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Breaking the Silence Through GBV Fast Track Courts.

As one of the most highly populated neighbourhoods of Lusaka province, Chainda township is known for its undeveloped structures and high crime levels. This is home for 41 years old Fred Chama (Not real name), who is married and a father of two children; a girl and a boy.

Until 2017, he had only heard of gender-based violence (GBV) in relation to wife battery and, as a vice unconnected to him. He never thought it would be him standing in a courtroom trying to seek GBV-related justice.

Reality dawned on him when he found himself reporting a defilement case at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Police Post in Chainda. He points out that justice for his 4-year-old years old daughter would have been elusive for someone of his social economic background had it not been for the unconceding effort and advise from personnel at the Police Post and the University Teaching Hospital (UTH).

“I had heard that there is no justice in our courts, that GBV perpetrators are often set free, but the help I received from the police post and UTH showed me that there was hope for justice to prevail over my daughter’s case”, he recollects.

Introducing the Fast Track Court

The anti-GBV Act No. 1 of 2011, which was operationalised in 2013 but was little known to Fred, became a piece of legislation that would help Fred’s daughter access effective justice.

The Act, amongst other objectives, demanded for the establishment of institutional transformations that would help victims access justice freely and expediently. Under the leadership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with financial support from DFID, Ireland and Sweden, led to the creation of the GBV and User-Friendly FastTrack Courts (FTC) in six provinces; Eastern, Central, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Southern and Western. It was in the Lusaka Fast Track Court, where Fred’s daughter received her justice and where her perpetrator was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

The new Fast Track Courts are safe with separate rooms including a witness room from where a survivor can give evidence using a video and audio link to the court room. The need for the alleged perpetrator and victim to come into direct contact never arises. This mechanism provides safety and security for the GBV survivors, which helps cases to be dealt with quickly.

It is a model that can be replicated because it is innovative, modern and child friendly.

“the whole process took at least two months to conclude. The perpetrator was given a sentence of 15 years. I can confirm that he is imprisoned because I went to Mukobeko maximum prison twice to verify and another time my sister verified” Fred Chama.

Capacity Building of Key Partners to handle GBV Cases

The Head of Governance and Gender at UNDP Zambia, Gregory Sallii, states that UNDP Zambia’s involvement in the establishment of the GBV fast track courts, was primarily to strengthen the justice and legal systems to effectively implement the provisions of the Anti-GBV Act. He explains that the GRZ-UN Joint Programme was supported by cooperating partners; Ireland, Department for International Development (DFID) and Sweden.

The capacity of law enforcement officers and medical personnel to handle the Fred’s daughter’s case expeditiously, was not a coincidence – it was a testimony of the training that was given to the 50 law enforcement officers, medical personnel and social workers in handling of GBV cases.
In addition to the training of the 50 police officers and judiciary staff to improve their investigative and prosecution skills, UNDP provided a training of police officers in administration of justice for children. In total 130 officers, of which 80 females were trained. Thus, bringing the total number of prosecutors and police officers trained in investigative and prosecution skills to 937 since 2015.

In engaging a multi-sectoral response to the scourge, the GRZ-UN joint programme on GBV launched an alliance between various government institutions, which brought alive the role of partnership and collaboration.

Executive Director for National Legal Aid Clinic for Women Mandy Manda confirms this partnership and its impact on the smooth operation of the Fast Track Courts in providing justice both to perpetrators and survivors of GBV.

“The various institutions involved in the programme worked very well together and provided the necessary specific interventions. Cases have been well-handled, and this demonstrates the collaboration that existed between the different key partners” she said.

The Main Objectives of the Fast Track Courts

Zambia Police Service states that at least one in five women in the country has experienced some form of GBV making the country’s statistics on GBV unprecedented, in the past eight years.

From 2012 the cases reported increased from 12,924 to 22,073 in 2018 with Lusaka, Copperbelt and Central Provinces recording some of the highest numbers. Over 10% of them relate to child defilement, with a high proportion being defilement of the girl child.

