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Support to the Seventh National Development Plan

In the last decade, Zambia’s economy grew at an average of about 6.9 percent and during this period the country continued to be dependent on its copper industry, which made it vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations. Despite this steady economic growth, poverty and income inequality remained the greatest challenge to national development. In response, Zambia has developed the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) for the period 2017-2021, which is aimed at attaining the long-term vision of Zambia becoming a prosperous middle-income country by 2030 and ensuring that no one is left behind.

To achieve inclusive development and embrace the principle of leaving no one behind the 7NDP has considered regional and global development agendas, such as the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Istanbul Programme for Action; Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

“The 7NDP sets an innovative, ambitious and transformative direction for Zambia. It lives up to the revolutionary aspirations of the SDGs which, indeed, Zambia helped to design. Zambia is one of the first countries to produce a new national development plan since the SDGs were agreed in 2015 and is thus a trailblazer”. – Janet Rogan, United Nations Resident Coordinator at the Launch of the 7NDP in Lusaka, Zambia

The 7NDP is a paradigm shift, it departs from sectoral-based planning used in the previous National Development Plans to an integrated multi-sectoral development planning. Integrated planning links the vision, priorities and people within institutions in a flexible system of evaluation, decision-making and action and in so doing it aligns institutional priorities. It also removes silos and allows for the implementation of development programmes to be done in coordinated manner.

During the Plan period, the Government intends to diversify the economy and make it resilient for sustained growth and socio-economic transformation.

This will be achieved by implementing programmes that promote economic diversification and job creation; reduce poverty and vulnerability; reduce development inequalities; enhance human development; and create a conducive governance environment for a diversified and inclusive economy. The 7NDP was developed in two phases, starting with development of the strategic Vision document by the Government followed by formulation of the Implementation Plan(Vol II). The UN in Zambia continued to financially and technically support work to mainstream the SDGs and other global and regional goals in the 7NDP by using the UN Development Group’s Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) common approach. A small inter-agency team led by the UNDP Economic Advisor, including a variety of technical expertise, working directly to the RC, drove the process throughout 2017. This approach has been recognised as best practice and other countries from the Africa region embarking on their new national plans are visiting Zambia to learn from the 7NDP process.

The UN/Government inter-agency team was technically supported by the UNDP Regional Service Centre, providing guidance in the development of a methodology that mainstreams the SDGs. The first step of the methodology entailed undertaking the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA), which showed alignment of the SDGs in the 7NDP Volume I. The key findings of the RIA helped to identify the gaps in the 7NDP, interlinkages across SDG targets, areas for potential multi-sectoral programming and order prioritisation of the SDGs in the Plan.
The Rapid Integrated Assessment of the 7NDP Strategic Vision (Volume 1) showed how the 7NDP Implementation Plan (Volume 2) could fully ensure SDG mainstreaming. A second Rapid Integrated Assessment of both volumes of the 7NDP shows eighty six per cent alignment to the SDGs. After the RIA orientation, the UN supported a two-week multi-stakeholder Technical Working Groups (TWGs) retreat in Siavonga to undertake the drafting of 7NDP Volume II.

![Aligned SDGs by priority in the 7NDP](image)

The retreat was composed of state actors, non-state actors and development partners. To ensure that cross-cutting thematic areas are mainstreamed in all the strategic development outcomes, monitoring and evaluation officers, gender specialists, climate change experts from line ministries and UN Agencies were present in all the TWGs. A series of the consultative and review meetings were held that culminated into the Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs) and National Development Coordination Committee (NDCC) meetings held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre from 26th to 31st July.

The Government working through the Technical Working Groups refined the content of the 7NDP Implementation Plan to ensure horizontal and vertical coherence among the Strategic Development Areas and costed the programmes in the Plan. The Implementation Plan is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2018. The UN will continue strengthening the capacity of the national institutions to coordinate and implement the Plan.

