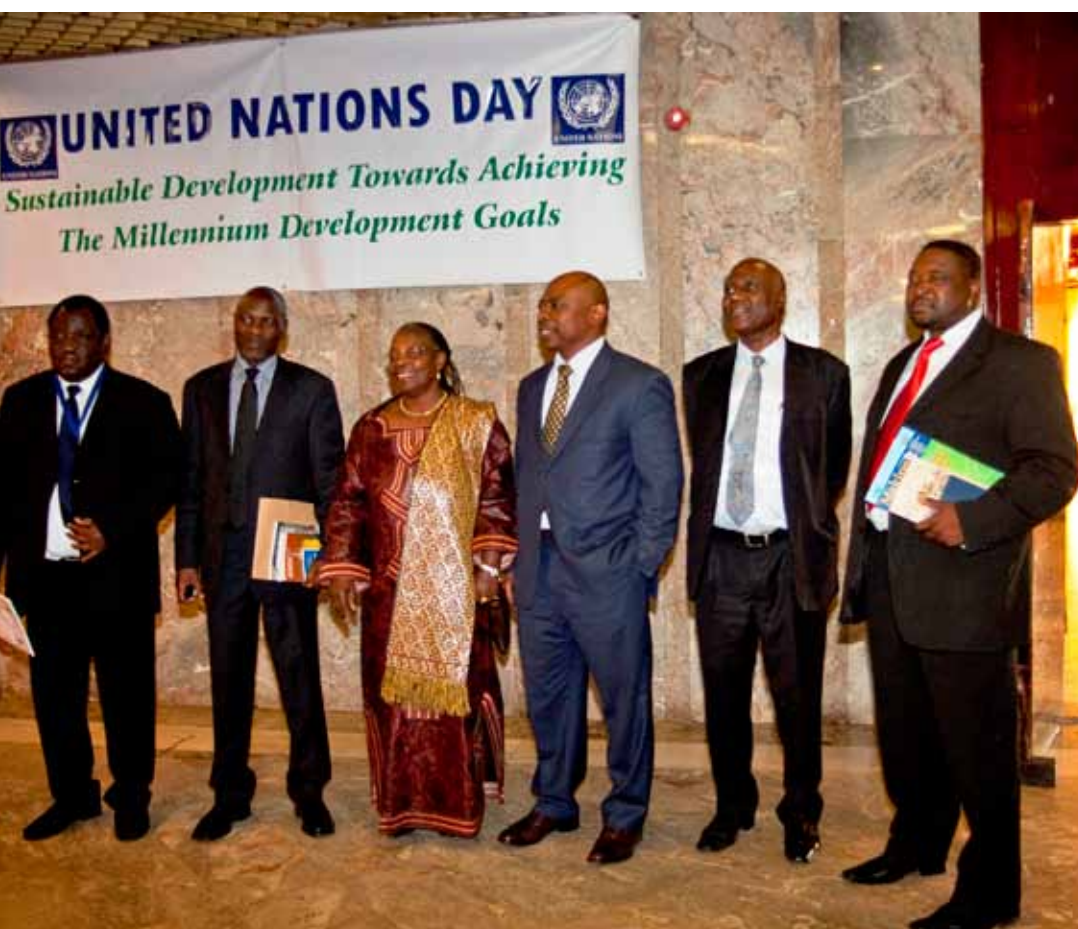
- The high wage bill (63 % of the recurrent expenditure), the debt overhang and electricity deficit are three major impediments to the economic recovery and growth. The UN could engage the Government and Partners to finding a sustainable solution through: a comprehensive public sector reform programme, implementation of the debt and arrears clearance strategy and financing of the electricity generation projects.
- The global economic downturn could lead to a significant

decline in ODA and FDI flows lower the commodity prices and commodity exports. The UN should assist to build the national capacity for policy buffers against such vulnerability. This includes addressing the issues of trade competitiveness, anti-cyclical macro-economic policy framework and rebuilding fiscal buffers.

- Supporting the promulgation and implementation of a robust social protection policy and strategy would facilitate medium-to-long term social safety net interventions that could benefit the poor and vulnerable groups and thus ensure the economic growth is both inclusive and equitable.
- The intention to strengthen the Results-based Management (RBM) system through the proposed Rapid Results Approach would scale public sector performance and ensure accountability for results. However, this must be aligned with both the MTP and the budget to bring the convergence on policy, planning and budgeting.
- The Government has allocated \$30 million to support the Constitution making process, the referendum and organ of national healing, reconciliation and integration. This underscores the commitment of the government towards these governance processes that are key to entrenching democracy and the rule of law. It therefore behoves upon the UN and Partners to mobilize additional resources for the success of these programmes.
- The 2012 budget has prioritized the social sectors including health, education, social services and the recognition of the need to align with the regional and internationally-agreed

targets on budget ratios for social sectors that have impact on the achievement of MDGs. The use of resources made available from the diamonds and other minerals to further increase budget allocation and used in combination with appropriate policies that protect the most vulnerable will undoubtedly enable the Government to effectively address the prevailing inequality and access to basic social services.

