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Farmers representative from the host community in Meheba
Early Recovery and Sustainable Resettlement

UNDP Zambia was among the countries that attended the UNDP Crisis Response Package (CRP) training held in Istanbul, Turkey from 20th to 26th May 2018. The main objective of the training was to enhance UNDP country office capacity to design, implement and monitor timely crisis and post-crisis livelihoods responses that promote a rapid return to sustainable development pathways. Critical cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality, environmental and social sustainability, private sector partnerships, and knowledge management and innovation, play a key role in the roll out of the CRP.

Crisis erode development investments, challenge the capacities of vulnerable groups, and frequently overwhelm national authorities. They hamper poverty reduction efforts and stop or reverse progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In the context of humanitarian situations, UNDP as a development actor engages in early recovery activities, preventing local and national capacities from deteriorating further, and beginning to build foundations for longer-term recovery - even while humanitarian efforts are still unfolding. It is important to note that, just as emergency relief activities are crucial to saving lives by responding to the most urgent human needs, integrating an early recovery approach within humanitarian operations is crucial to the first efforts of a community to recover. It prepares the ground for an effective ‘exit strategy’ for humanitarian actors and contributes to ‘durable solutions’ by establishing the base on which nationally-led development occurs after a crisis.

In responding to crisis, UNDP is guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 which was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, UNDP adopted its new Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which clearly emphasizes the importance of integrated solutions for resilience and recovery, and places UNDP as a pivotal actor to promote innovative solutions, knowledge management, private sector engagement and to support the implementation of the SDGs in all development contexts. UNDP believes that the focus on recovery and recovery planning after a crisis should begin as early as possible. But the principles of early recovery are also relevant prior to a crisis. Before a crisis, UNDP’s development perspective focuses on capacity development and national ownership which helps ensure that nations, communities and people are more resilient to recurring or predictable crises and are better prepared when faced with a crisis such as drought, floods or hurricanes. At global level, UNDP leads the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER) which focuses on four main lines of action: (i) Providing direct strategic and coordination support to Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs), Resident Coordinators (RCs), Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and Cluster Lead Agencies at the country level; (ii) Defining and coordinating early recovery work that is not covered by other clusters (e.g. governance, non-agricultural livelihoods);

(iii) Providing initiative and guidance on the integration of early recovery in the work of other clusters, and inter-cluster coordination of early recovery; and (iv) Influencing the global policy agenda on humanitarian financing, civilian capacities, and strategic planning to strengthen the potential for, and impact of early recovery within international crisis response and recovery efforts.

At the country level, UNDP helps to integrate early recovery approaches into the humanitarian response through programmatic interventions, advisory services and coordination of the early recovery working group and mainstreaming of early recovery in other disasters. UNDP works with the affected country and its humanitarian and development partners (e.g. local authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector) to design and implement programmes needed to help people move from humanitarian assistance to development. It undertakes capacity building of national and local authorities to enable them to take over the coordination of programmes from humanitarian actors, many of whom are international agencies and organizations. UNDP also play a role in assisting countries and their people to prevent crises as well as recover from them. This includes supporting disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions, particularly in countries affected by recurrent crises.
Sustainable Economic Opportunities in Meheba

Under the Promoting Human Security through Sustainable Resettlement in Zambia project, agriculture inputs were procured by UNDP Zambia with funding from the US Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) for the resettlement schemes in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. This was in support of outcome two of the project which seeks to ensure that communities in and around the targeted resettlement schemes have access to social services and sustainable economic opportunities.

The vision of the entire resettlement programme is that by 2021, communities living in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa resettlement schemes are cohesive, productive, sustainable and fully integrated into development at all levels. As part of the efforts to enhance economic opportunities of the programme’s beneficiaries, UNDP aimed to support farmers to enhance their production capacity through purchasing of agricultural inputs for Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Resettlement Schemes. This also acted as pull factor for those who have yet to relocate and occupy their plots, as a demonstration that families that have moved are benefiting from UNDP’s investments and the government’s coordination in the schemes. To ensure farmers were assisted prior to the rainy season, UNDP helped vulnerable families to clear and plough their land, making it ready for the harvest season. The support included 1 lima (50x50m) per family. Families who benefited were those who are already living in the resettlement schemes and had started working on their land.

