Dear Colleagues

Editorial welcomes you in this very first volume of the biannual Civil Society Magazine 2017. We are beginning to see the light at the end of a long winter as we settle into the spring with all its promise and renewed energy. As the production and publication team, we sincerely hope that the civil society organisations have been able to cope and adapt to the difficult operational environment that is faced by the civil society at large.

The importance of adapting and repositioning by the civil society organisations to the changing landscape in order to survive and continue with their operations could not be overemphasised.

Next year is yet another year for general elections in Zimbabwe. One would not be blamed for being sceptical and pessimistic if one worries about these forthcoming elections. General elections in Zimbabwe usual result in uncertainties as a result of political violence that precede them. As such NANGO calls on the government and all other stakeholders to ensure peace, tolerance and unity pre, during and after elections.

The farming seasons and festive seasons break are on the horizon, but still some couple of months away, making it ideal time for recharge and refresh for the final push to the end of the year and achieve those goals that we set for ourselves in the beginning of the year.

This magazine is for you as a reader, the importance of your feedback can not be over emphasised.

Enjoy the reading!

Editorial team
Dear Colleagues

Editorial welcomes you in this very first volume of the biannual Civil Society Magazine 2017. We are beginning to see the light at the end of a long winter as we settle into the spring with all its promise and renewed energy. As the production and publication team, we sincerely hope that the civil society organisations have been able to cope and adapt to the difficult operational environment that is faced by the civil society at large. The importance of adapting and repositioning by the civil society organisations to the changing landscape in order to survive and continue with their operations could not be overemphasised.

Next year is yet another year for general elections in Zimbabwe. One would not be blamed for being sceptical and pessimistic if one worries about these forthcoming elections. General elections in Zimbabwe usual result in uncertainties as a result of political violence that precede them. As such NANGO calls on the government and all other stakeholders to ensure peace, tolerance and unity pre, during and after elections.

The farming seasons and festive seasons break are on the horizon, but still some couple of months away, making it ideal time for recharge and refresh for the final push to the end of the year and achieve those goals that we set for ourselves in the beginning of the year.

This magazine is for you as a reader, the importance of your feedback cannot be over emphasised.

Enjoy the reading!

Editorial team
Mr. Leonard Mandishara has been with NANGO since 2013 and he joined as the Senior Programme Officer in the Poverty Reduction and Development Portfolio. He holds a Master of Science in Economics and Bachelor of Science in Economics, both earned from the University of Zimbabwe. Before joining NANGO, he worked for six years in the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, the time he left he was the Adviser to the Permanent Secretary and Acting Deputy Director for Economic Research Department.

The year 2017 is not very different from other years in civil society work in Zimbabwe. The operating environment remains the same, with liquidity challenges still being encountered across the civil society community. This in a way has hampered the operations of CSOs in their quest to mitigate social ills that the nation is faced with at large.

Developmental issues in Zimbabwe remain challenging, and all stakeholders need to work together and have the multi-sectorial approach to programming to complement the efforts of each other. As NANGO, we recognize and value this, as such late last year, we organized and convened an all-stakeholders Director’s Summer School to deliberate on issues of priority and possible interventions. The key national and challenging issues were collectively identified that the civil society, private sector and labour movement needed to work on, and complement the work of the government in the year 2017.

Chairperson’s Note

We are right in the middle of the year and still feel like the year is starting. Maybe, it’s because of so many challenges and targets that Civil Society are yet to achieve. NANGO began the year rather on a sad note, having lost the Executive Director Dr. Cephas. Zinhumwe in October last year. May his soul Rest in Eternal Peace. Let me highlight that, the Board resolved to appoint Mr. Leonard Mandishara as the Acting Executive Director to steer the organization with the support of the Board, Secretariat and broader NANGO Membership.

NANGO also note that next year is the national government elective year. If experiences were anything to go by, one would not be blamed for being apprehensive and jittery as elections in Zimbabwe are largely associated with violence, uncertainties and fear. NANGO would then call upon all its members, stakeholders and the government of Zimbabwe to make sure that all works towards elections are done peacefully to ensure peace and harmony pre, during and after elections.

It is my sincere hope that whatever we do as civil society working together with other stakeholders we will leave a positive mark that is centered on peace, development, good governance and tolerance.

Together We Can!!
Mr. Leonard Mandishara has been with NANGO since 2013 and he joined as the Senior Programme Officer in the Poverty Reduction and Development Portfolio. He holds a Master of Science in Economics and Bachelor of Science in Economics, both earned from the University of Zimbabwe. Before joining NANGO, he worked for six year in the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, the time he left he was the Adviser to the Permanent Secretary and Acting Deputy Director for Economic Research Department.

The year 2017 is not very different from other years in civil society work in Zimbabwe. The operating environment remains the same, with liquidity challenges still being encountered across the civil society community. This in a way has hampered the operations of CSOs in their quest to mitigate social ills that the nation is faced with at large.