- The 2012 Budget targets food and nutrition security as important priorities for addressing poverty and noting the direct implications for the attainment of the MDGs, particularly MDG 1. Given the commitment of the Government of Zimbabwe to continue to support and strengthen food security in the country as underlined in the 2012 Budget, the UN has an opportunity to strategically engage in efforts to ensure food diversification and strengthen food security in chronically food insecure areas (through its cash/food for productive assets programme).



UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator Alain Noudehou (third from right) with some members of the UNCT and Government partners during UN Day celebrations 2011.

Photo Credit: Michelle Fortmann

Gender and Economics: Challenging Policy Makers to Lead from the Front

The inaugural three-week policy makers course on Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI)—the first of its kind in the country and the region—came to a close on 24 November 2011, with a call for fast-tracking implementation of coherent policies and strategies that would narrow the gender divide in the country while at the same time promoting women empowerment as an important catalyst for human development.

“In the case of Zimbabwe, it is imperative that policy analysis and formulation are guided by this thinking” said the then acting UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Basile Tambasha, adding that the knowledge that participants gained during the course would assist in ensuring the engendering of economic policies and strategies, including budget formulation process.

The acting Resident Coordinator, who is also UNFPA Resident Representative, expressed his appreciation to the UNDP, institute for Development Planning (IDEP) and the two lead Ministries for the effective collaboration and partnership that made the GEPMI Zimbabwe programme a reality. “I would like to assure you of the support of the UN Country Team to make this programme a success and if possible make Zimbabwe a centre for the GEPMI training in this region,” he said.

The introduction of Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI) in Zimbabwe aims at creating a pool of public sector economists, budget officers and economic planners capable of integrating gender as a variable for policy formulation and decision-making.

Saying the course will “revolutionize” the whole discourse of gender mainstreaming in Zimbabwe, Dr. Sylvia J. Utete-Masango, the Secretary for Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development observed that no country can meaningfully and sustainably develop when the majority (52%) remain passive players. “By veering from the norm where gender mainstreaming has been viewed as women issues to be spearheaded by Ministries of Women Affairs with Civil Society playing the advocacy role,” she said, “it is heartening to note that through GEPMI every sector of government will, from now on,

be mandated to ensure that the principle of gender equality is enshrined in their policies and programs.”

In her remarks, the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Christine Umutoni, thanked Dr. Utete and Desire Sibanda (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion) for providing leadership that ensured the necessary buy-in from the Government and also a smooth implementation of the programme. Ms. Umutoni reaffirmed UNDP Zimbabwe Country Office’s commitment to continue supporting the Government of Zimbabwe to meet the MDG 3 on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

The Country Director urged the course participants to lead from the front by utilizing the skills acquired to interrogate policies and strategies, including formulation of national and sectoral budgets to ensure that they are fully engendered.

“I also challenge UNDP and IDEP colleagues to put in place an assessment and evaluation mechanism that could allow us to take stock of the progress the GEPMI programme has achieved in the policy arena and in meeting the ultimate goal of gender equality and women empowerment.”

The training involved 44 senior officials drawn from various line ministries. Supported by the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Planning, this training was preceded by a sensitization workshop of permanent secretaries in all ministries chaired by Office of the president, in August and a Training of Trainers Workshop in September. It was facilitated with the support of the Bureau for Development Planning gender team, the Regional Bureau for Africa and the UNDP Zimbabwe Country Office, as part of general efforts to promote gender equality and women empowerment in line with the Gender Equality Strategy 2008- 2013, the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF), MDG 3, and the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP). The intervention in this area is also guided by national and regional instruments such as the National Gender Policy and the SADC Gender and Development Protocol of 2008.



From top: Secretary for Women affairs, Gender and Community Development, Dr. Sylvia J. Utete-Masango facilitates a session. UNDP Country Director, Christine Umutoni makes her presentation. The three-week course brought together leading policy specialists from various ministries and related institutions.

Photo Credit: Sammy Mwiti/UNDP

GLOBAL FUND

GLOBAL FUND CAPS YEAR 2011 WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

With an average 'A' rated performance in the implementation of the Round 8 phase 1 grant cycle, the Global Fund in Zimbabwe marked the end of Round 8 Phase 1 grant cycle with a remarkable achievement in all the four grants targeting HIV and AIDS; Tuberculosis; Malaria; and Health System Strengthening (HSS) in December 2011. During its first quarter of implementation, the ratings for HIV were B1; Malaria B2; TB B1; HSS B1.

