Inside this Issue

- Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities in Resettlement Schemes..........................1
  By: Ian Milimo

- Commemorating International Volunteer Day in Lusaka.................................2
  By: Lavender Degre

- Ending AIDS by 2030 starts with Me: National Commemoration of World AIDS Day........3
  By: Emmanuel Banda

- Keeping UNDP on the Move.................................4
  By: Lavender Degre

- Year in Pictures.............................................5
Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities in Resettlement Schemes

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ)-UNDP led Resettlement programme gives former refugees and Zambians - whose lives had been shattered and prospects placed on hold - renewed expectation, hope and the prospect to rebuild their lives. The Sustainable Resettlement Programme began in January 2017 and brings together the knowledge and expertise of nine UN Agencies in Zambia (UNDP, UN HABITAT, FAO, WFP, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and WHO) to support the resettlement areas of Mayukwayukwa and Meheba to become cohesive, productive, and sustainable communities.

In Zambia, these communities face many socio-economic problems common to many in rural areas which include inadequate basic infrastructure such as schools, health centres, skills training centres, and access to finance. Many of the resettlement schemes in the country are characterised by low agricultural productivity, unsustainable livelihood practices, and lack of knowledge of basic business development services.

In Mayukwayukwa and Meheba resettlements, the majority of the people, especially women and young people, are economically challenged due to limited access to livelihood opportunities such as business and financial services, agricultural related services, skills training, technologies and linking up with profitable markets. These socio-economic challenges are further compounded by the remote rural locations, and limited connection to economic infrastructure such as markets, electricity, telecommunication and paved roads.

In addressing some of the inadequacies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) working with other UN agencies has received funding from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to expand livelihood opportunities for the people of Meheba in Kaliumbila District of the North-Western Province and Mayukwayukwa in Kaoma District of the Western Province. As agriculture is the mainstay of the economy in many parts of Zambia, the programme has supported the settlers with technical advice, skills development and equipment to help enhance productivity and livelihood opportunities. This is clearly demonstrated through enhanced farming inputs, improved cultivation of land, as well as strengthened access to markets for their agricultural products.

The United States (US) Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration Team Lead for Central and Southern Africa, Christopher Upchurch stated that “Zambia has a long reputation as a generous refugee hosting country. The Sustainable Resettlement Project, gives an opportunity for former refugees to innovate. It's a unique opportunity for us to continue our partnership with the UN”.

In both resettlement schemes, the equipment provided is supporting over 200 households to prepare their fields for planting different crops including cassava, groundnuts, maize and cowpeas. With this partnership, it is expected that food security will be enhanced, the farmers will have more disposable income, and thereby making the resettlement schemes sustainable and more prosperous. The programme is further supporting the formation of broad based cooperatives as a way of improving diversification of the income base, social cohesion and productivity.

The success of the programme through these preliminary results is due to the partnerships that have been formed through the GRZ, Development Partners, the private sector and community members themselves. Interventions have focused on the entire value chain, including economic infrastructure, communication facilities, solar energy, protected water facilities, and access to finance and markets. Ms Irene Mweemba, one of the settlers, sold livestock to buy maize seed, mbambaranuts, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, vegetables and cassava stems which she has planted on her farm plot for this agricultural season. She hopes that her crop production will provide food security for her family and generate income for other basic services.

This programme has received funding from the people and Government of Japan and UNDP internal resources. UNDP Zambia welcomes the strengthened partnership and collaboration for sustainable resettlement with the inclusion of the support from the US Bureau for Population and Migration.
Commemorating International Volunteer Day 2017 in Lusaka

In commemoration of the International Volunteers Day (IVD) on 5 December 2017, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, the Zambia Volunteers Coordinating Committee and the United Nations in Zambia recognized twenty community volunteers for their exceptional service in sensitization and action on managing possible cholera outbreaks in one of Lusaka’s largest compounds. This year’s theme for IVD was Volunteers as First Responders in Times of Crisis. Cholera has been a critical annual risk for communities in high density areas during the rainy season.

Prior to the national commemoration, community and United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) were mobilized to support a major cleaning and sensitization campaign in Chawama compound, South West of Lusaka, which included cleaning drainage systems and stalls in Kuku Market. This year’s commemorative site was targeted due to reports from the Ministry of Health that indicated a high incidence of cholera cases (between 15 and 19 per day) in the area, as well as the on-going Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare programmes with community volunteers. This initiative was supported by the Japanese International Cooperation (JICA), Plan International, Sisheme Foundation, Zambia Social Forum and the UN in Zambia. Other peri-urban areas affected by cholera include Kanyama, Chipata, Matero, and Bauleni.

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, saluted the commitment of the community volunteers as agents of change that lead by example for the entire community. “The role of volunteerism in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be underestimated and there is therefore need for greater recognition of the contribution you make within this community,” said Changano Ngoi, Assistant Director, Department of Community Development. Currently the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare has four on-going programmes on (i) skills training (ii) self-help initiative (iii) food security (iv) women empowerment scheme which are being implemented through the community volunteers and the Zambia Volunteers Coordinating Committee.

Flavia Sembera, UNV Programme Officer read the UNV Executive Coordinator’s statement noting that “everywhere, volunteers help prevent the worst effects of crisis, bringing much-needed relief to those who suffer the most. On International Volunteer Day, let us recognize the relentless efforts of volunteers who answer calls in times of need for the common dignity of all.” Volunteerism increases the reach and inclusivity of action, builds capacities and ownership, and connects local communities to local and national authorities, allowing for the scaling of initiatives from the local to the national level and beyond.

In Zambia, various volunteer organizations and agencies have been contributing to positive change in the areas of poverty reduction; humanitarian assistance; capacity building; governance; resilience to climate change; and delivery of basic services.