**UNDP/UN also provided technical and financial support towards:**

- Training of Trainers workshop on the methodology for government staff and the facilitators of the Technical Working Groups.
- Results Based Management (RBM) with the emphasis that Volume II is a national document, which should pitch the outputs and indicators at a strategic level of results.
- Mainstreaming gender and other vulnerabilities such as disabilities, migrant population, youth and elderly populations, which was in line with the Leave No One Behind programming principle.
- Consultative and review meetings. UNDP’s engagement of success with the government has been demonstrated in its thought leadership role and commitment in creating space for and guaranteeing the effective participation of multiple stakeholders at all levels in the formulation of the 7NDP.

**Key Gaps identified in the RIA**

- Mainstreaming climate change and resilience was an issue.
- Mainstreaming gender, particularly GBV, child abuse, and early child marriage.
- Addressing migration and mobility.
- Water and Sanitation: No clarity on implementation strategies.
- Data availability and disaggregation: Insufficient indicators to monitor the Plan.

**NO POVERTY**

High-level of leadership of the Government (two Pss and Director Planning from the MNDP were involved in the RIA).

- Outstanding quality of engagement in the RIA process.
- Concise analysis of the development issues in line with the SDGs.
- Identification of specific gaps in strategies and in data.
- Provision of a platform for learning towards the development of the Implementation Plan.
- The RIA process is being used as best practice for other countries in their process of development planning.
Climate Change Fighters in Zambia

Protecting families from food insecurity through new agricultural techniques

In Zambia many female Zambian farmers in remote areas, like Grace Chilipa-Milimo (36) in Gwembe District in the Southern Province, provide living testimonies of women who have taken up the challenge of confronting climate change head-on and flourish.

While fellow farmers in various parts of the country despair over plummeting yields caused by erratic rains and regular dry spells, Grace manages to produce “bumper” harvests and uses the surplus crops to protect her family against food insecurity and pay for her children’s education.

However, like many housewives in one of the driest provinces of Zambia, Grace has had to deal with harvest losses which are often the sole source of food and income for the family. These days, she is equipped with new agricultural techniques and approaches which are protecting her family against food insecurity and hunger while at the same time paying for the education of her seven children – thanks to the Climate Information and Early Warning Systems project run by the Zambia Meteorological Department in partnership with UNDP and funded by the Global Environment Facility’s Least Developed Countries Fund. “Early warning and preparedness systems have the potential to significantly reduce the loss of life and livelihoods from disasters, simultaneously building resilience and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” says Mandisa Mashologu, the UNDP Country Director in Zambia.

According to statistics, two-thirds of the labor force in Zambia is engaged in agriculture, 78 percent of whom are women farmers. Agriculture accounts for 20% of the country’s GDP, and feeds over half of the population. But extreme weather conditions such as severe dry spells and floods have hit hard on Zambia’s rain-fed farmland.

To help smallholder farmers be better prepared for climate shocks, the project gives them access to regular weather forecasts and agriculture advisories to help them adjust their crops to the weather. More than 68 automated weather stations and 40 manual stations have already been installed across the country. These stations also act as early warning systems for extreme weather events, enabling farmers to shelter their animals and protect their income and families.

“By providing access to weather and climate related information, the project is helping smallholder farmers cope with weather and climate extremes and increase agricultural productivity”

Edson Nkonde - Acting Director of the Zambia Meteorological Department.

Tissa Mwale Adamson (38) who leads a group of 86 women farmers in the drought-prone district of Mambwe in Zambia’s Eastern Province says even barriers such as illiteracy cannot prevent them from using their newly found skills.

Some of her friends who cannot read the text messages from the mobile phone based early warning applications let their children or people from the village to read it and interpret for them in their local language.

They may not understand the science of climate change, she says, but they have first-hand experience of its effects. Combining the traditional knowledge of predicting the weather with scientific forecasts, the project has succeeded in engaging farmers in making key decisions for the coming season.