"The first phase of the Global Fund grants was implemented quite successfully in Zimbabwe," said the Minister of Health and Child Welfare Dr. Henry Madzorera, adding: "Through the Global Fund, various life-saving interventions have been undertaken and continue to be a priority, in the area of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria prevention and treatment through a very good partnership between UNDP and the government of Zimbabwe represented by Ministry of Health and Child Welfare."

“...nearly 400,000 adults and children with advanced HIV infection were reported as receiving antiretroviral therapy ...

Some examples of the Zimbabwe GF achievement include: A milestone achievement in the fight against malaria, wherein the health sector in Zimbabwe registered a notable success with the formulation and dissemination of the "Malaria in Pregnancy Policy" widely circulated to all health facilities in the country to strengthen malaria prevention and case management efforts amongst pregnant women. In addition, the Malaria Programme Review (MPR) in June 2011 confirmed the decline of malaria prevalence in the country; dropping from a high of 136 people in 1000 in the year 2000 to 49 per 1000 in the year 2010. The decline was attributed to increased investments in Malaria Control through support from Roll

Back Malaria initiatives, funded by the Global Fund and other donor partners.

Furthermore, a multi-agency supportive and supervision site visit conducted in October 2011 in all the 10 provinces revealed that the country had adequate stock levels of anti-malarial drugs and that the 2011-2012 indoor residual spraying programme was on track to meet the target coverage. The exercise was conducted in collaboration with development partners such as WHO, Population Services International (PSI), PLAN International, UNDP and the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP).

...the country had adequate stock levels of anti-malarial drugs and that the 2011-2012 indoor residual spraying programme was on track...

In the area of HIV and AIDS, nearly 400,000 adults and children with advanced HIV infection were reported as receiving antiretroviral therapy while an estimated 260,000 benefitted from a series of outreach programmes focusing on HIV prevention and interpersonal communication. Progress was also made at the policy level with the finalisation of the Zimbabwe National Aids Strategic Plan (2011-2015) as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

National efforts to address the menace of tuberculosis received a major boost with the development of new centres for TB testing—microscopic sites—in various parts of the country, with 31 of them established in the year 2011 alone. According to a 2011 third quarter report from the National Quality Control service, about 108 sites out of 111 (about 97.3%) were now performing smear microscopy, compared with half that amount in the same period the previous year. The TB intervention also entailed treatment, HIV counselling and training of health workers.

Under the Health System Strengthening component, there was overall efficiency

improvement in operations, due largely to the application of new information and communication technologies. This included distribution of a thousand cell phones equipped with data capturing software (FRONTLINE) to rural health sectors. Rural health workers were trained in the appropriate use of the cell phones, provided courtesy of technical and financial support from Research Triangle Institute International (RTI) and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This resulted in timely weekly disease surveillance reporting. Similarly, UNDP undertook an on-the job training exercise for staff of the Health Services Board (HSB), on analysis of field data, to help strengthen quality information gathering and documentation. Furthermore, the District Health Information System was upgraded, leading to increased efficiency.

The Capacity Development Plan, which aimed at developing skills and building awareness was equally successful, through the provision of new equipment and the training of some 1,688 people in such key areas as monitoring and evaluation (806), finance (141), project management and strategic planning, among others (741).

UNDP became the Principal Recipient (PR) of the global fund grants in August 2009 under the Additional Safeguard Policy (ASP) of the Global Fund. A total of 7 Global Fund grants were approved with a total budget of US\$ 250,764,156 of which US\$ 179,959,142 was for Phase I of Round 8 Grants covering the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011. GF grants are implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MoHCW), Health Services Board (HSB), National AIDS Council (NAC), Zimbabwe AIDS Network (ZAN) and other local and international NGOs.

Phase 2 of the Program is expected to start in 2012 and end on 31 December 2014.



The Caravanites involved people from all walks of life.
Photo Credit: Blessing Magocha

ANALYSIS

Hope Caravan Moves Across Africa to Influence Policy Ahead of COP 17

It was history in the making in Bulawayo on 23 November, 2011 as the country's second largest city hosted the Trans African Caravan of Hope, a vehicle for mobilization and awareness creation for African civil society, highlighting the challenges that climate change poses to the continent's efforts to overcome poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

From Zambia, the "We Have Faith: Act Now for Climate Justice" caravan, bringing together people from all walks of life crossed the Zimbabwe border point at Victoria Falls on the night of Monday 21 November 2011, as part of a ten-country tour to Sub-Saharan Africa, starting from Burundi. En route, other countries visited were Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

On Tuesday, 22 November they were welcomed into the country by the Victoria Falls Town Council leadership, including

one of the founder members of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Mr. Johannes Chigwada. At Victoria Falls, the Caravanites witnessed the successful signing of petitions on climate justice.