Despite a prolonged dry spell in December 2017 and January 2018, the results have been overwhelmingly positive. In total, 45 hectares were ploughed in both Mayukwayukwa and Meheba, which is an increase from previous years, where on average only 10 hectares were ploughed annually. The farmers planted several crops including maize (22 hectares), cassava (8 hectares), groundnuts (6 hectares), sweet potatoes (3.5 hectares), beans (2 hectares), sunflowers (0.5 hectares), and soybeans (5 hectares), which will contribute to household food security and income once harvesting is completed.

Since the beginning of 2018, co-operatives in both schemes have been selected to manage the tractors and accessories, with oversight from the Department of Resettlement, Office of the Vice-President. The membership of the co-operatives comprise representation of both former refugees and Zambians, adding to greater cohesion within the community.
Domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals into the 7th NDP

Following the successful launch of the Seventh Nation Development Plan (7th NDP) 2017-2021 in June 2017, UNDP continued to provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP) towards the formulation process of the 7th NDP Implementation Plan. The 7th NDP is a vehicle that Zambia is using to attain her national vision of becoming a prosperous middle-income country by 2030. UNDP’s strategic focus has been on enhancing the capacity of the Government to: (i) mainstream the SDGs and other global and regional agendas in the 7th NDP; (ii) strengthen the national development planning processes, implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and (iii) develop its SDG National Coordination Framework.

In May 2018, the MNDP with support from UNDP undertook a mapping exercise of SDG targets and indicators to the strategies and programmes of the 7th NDP Implementation Plan. This was done through the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) tool, which was aimed at: (i) assessing the extent of alignment of the 7NDP Implementation Plan to the SDGs, considering the gaps identified in Volume 1 of the Plan; and (ii) establishing the gaps in the SDG indicators for the development of an SDG national indicator framework which will provide baseline data for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. UNDP’s Economic Advisor, Ms. Colleen Zamba coordinated the technical UN Inter-Agency Team and leveraging our corporate thought leadership and knowledge on SDG responsive planning provided technical expertise to the Government in the benchmarking process of the RIA. The RIA II results of the 7th NDP Implementation Plan shows that 86 percent of the SDGs targets are aligned to the Plan, which is a key step towards domesticking the SDGs.

As part of capacity strengthening of the national statistical system, monitoring, reporting and coordination of the SDGs, UNDP in June 2018, supported a consultative technical workshop on the development of the SDG national coordination framework and the SDGs indicators framework. The national SDG coordination framework is aimed at ensuring effective institutional governance in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and by extension, the 7th NDP. During the MDGs era, coordination and institutionalization challenges were inherent. To mitigate such challenges, a coordination framework to guide the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs will be institutionalized to attain the targets of the SDGs and national development plans.

The coordination framework is part of the domestication process which uses the principles of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches which reiterate “the leaving no one behind” principle. Currently a draft National SDG Coordination Framework exists, which has been developed through a consultative process with the active participation of the government, civil society, private sector and the UN System in Zambia. The National SDG indicator framework will assist the Government to ascertain the country’s preparedness on SDG reporting by ensuring that national indicators relevant for monitoring the goals are available.

An initial assessment of national SDG indicators shows that from the total 230 SDG indicators, 168 national indicators are available and out of these, 47 SDG indicators do not have data and 121 indicators need to be developed. While the 7NDP is well aligned to the SDGs, data remains a challenge. The challenge stems from the nascent sectoral M&E systems and the lack of coordinated sectoral administrative data to effectively support monitoring of the SDGs.