Therefore, the main objectives of the Fast Track Courts included:

- To provide a conducive environment for both the accused and witness;
- To ensure quick and effective disposal of GBV cases by reducing trial time; and
- To contribute to Zambia’s CEDAW commitment and other treaties.

Saili states that, “UNDP’s support also provided the training of the paralegal officers, the law enforcement officers and medical personnel, which worked very well to ensure the collaboration we witness today in GBV cases”.

He also pointed out that UNDP contributed to the production of the Rules of Court for the implementation for the Anti GBV Act.

Lessons Learnt

Although no study has confirmed reasons behind the increased number of cases being reported, awareness raised by communities through the community-based alliances, have contributed to the new number of cases. According to the GRZ-UN Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence Terminal Programme Narrative Progress and Financial Report (2013 – 2018) overall, communities’ awareness that GBV is against the law has helped increase GBV cases being reported.

The report further states that there has been “a gradual increase” in the number of cases reported to the police, which it attributes partly to the GBV awareness campaigns in the country support by the Joint Programme. In addition, this response from the general public together with the efficiency and effectiveness of the fast track courts has inspired the UN system (UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and IOM) including UNDP to develop a Phase II of the GBV Programme, which will focus on the establishment of courts in the remaining provinces, and a stand-alone one in Lusaka.

Saili underscores that the second phase is expected to strengthen implementation of the legal framework for addressing GBV through harmonizing laws and policies, including customary law for compliance with human rights principles. It will also seek to work towards the transformation of power relations between women and men by addressing root causes such as patriarchy and negative social norms and traditional cultural practices, including transformative approaches that engage men and boys to challenge masculinity and harmful social norms.
Tackling Zambia’s Rural Energy Hurdle with a Mini-Power Grid at Chipota Falls.

In a quiet village in Chief Kabamba’s chiefdom at the foot of the Muchinga escarpment in Central Zambia, a group of curious villagers rushed to catch a glimpse as a short convoy of vehicles carrying a delegation from the Government of Zambia and the UNDP entered the village to pay a courtesy call on Chief Kabamba the 7th of the Lala people of Serenje District and to inspect the proposed site for a mini-hydro power station to be constructed at the Chipota Falls in his chiefdom.

The 200-kilowatt mini-hydro power station would be constructed by a UNDP-supported project to promote the transfer of renewable energy technology from China to Zambia using the South to South cooperation model. The initiative is a partnership between the Department of Energy in Zambia, the Ministry of Science and Technology in China and the UNDP Country Offices in Zambia and China and it’s being funded by the Government of Denmark. The partnership seeks to increase access to energy through off-grid and community-based electrification, indirectly supporting other socio-economic and environmental objectives, most notably poverty reduction through employment creation and supporting action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This initiative is a key component of UNDP’s support to the implementation of Zambia’s Sustainable Energy for All.

Despite its huge energy resource endowment, statistics on Zambia’s national electrification are grim, with less than half (31.4 percent) of the population and only about 44 percent of those living in rural areas with access to electricity, according to the Department of Energy. Most of the population relies on kerosene lanterns as a primary source of lighting or burning firewood, which emit soot and toxic fumes with potential to cause premature death due to diseases and can also cause fire accidents in addition to fueling deforestation.

To address this problem, the Rural Electrification Authority has earmarked off-grid solutions such as the development of the 300kW Lunga mini-grid in Luapula Province and the 200kW Chunga mini-grid.

“All these efforts are being made in adhering to our national rural electrification target of 51 percent by the year 2030,” Minister Nkhuwa said.

Promotion of renewable energy will catalyse the enhancing of rural development through promotion of better conditions for women to access better education and health services, with an estimated 15,000 people expected to benefit directly from the clean energy to be generated by this mini hydro.

200 kW of reliable power is expected to be produced once this mini hydro is fully operational and this will make it possible to effectively irrigate crops, boost farming yields and fuel economic growth in the chiefdom.

“Schools will become more productive and health facilities more accessible; it will also help our children study under clean light without any irritation to their eyes and patients will be able to access health services during the night,” said an elated Chief Kabamba.