However, the major highlights of the caravan were in Bulawayo where the caravan started with a march from the Tradegold building which is situated in the city centre, to the Bulawayo amphitheatre along the Masvingo highway. The march was almost three kilometers long and attracted hundreds of participants. It was lively and captivating with school children performing drum majorettes accompanied by beaming music from the caravan vehicle.

The event was punctuated by song and dance from one of the most celebrated dance groups in Zimbabwe, IYASA a Bulawayo based group. The group performed a well choreographed dance and song for

climate justice. They energetically dramatized some of the causes of environmental degradation which consequently lead to climate change among them illegal gold panning, dumping of rubbish and poor farming methods. They also waved placards as part of their public information campaign. Some of the placards read as follows: Africa is a victim, climate change brings hunger to Africa; no to pollution; change of climate brings diseases to Africa; polluters must pay.

On arrival at the amphitheatre, Caravanites were addressed by the Mayor of Bulawayo councilor T P Moyo. The mayor acknowledged climate change as a global phenomenon which Zimbabwe is inherently part of. He challenged people to think positively if they are sincerely committed to reducing the adverse effects of climate change, saying that "the challenges faced by human beings are actually problems caused by human beings." The mayor stressed the importance of communicating to African leaders that the damage caused by the human beings to the environment has to be mitigated for sustainable development and future stability.

In his speech read by the acting Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management the Honorable Minister Francis Nhema acknowledged climate change as a serious issue. "The challenge for the country is how to develop adaptation strategies that can mitigate the diverse and complex impacts of climate change," stated the Minister adding that climate change-related disasters in Zimbabwe are gradually increasing in number and frequency. "The high frequency of the occurrence of droughts and floods is linked to global climate change."

In her remarks, UNDP Programme Officer, Mrs. Daisy Mukarakate called for the reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other green house gases, as a mitigating mechanism in the battle to combat the impact of climate change. She urged the Caravanites to try and lobby the issue of climate change into a legally binding treaty at the Durban Conference of Parties (COP17) on climate change and also impress upon African leaders to adopt pro-poor climate responsive national budgets and investment decisions.

Caravan of Hope is a product of the Pan African climate justice alliance (PACJA). For the event to be successful PACJA received financial and technical support from many organizations including the government, UNDP and NGOs.

Drafting of the New Constitution at an Advanced Stage



From Left Mr. Brian Crozier, Mrs. Priscilla Chidzonga and Hon. Justice Chinhengo – the principal drafters

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of the ongoing national constitutional review process is managing a multi-donor fund worth US\$ 21 million from several donors namely: Norway, France, United Kingdom, Sweden, European Commission, Australia, Netherlands, Denmark, the United States of America and Canada.

In addition to financial assistance, UNDP provided technical support to the project through hiring a core team comprising a Project Manager, Finance Manager, IT Specialist and a Communications Specialist working full time in the project.

The constitution making process, which is part of the Global Political Agreement package agreed by the three major political parties in the country in 2009, has reached an advance stage.

The process started with the outreach program to enable gathering of the

information from Zimbabweans. The data was then recorded analysed and a national report produced. The next step was to have the constitution drafted using the data collected from the outreach and from other relevant research.

The three principal drafters tasked with the responsibility of drafting the new constitution for Zimbabwe have completed the first draft and have submitted it to the Parliamentary Select Committee for review. The Select Committee of Parliament that is coordinating the process of coming up with a new constitution is being assisted by a technical committee comprised of legal experts, as well as other experts in other fields to review the draft submitted.

The three principal drafters are Hon. Justice Moses Chinhengo, a judge in the Botswana High court, Mr. Brian Crozier, a University of Zimbabwe Lecturer and Mrs. Priscilla Chidzonga, a renowned lawyer.

In doing their work, the drafters were guided by the drafting instructions given to them by the Select Committee. They used the constitutional issues distilled from the national report which contains submissions for the new draft that came from the people during the outreach phase. The process of reviewing the draft constitution is anticipated to be complete by the end of February.

Once the draft constitution is in place, it will be translated into vernacular languages as well as Braille. The draft shall be widely circulated and the Select Committee will hold provincial meetings with different stakeholders to help them engage with the draft constitution in preparation for the Second All Stakeholder's Conference.

The Second All Stakeholder's Conference will give Zimbabweans an opportunity to review the draft constitution. Zimbabweans will give the Select Committee feedback on the draft constitution before submission to Parliament for debate and to a referendum.