“The district recorded 18,900 metric tonnes of maize for the 2016–2017 farming season compared with 9,508 metric tonnes of maize recorded during the previous season,” says Kaputo Kennedy, the Mambwe District Agricultural Coordinator. This record harvest is expected to reduce poaching and illegal logging which are common occurrences in the district.

The battle against climate change is being waged by Zambian women farmers not only in the Southern and Eastern Provinces, but also in the Western Province.
The cooperatives also help their members to generate income and get employment through direct involvement in cooperative farming, livestock and cattle rearing; or enabling members to sell their surplus produce.

Patricia Musweu, 59, lives in the Sesheke District, where women farmers bear the brunt of erratic weather patterns. She has been encouraging women in her community to form women’s self-help groups or join farming cooperatives as a way to lift themselves out of poverty.

Because of this UNDP-supported intervention, women farmers are gradually becoming breadwinners and paving the way towards more involvement in decision-making in their household and at work.

“With the right information, and the right support, Zambia can achieve its sustainable development objectives, building resilient communities that can withstand climate-related shocks” – Winnie Musonda, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative - Environment and Climate Change

Cassava is the least sensitive to the climate conditions predicted by 2030
Medical Store Limited Signs Agreement with UNDP

The total volume of health commodities handled by Medical Stores Limited (MSL) has dramatically increased since 2009 and will continue to do so. This has resulted into a critical shortage of storage space at the central warehouse in Lusaka. With support from UNDP and other partners, in 2015 MSL developed an infrastructure Master Plan to address its current and projected infrastructural needs. The Master Plan foresees the backbone of the future storage and distribution system to consist of two central warehouses, one in Lusaka and one in the Copperbelt in Luanshya and 8 regional pharmaceutical warehouses/staging-posts.

The central warehouses will undertake the receiving, picking and packing functions needed to effectively feed the regional warehouses which will function as transit stores for already packed supplies.

Essential for the realisation of the Master Plan is the extension of the central warehouse in Lusaka to contain a minimum of 32,000 pallets, at a total cost of approximately EUR13 million. The enlargement is taking place in three phases: Phase 1) Establish effective packing and dispatch area; Phase 2) Establish the new main warehouse and the specialised hazardous goods warehouse; and Phase 3) Upgrade the existing warehouse. Phase 1 is already completed with the support from Global Fund/UNDP and was inaugurated in June 2017. Phase 2 is foreseen to be implemented by UNDP and MSL with support from European Union in 2018 for which this new agreement between MSL and UNDP was signed on 11 December 2017. Phase 3 is also foreseen to be implemented with the support from Global Fund (2018 allocation). USAID is assisting with funding for the “fittings” ranging from storage and handling equipment to fire prevention equipment and a large cold room.
United Nations Response to Cholera

UN Joins the Government to fight cholera – Q & A with Dr. Kawesha – UN Medical Doctor

1. What is Cholera?

Cholera is an acute infection of the gut, caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the vibrio cholera bacteria. Infection can lead to profuse watery diarrhoea, which if untreated can lead to rapid dehydration.

2. Which are the risk areas in Zambia?

Typical risk areas are unplanned high-density areas with limited access to safe drinking water and lack of proper sanitation.

3. What have been UN Actions to keep the premises clean and safe?

Some of the actions taken by management included:

- Ensuring that all chef’s and food handlers in the cafeteria are qualified and certified by the boards.
- Water sampling to make sure water is safe chemically and bacteria free.
- Promotion of hand washing and installation of hand sanitisers around the premises.
- Installation and proper use of separation bins.
- Sensitisation campaign.

4. How did you involve the UN Community in the fight against cholera?

The information and key messages are not only for UN staff, we share with their families, the general workers and everybody working in the UN premises.

The UN intends to continue supporting the Government and communities through information dissemination, they are also considering vaccines for UN employees working in hot spot areas and refugee camps.

5. What would be your final comments?

People should spread the true message “it’s very easy for us to defeat cholera together, all we need is washing hands frequently with soap, water and boil our drinking water. We want to remove the fear that people have of cholera.

Graph Source: Ministry of Health