Currently, there are 54 UN Volunteers hosted by Government and United Nations partner agencies (UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, and UNICEF) supporting: access to basic social services; community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction; crisis prevention and recovery; and humanitarian assistance and stationed across Lusaka, Eastern, Western, North-western, Northern, Muchinga and the Copper-Belt Provinces. Thank you to all volunteers here in Zambia and everywhere.
Ending AIDS by 2030 starts with Me: National Commemoration of World AIDS Day

Zambia joined the rest of the world in commemorating the World AIDS Day (WAD) under the theme “ending AIDS by 2030 starts with me”. The World AIDS Day was the first ever health global commemoration to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS and a committed response to a development issue in 1988.

The commemoration of this day is important in building a strong platform for advocacy and action in responding to HIV and AIDS. The event reminds the public and governments that HIV has not gone away – that there is still a vital need to raise resources, increase awareness, fight prejudice and discrimination, and enhance education for living positively. According to the Zambia National AIDS Council, evidence shows that there are about 1.2 million people living with the virus in country and out of that number, 500,000 are not yet on treatment. Some of the achievements in Zambia so far include putting over 800,000 people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and enhancing the approach to address epidemiological issues such as prevalence, incidence, mobility and morbidity rates. While some milestones have been achieved in responding to HIV and AIDS, the rate of infection, especially among adolescents and key populations has been rising.

In his World AIDS Day statement, H.E President Edgar Lungu said he was concerned with the number of HIV infections among youths and adolescents. While the efforts put by Government and partners has led to a 41% decline in new infections, the trend in increasing HIV infections among the youth that comprise 80% of the population is still a major development challenge. The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Janet Rogan called on every Zambia to know their HIV status and to encourage their family members, partners and colleagues to do so as an entry point in curbing the epidemic. The UN system in Zambia has been supporting the National response under the coordination of UNAIDS.

In supporting the national response, UNDP Zambia provided technical and financial resources towards the initial establishment of the decentralised structures for the multi-sectoral multilevel HIV and AIDS response in Zambia, deploying over 100 United Nations Volunteers across the country as part of the UNDP Southern Africa Capacity Initiative.
Keeping UNDP on the Move

Caiphas Chishimba Chilambwe joined UNDP in 2006. Married to Ottilia Kasukusa, Caiphas will be celebrating 30 years of marriage this coming year and has been blessed with 5 children. He holds qualifications in Transport Management & Logistics, Certificate in Maintenance and Defensive Driving. “Working for UNDP is something I treasure, I enjoy driving, I love the job and it has taken me to all corners of Zambia”.

Over the years Caiphas has been entrusted to drive senior UN/UNDP officials from the country office and those on mission around the country for UNDP supported programmes and projects in Zambia. The always smartly dressed Caiphas says he loves looking great “I love looking smart not only myself but also ensuring vehicles entrusted in my custody are well kept and maintained for my passenger’s safety and security. He is a free minded person who loves laughter and likes interacting with work colleagues. He hopes to use this holiday season as an opportunity to be with his family, reflect on how the year has been and thank the Lord for his love and grace.

Caiphas who celebrated his 53rd birthday earlier this year says upon retirement he plans to be a commercial farmer who will contribute to Zambia’s food security and employment of the youth.

Violet Jere, fondly called VJ by colleagues, friends and family was born in Kitwe, the second largest city in terms of size and population in Zambia. She is a mother of two daughters aged 30 and 12 years respectively, and Grandma of an adorable six years old grandson. She jokingly notes “for those of you who are good at Maths that’s a gap of eighteen years between my daughters, but that’s a story for another day”. VJ joined the UN Family in 2004 working in the transport section as a member of the Repatriation Programme of Angolan Refugees of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Solwezi, North-Western Province.

She joined UNDP Zambia in 2008 on the UNDP/Global Environment Facility “Lake Tanganyika Integrated Management Project” in Mpuungu District in Northern Province and then moved to the Country Office in Lusaka in May of 2013. She describes working with UNDP as a passion and privilege to contribute to the national development priorities. “I have had the privilege of driving the length and breadth of this beautiful country on different programme support missions with my colleagues, including high profile personalities such as the Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Mr Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, and the Prince of Norway, who is a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador.”

In terms of her unique career and personal development, VJ says she is grateful for the continued opportunities to enhance her skills as a trusted member of the UNDP/UN team including “Defensive Driving and Mechanical Appreciation for Drivers” at the country’s Industrial Training Centre (ITC) as well as her recent intensive course on “VIP Protection and Driving” managed by the Zambia Police Academy.

Though working in a traditionally male dominated field in Zambia, VJ says she has great support and encouragement from colleagues and the respective communities and projects she has visited around the country during her fifteen years working in logistics. Her words of wisdom as we draw to the end of 2017 are, ‘wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and look forward to continue my journey to support colleagues and the people of Zambia as we work towards the Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind”
The Year in Pictures

All Party Parliamentarians Caucus on SDGs looked at elements that would ensure successful implementation of SDGs.

UN Women Regional Director visited Zambia to familiarize herself with the gender programme. During the visit she visited HRH Chief Chamuka.

Official opening of the Meheba Resettlement Scheme offices with support from the Govt. of Japan.

Climate Diplomacy Day 2017, Intercontinental Hotel.

Speaker, Chibamba Kanyama during the UN Staff day.

Signing of the MoU between UNDP and MSL to support health systems strengthening with funding from European Union.


Launch of Seventh National Development Plan (7 NDP) Cluster Groups at Mulungushi Conference Centre.

Under the Joint GRZ-UN Joint programme on GBV Construction of Fast Track Courts commenced.

Programme on Climate Information for Resilient Dev. in Africa conference was hosted by UNDP.