Constructing the national indicators will require more in-depth consultations with line ministries, civil society, private sector and other development partners so that the scope of SDG monitoring is widened. As such, completing the SDG Indicator Framework will require more resources and investments in capacity building in line ministries for effective management and timely generation of data. UNDP has continued nurturing its partnerships with the Government, civil society, private sector, parliamentarians and other development partners in raising awareness on the SDGs. A more comprehensive programme of technical support and capacity development to monitor and report on progress towards the SDGs is in the final stages of completion.

CSO’s, Private Sector, NGO’s and selected UN Agencies on SDGs indicator framework in at Chaminuka in Lusaka.
Zambia Launches Refugee Response Plan

Following the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), the Government of the Republic of Zambia, United Nations agencies and other partners launched a US$74.2 million national appeal on 23 May 2018 to address the needs of Congolese refugees in Zambia.

The Delivering as One initiative seeks to consolidate the UN family and maximize resources based on comparative advantage, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, IOM put together concerted efforts to support refugees that have been arriving in Zambia since the Congolese crisis started and to address bridging the human development divide.

RRRP indicates that as of 31 January 2018, “a total of 14,540 Congolese refugees who left DRC since August 2017 have been registered at Kanani Transit Centre in Nchelenge District, Luapula Province. Of those, 5% are female; 20% of the women are aged 18 years and above and 30% are aged 0 to 17 years”. UNHCR Representative confirmed in her speech that over 5,100 refugees have already been relocated from Kenani Transit Centre, a temporary reception facility for new arrivals and to Mantapala another relocation centre.

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Janet Rogan mentioned that the UN support to the Government is a coordinated UN response: UNHCR leads and coordinates the Congolese refugee response in close collaboration with relevant government counterparts; UNICEF leads on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as well as nutrition and co-leads on protection which includes education; WFP lead on food and nutrition security; UNFPA on maternal and adolescent health; IOM is covering transport; WHO is supporting on health systems and UNDP will lead on early recovery livelihoods projects.

The Government, with support from UN agencies and partners, are ensuring that appropriate reception measures and conditions are put in place in all locations such as: adequate reception centres, registration facilities, access to clean, safe water and sanitation, provision of core relief items, access to food and nutrition support, access to health services and access roads, among others.

During the appeal, the Minister of Home Affairs, Honourable Stephen Kampyong, said that the Government needs additional resources to implement its refugee programmes apart from the support provided through international agencies and NGOs.

“This is why it was important to launch the country chapter of the response plan to appeal to partners, donors, the private sector, charity organisations and NGOs.”

The RRRP is an opportunity for all people concerned to address numerous humanitarian and longer-term development gaps in the on-going delivery of protection, assistance and services to Congolese refugees, using the spirit of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as a platform that calls for a “whole of society” approach when dealing with refugee issues. The CRRF ensures a coherent and comprehensive inter-agency response, particularly through productive relationships with Government, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society as well as persons of concern.

The role of UNDP as stipulated in the Regional Appeal is to focus on early recovery, livelihoods, social cohesion and durable solutions. As stipulated in UNDP Signature Solution 3: “Enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies. Building resilience to the impact of disasters and emergency situations (whether from socioeconomic or natural causes) requires efforts to minimize the drivers of risk ingrained within development processes and to strengthen human security.

Maternal & adolescent health services in Mantapala.

Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Stephen Kampyong during the official launch of RRRP.
National Adaptation Planning is a relatively new concept in Zambia with very few stakeholders having a clear understanding and capacity to effectively contribute to the formulation and mainstreaming of NAPs in the different sectors in order to raise awareness and build capacity of the stakeholder, UNDP and FAO in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture through the NAP Agriculture project convened a national NAP sensitization workshop in Lusaka bringing together multiple stakeholders including government ministries, the private sector, NGOs, research and academic institutions, and development partners to create awareness on NAP in new and existing planning and budgeting processes.

The importance of Climate Change Adaptation planning cannot be overemphasized because the risks and impacts of Climate Change is something visible to all in many ways including recurrent flash floods and droughts, increased temperatures, unpredictable rainy season all of which has contributed to poverty of local communities’ by destroying their assets and livelihoods causing food insecurity and threatening the government’s efforts in delivering sustainable development.