“This initiative will boost small businesses, create local jobs and build the rural economy and will improve living standards in villages,” said Patrick Mubanga, Technical Director - Rural Electrification Authority.

The project is not just about going green but also aims to empower women in the male-dominated, conservative district, where child marriage is rife, and girls are routinely denied an education and live a life largely confined to home.

With this initiative, Kabamba Chiefdom in Serenje District is on the verge of a boom with a mini power grid that could stimulate the rural economy, empower women and bring more jobs to rural communities.

Mandisa Mashologu, Immediate past UNDP Resident Representative

Chipota Falls - the proposed site for a mini-hydro power station in Chief Kabamba’s area in Serenje District.
UNDP Welcomes Contribution from Japan for its Promoting Human Security Through Sustainable Resettlement Programme.

Speaking at the official handover of the grant from Japan for Promoting Human Security Through Sustainable Resettlement Programme in Zambia, Honourable Minister in the Vice-President’s Office, Sylvia Chalikosa noted that the Sustainable Resettlement programme from 2017 to 2021 aims to ensure that communities living in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Resettlement Schemes are cohesive, productive, sustainable and fully integrated into development at all levels by 2021.

Hon. Chalikosa said, “during 2018, an increase in the number of former refugee households relocating to the Resettlement Schemes, was achieved with eight hundred and sixty-five (865) households relocated to the resettlement areas.”

The UNDP acting Resident Representative, Israel Dessalegne said “in the case of Angola and Rwanda, where refugee status no longer applies, the Government of Zambia has offered those former refugees who have lived for many years in the country and who do not wish to return to their countries of origin, the option of taking permanent residency here in Zambia. UNDP has supported the creation of a Sustainable Resettlement approach to bring together those new permanent residents and Zambian citizens, on a 50-50 basis, into new communities”.

He noted that the Sustainable Resettlement Programme aims to meet the high ambitions and standards of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; support the local integration of former Angolan and Rwandan refugees in Zambia into new communities in designated resettlement areas; and support the local integration of youth in the Mwange resettlement scheme.

To ensure that social integration is attained successfully, the Japanese Government during the official launch of the grant for Promoting Human Security Through Sustainable Resettlement Programme in Zambia, donated USD 500,000.00 towards the Programme implementation. The Japanese Ambassador to Zambia, Hidenobu Sobashima said that his country attached great value to human security. The cheque was received by the Minister in the Vice President’s Office, Sylvia Chalikosa.

She reaffirmed the government’s commitment to locally integrate former Angolan and Rwandan refugees as pledged when the local integration strategy.

“Based on the foregoing, the vision of the entire resettlement programme is that by 2021, communities living in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa resettlement schemes are cohesive, productive, sustainable and fully integrated into development at all levels,” she underscored.

The Promoting Human Security Through Sustainable Resettlement Programme aims to ensure that all people in Zambia, including the former refugees have greater understanding of their rights and are able to claim them, have greater human security, have access to justice and have equal opportunity under the law. It will be undertaken through three distinct but interrelated outputs; households in targeted communities are enabled to improve their own livelihoods; improved availability of basic social service delivery and improved community protection and policing services. Mr. Dessalegne noted that Zambia remains a country that the rest of the world admires due to its continuous offer to host refugees. He noted that UNDP will work with local government, UN Agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector to implement activities that are needed to help displaced persons and their host communities shift from humanitarian assistance to more medium and long-term development interventions.

“What is very unique here is that Zambia recognizes many long-term refugee immigrants from Angola and Rwanda totaling about 23,000 people as former refugees and implementing the sustainable resettlement programme for them,”

H.E Japanese Ambassador to Zambia, Hidenobu Sobashima

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Ms. Mashologu noted criminalizing the behaviour and conduct of key populations, already suffering from social exclusion, would drive them from health and social services that could protect them.