Strong adaptation planning and implementation are at the heart of countries’ actions to increase communities’ resilience to climate change. When done in a systematic, iterative and coordinated manner, across key sectors and ministries, national adaptation planning can be effective in helping Zambia safeguard livelihoods achieve its development goals sustainably, and meet its resolutions towards global goals, such as the Paris Agreement. The workshop was officially opened by the Director of Agriculture who in his remarks indicated that dealing with climate change hazards requires that necessary interventions and policies are put in place to address climate change-related risks and impacts so as to enhance adaptive capacities as a nation.

National Adaptation Planning is one such intervention and in this regard the country has embarked on preparation of the country NAP which will be supported by sector NAPs with the Health and Agriculture NAPs preparations currently at advanced stages.

“The work towards formulating a National NAP is in progress with preparations (together with the Global Water Partnership) on a GCF readiness proposal. NAPs from the agriculture and health sectors are relatively advanced, and concept notes for Energy and Water NAPs have been developed. These sector NAPs will feed into overall NAP process to engender a comprehensive response to climate change and long-term adaptation planning”  

*Ephraim Shitima, UNFCCC Focal Point*

“The frequency of hydro-meteorological hazards is on the rise as evidenced by increase in frequency and magnitude of droughts, floods and temperatures and this has adverse impacts in terms of food security. It is therefore, imperative that national adaptation planning is done in a coordinated manner to increase the nations resilience to the risks and impacts of climate change”  

*Titus Ng’andu, Regional DMMU Coordinator, Lusaka Province.*

“Climate change is posing serious risks for the small-scale farmers in terms of reduced crop productivity, diseases prevalence and property destruction in times of floods resulting in reduced food security since small scale farmers are dependent on rain fed agriculture. National Adaptation Planning is thus vital in that we are trying to adapt and enhance resilience to climate change to effects such unpredictable weather patterns that affects the farmers planning”  

*Frank Kayula, Director General-National Small-Scale Farmers of Zambia*

The Ministry of National Development Planning is responsible for overall climate change response in the country at strategic level and this is very important for climate change adaptation to be effectively mainstreamed into national development processes. The Planning Authority’s approach involves long and short-term planning i.e. the Vision 2030 and the medium-term national development plans respectively.
In the long-term framework, the aspiration is to become a prosperous middle-income nation that is climate resilient.

This entails factoring into our planning approaches the risks and effects of climate change so that the development pathway is resilient and of low carbon approach. In the medium term the Seventh National Development (7NDP) plan whose goal is a diversified sustainable economy, has captured climate change risks and impacts through pillar two (2) under result area 2 which addresses climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The workshop used different approaches of presentations and group discussions. Notable from the group discussions was that despite the Ministry of National Development Planning not having adequate capacity as regards climate change mainstreaming it engaged experts during the preparation of the 7NDP that helped to effectively capture climate change aspects into the plan under pillar 2. There was a general agreement that capacity still needs to be built in the area of NAP and climate change mainstreaming at the National Planning Authority to ensure that the core circular for budgeting and planning begins to have wording that compels all government entities/sectors factor for climate proofing in all their budgets and plans prior to approval. There was also concern that considering that there already exist climate change frameworks i.e. the 7NDP and costed implementation plan, the investment plan for the Nationally Determined Contributions and investment requirements are known up to 2021 around adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, there is need to move away from the cycle of continuous planning to resource mobilization within existing frameworks as a way of progress.

“The national sensitization workshop set the scene for the NAP in Agriculture sector roadmap development. In her closing remarks, Mandisa Mashologu emphasized the fact that ultimately collective the development work and main objective is to support national development priorities stemming from shared commitment to the global development agenda to leave no one behind.”

“Climate change is a significant development challenge globally and locally with the current extremes and challenges often being manifested as floods and droughts expected to be experienced for decades to come. Climate change puts at risk efforts to reduce poverty and make progress towards the attainment of the sustainable development goals.”

George Okech, FAO Country Representative.
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