In a bid to ensure the successful implementation of the project, a regional steering committee was established during a consultative meeting in South Africa, which consisted of thirty participants from line government ministries, civil society organisations (CSO) and key partners from across five countries; Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting’s focus was to discuss one of the recommendations from the LEA report, which was the integration of YKPs issues.

The committee was established to set in motion the implementation of the identified strategy and actions on integrating HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), human rights and key populations into law enforcement training amongst others.

The aim of the regional committee is to strengthen South-South Cooperation (SSC) and sharing of good practices to enhance capacity development for law enforcement engagement in promoting human rights for key populations in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The meeting, which brought together a regional consortium comprising UNDP, AMSHeR and HEARD noted that there are examples of positive attitudes, behavior and practices of law enforcement bodies that recognize the constructive role that can be played by law enforcement bodies in health and human rights protection, including HIV prevention, particularly for key population groups.

Whilst heterosexual sex and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) are the most prevalent ways of contracting HIV/AIDS and STIs, access to HIV/AIDS and SRH services by young people is elusive due to policy barriers and specific needs, rights and SRH issues that affect young people, not being addressed in national strategies or even in civil society advocacy efforts.

On 31st October and 1st November 2019, UNDP hosted a meeting that saw the validation of the Legal Environment Assessment HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Zambia (LEA). The assessment focused on Young Key Populations (YKP) aged from 18 to 24 years old, as they are pivotal in the HIV/AIDS national response efforts.

According to UNAIDS, “gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers (both male and female) and their clients, transgender people and people who inject drugs as the four main key population groups. UNAIDS notes that these populations often suffer from punitive laws or stigmatizing policies, and that they are among the most likely to be exposed to HIV. In other uses, the term “key populations” also refers to inmates and other incarcerated people who are also particularly vulnerable to HIV because of lack adequate access to services. Due to the myths, exclusion, and other injustices against people with Albinism in Zambia, they are also included as a key population and accorded the necessary safeguards to ensure their unfettered access to HIV and AIDS services.”

The stakeholder meeting brought together key players from various Government Ministries to validate the assessment conducted by a consultant and to draw an action plan on how to confront social exclusion, human rights abuses and health inequalities faced by the YKP in Zambia. Dr Fatima Ally, representative of the Netherlands Government, attended the meeting to monitor the review process and progress made on LEA.

Immediate past UNDP Resident Representative a.i. Mandisa Mashologu, reiterated the United Nations’ commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of 2015 to leave no-one behind.
The strategic guide and work plan, which were drafted, will serve to initiate pilot activities for integrating human rights, SRHR, HIV and key population issues in the training curricula of law enforcement officials in the respective countries – Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe – supported through UNDP’s global HIV, Health and Development Group. The consultative meeting was aimed at ensuring sustained engagement of law enforcement officials in protecting the rights of key populations, including young key populations, for reducing stigma, discrimination, violence and rights violations and promoting equitable access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including HIV, and promoting access to justice.

A situational analysis of experiences, initiatives, tools and best practices in training of law enforcement officials on HIV, SRH, human rights and key populations and the identification of strategies and actions for integrating HIV, SRHR, human rights and key population issues in law enforcement training was also conducted during the meeting to pave the way for better implementation of a rights-based approach in access to justice.

The regional committee will continue to explore and consult with other countries on how human rights and access to sexual reproductive health and rights and access to justice have taken place in the past and further investigate how human rights and access to justice with respect to sexual reproductive health has been integrated into the national training curriculum for law enforcement officers in different countries. Further, the committee will ensure that there is sharing of information on best practices on the training of law enforcement officers on human rights, increased access to justice, policing and respect of the rights of key populations, women and children.

Positive attitudes, behavior and practices are often attributed to strong and committed leadership both within and outside of law enforcement. In the context of HIV and sexual and reproductive health for key populations, the need for balanced partnerships between police, key populations, health care providers HIV and SRHR programmes is critical.

The meeting was organized by UNDP’s regional programme aimed at strengthening legal and policy environments for reducing HIV risk and improving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for young key populations in Southern Africa. One of the project’s expected outcomes is strengthened capacity of parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, policy makers, law enforcement and the judiciary in promoting the HIV/SRH-related needs and rights of young key population.
UNDP Zambia’s Solar for Health initiative: Helping the Zambian government increase health access to mothers and children in rural areas.

Previously in Zambia, power interruptions regularly affected the refrigeration of medicines and vaccines. With support from UNDP and the Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System, Zambia’s 7000 m² national medical warehouse, now has solar panels on its roof covering roughly the size of a football pitch, that provide uninterrupted power for the refrigeration of life-saving medicines and vaccines. In addition, UNDP provided solar PV systems to 14 health facilities in Zambia, including Kafue general hospital and Chongwe district hospital.

UNDP’s Solar for Health initiative supports governments to increase access to quality health services through the installation of solar energy photovoltaic systems (PV), ensuring constant and cost-effective access to electricity, while also mitigating the impact of climate change and advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

Since 2010, UNDP has, on behalf of the Ministry of Health in Zambia and with support from the Global Fund, mobilized financial resources to implement programmes aimed at contributing to the national response toward universal access to prevention, care and treatment of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. During this undertaking, establishment of a reliable and affordable energy supply was a priority in securing access to public health services.

In Zambia, Veronica, a grandmother, explained what having the local health facility equipped with solar power meant to the local community. “We were encouraged to come to this clinic because there is hope here” she said.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRsiZqscMgs

UNDP, with Norwegian NOREPS emergency preparedness funding, decided to set up Solar Photo-Voltaic power systems in three primary health care clinics offering antiretroviral treatment in Mpepo, Mulekatembo and Kazembe in Eastern Province of Zambia. The idea was to test whether those could provide valid alternatives to classical power systems or fuel-based generators.

“No woman should give birth in the dark. No surgery should be carried out by candlelight. And no child should be left vulnerable to disease because vaccines cannot be refrigerated. For too long, a lack of reliable power has prevented people in remote and rural communities from accessing the healthcare they need, when they need it. As the renewable energy revolution picks up pace, here are 5 ways solar power can make universal healthcare a reality.

1. Access: A WHO review revealed one in four health facilities in sub-Saharan Africa had no access to electricity, while only 28% of health facilities and 34% of hospitals had what could be called “reliable” access to electricity (without prolonged interruptions in the past week). Health clinics, maternity wards, surgery blocks, medical warehouses, and laboratories rely on electricity to refrigerate medicines, power the lights and operate life-saving medical devices. The inability to carry out these essential functions puts lives at risk.

UNDP’s Solar for Health initiative is supporting governments to install solar systems in hard to reach health centres and clinics in rural, underserved communities. With maternal mortality higher in women living in rural areas and among poorer communities, there is also a focus on ensuring no-one is left behind and that access to healthcare is available to all, wherever they may be.

A walk on Lusaka MSL Regional Hub roof-top

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
In line with the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and as outlined in the UNDP 2016-2021 HIV, Health and Development Strategy: Connecting the Dots, Solar for Health is making a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to ‘leave no one behind’. By utilizing modern technologies to ensure healthcare delivery reaches remote and under-served communities it is helping countries in their efforts to achieve SDGs 3, 7, 13 and 17: good health and well-being, affordable and clean energy, climate action and partnerships.

2. Quality: Quality healthcare requires a dependable source of power. For instance, maintaining the ‘cold chain’ (a temperature-controlled storage environment) for vaccines and medicines is essential and requires refrigeration, cold rooms and IT systems for stock management.

3. Affordability: When using solar power, health facilities save money which can be reinvested to support other priority health programmes. UNDP estimates a 100 percent return on investment within 2 to 5 years, when health facilities with unreliable energy sources install solar systems. While the world is waking up to the power of renewable energy, progress needs to be accelerated and taken to scale. Although investments are increasing year on year, in 2017 just 12.1 per cent of global power came from renewable energy.

4. Resilience: Solar energy is also helping to build resilient health systems. The systems are building resilience to the challenges presented by climate change, including extreme weather events, droughts, and other events affecting the traditional power supply. Furthermore, Solar for Health is helping countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Energy plays a vital role in enabling health care delivery but can also inflict significant environmental harm: energy production and use is the single biggest contributor to global warming. The decommissioning of highly polluting and noisy diesel generators also considerably improves the local environment.

5. Sustainability

UNDP is working in partnership with governments and local communities to ensure the sustainability of Solar for Health initiatives, including system maintenance. As solar systems continue to transform communities, they are also helping to advance the agenda for universal health coverage.
Public Private Community Partnership (PPCP) Takes Off in West Lunga National Park and Surrounding Game Management Areas (GMAs).

The Management Agreement between the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, the Community Resource Boards (CRB) of Chibwika, Ntambu and Sikufele Chiefdoms and the Kalumbila Trident Foundation (KTF) Limited has finally been drafted and is ready for signing.

This agreement is a product of a long consultative process that was facilitated by the UNDP/GEF V project involving a series of community and high-level consultative meetings with Traditional Leaders representing the three Chiefdoms; private sector i.e. Kalumbila Trident Foundation Limited, community representatives through the respective CRBs; and representatives from Government i.e. Forest Department (FD) and Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). The community level meetings were held in Mwinilunga, Kasempa, Manyinga and Solwezi.

The Management Agreement will form the basis for the establishment of a PPCP in West Lunga Ecosystem, which is one of the key deliverables of the GEF V project entitled “Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Generating Multiple Environmental Benefits Within and Around the Greater Kafue and West Lunga National Parks in Zambia” being implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the FD and DNPW. The project’s focus is to promote effective community participation in sustainable natural resources management and is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF).

Speaking at one of the consultative meetings held in Solwezi on the 30th of March 2019, on behalf of the Provincial Permanent Secretary for North Western Province Mr. Willie Manjimela, the District Administrative Officer for Solwezi expressed government’s commitment to involve communities as key stakeholders in conservation of natural resources.

“We are set to establish for ourselves a Public Private Community Partnership in West Lunga. It will be a unique entity in the country only coming similar to a partnership established in Bangweulu between Government, African Parks and Local communities who comprise six (6) chiefdoms. The Bangweulu Partnership is a success, I am confident that our partnership arrangement in West Lunga will work even better,” said Mr. Manjimela.

Some of the sentiments expressed by over 900 community members that participated in the community meetings in the three Chiefdoms were to do with the clarification on how FD and DNPW will handle the restrictions in terms of community access to forest and wildlife resources.

The community members wanted to know if KTF will bring back the wildlife such as elephants in the area. They raised issues of community empowerment and wanted to be considered for job opportunities at the lodges that will be built especially those that will not require Grade 12 and higher education certificates as most of them are not educated.

The community members also wanted the clause that provides for a 20-year tenure and 5-year revision to include punitive actions in case of non-performance by Kalumbila Trident Foundation. The consultative meetings at the community level were hosted to accord ordinary community members (men, women and the youth) an opportunity to understand the contents of the draft Management Agreements, discuss their roles, and responsibilities. These separate meetings were held before the meeting in Solwezi that brought the community representatives to one table to consolidate their views and position on the PPCP.

The views and concerns by the communities provided positive feedback that was useful in shaping the final Management Agreement. This bottom-up process culminated into a final negotiation meeting on the Management Agreement that was held in Lusaka in the first week of April 2019. At the final negotiation meeting all the three parties; community representatives from the 3 chiefdoms, Kalumbila Trident Foundation and the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Arts and Tourism and the Forestry Department were represented. The negotiation meeting provided an opportunity for each party to provide a consolidated position that formed the final Management Agreement of the PPCP. This meeting enabled the parties to reach consensus on a number of issues proposed in the Management Agreement ranging from the structure and form of the PPCP; roles and responsibilities of the parties; to equitable benefit-sharing by the parties.

All the stakeholders involved in this process are optimistic that the process for establishing the PPCP in West Lunga will be concluded soon after the signing ceremony which is envisaged to take place in the third quarter of 2019.
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