Developmental issues in Zimbabwe remain challenging, and all stakeholders need to work together and have the multi sectorial approach to programming to complement the efforts of each other. As NANGO, we recognize and value this, as such late last year, we organized and convened an all stakeholders Director’s Summer School to deliberate on issues of priority and possible interventions. The key national and challenging issues were collectively identified that the civil society, private sector and labour movement needed to work on, and complement the work of the government in the year 2017.

Mr. Leonard Mandishara has been with NANGO since 2013 and he joined as the Senior Programme Officer in the Poverty Reduction and Development Portfolio. He holds a Master of Science in Economics and Bachelor of Science in Economics, both earned from the University of Zimbabwe. Before joining NANGO, he worked for six year in the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, the time he left he was the Adviser to the Permanent Secretary and Acting Deputy Director for Economic Research Department.

The year 2017 is not very different from other years in civil society work in Zimbabwe. The operating environment remains the same, with liquidity challenges still being encountered across the civil society community. This in a way has hampered the operations of CSOs in their quest to mitigate social ills that the nation is faced with at large.

Developmental issues in Zimbabwe remain challenging, and all stakeholders need to work together and have the multi sectorial approach to programming to complement the efforts of each other. As NANGO, we recognize and value this, as such late last year, we organized and convened an all stakeholders Director’s Summer School to deliberate on issues of priority and possible interventions. The key national and challenging issues were collectively identified that the civil society, private sector and labour movement needed to work on, and complement the work of the government in the year 2017.

We are right in the middle of the year and still feels like the year is starting. Maybe, it’s because of so many challenges and targets that Civil Society are yet to achieve. NANGO began the year rather on sad note, having lost the Executive Director Dr. Cephas. Zinhumwe in October last year. May his soul Rest in Eternal Peace. Let me highlight that, the Board resolved to appoint Mr. Leonard Mandishara as the Acting Executive Director to steer the organization with the support of the Board, Secretariat and broader NANGO Membership.

The year 2017 is not very different from other years in civil society work in Zimbabwe. The operating environment remains the same, with liquidity challenges still being encountered across the civil society community. This in a way has hampered the operations of CSOs in their quest to mitigate social ills that the nation is faced with at large.

Developmental issues in Zimbabwe remain challenging, and all stakeholders need to work together and have the multi sectorial approach to programming to complement the efforts of each other. As NANGO, we recognize and value this, as such late last year, we organized and convened an all stakeholders Director’s Summer School to deliberate on issues of priority and possible interventions. The key national and challenging issues were collectively identified that the civil society, private sector and labour movement needed to work on, and complement the work of the government in the year 2017.

NANGO also note that next year is the national government elective year. If experiences were anything to go by, one would not be blamed for being apprehensive and jittery as elections in Zimbabwe are largely associated with violence, uncertainties and fear. NANGO would then call upon all its members, stakeholders and the government of Zimbabwe to make sure that all works towards elections are done peacefully to ensure peace and harmony pre, during and and after elections

It is my sincere hope that whatever we do as civil society working together with other stakeholders we will leave a positive mark that is centered on peace, development, good governance and tolerance.

Together We Can!!
The economic outlook for the year 2017 as projected by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development forecast that economic growth rate will be around 1.7%. This is against the background that global and Africa growth is projected to be around 3.4% and 2.8% respectively. Zimbabwe’s economic growth rate is projected to increase from projected 0.6% in 2016 to 1.7% in 2017 owing to anticipated growth in agriculture sector emanating from better weather and command agriculture. However, this growth rate is not sufficient to stimulate economic activities necessary to revamp the productive sectors of the economy and ultimately reduce poverty and inequalities.

On the other hand, the country continues to experience tight fiscal constraints with the 2017 national budget projecting a financing gap of US$400 million. It is imperative for all stakeholders to collaborate and form strategic alliances to address the structural bottlenecks militating against the resurgence of the productive sectors of the economy. As civil society we need to continue to create platforms to dialogue on the bottlenecks in view to come up with unified positions to address the myriad of structural economic rigidities.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 focus on addressing critical dimensions of sustainable development, around economic, social and environmental goals. These include, human rights obligations, good governance, social justice, equity within countries, sustainability (particularly environmental sustainability), vulnerability and the exclusion of marginalized populations and the poorest of the poor. Government cannot realise these ambitious goals on its own. Therefore, collective efforts at the local and national levels are necessary to engender a solid foundation for the attainment of this global agenda. As NANGO we endeavor to play a key role in the “localisation” of these goals. This involves spearheading, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national and subnational sustainable development targets. This is core in translating the development agenda into results at the local level. We strive to give a voice to the poorest and most marginalised citizens, and to serve as agents of transparency and accountability, and monitoring progress through data collection and reporting on all the SDGs processes and programming.

As NANGO we will continue to work to foster advocacy and mediation in policy development, identification of crucial development priorities, proposing practical solutions and policy opportunities, and constructively critiquing impractical and problematic policies.
The adoption of the 2013 constitution is a significant milestone in strengthening the development effectiveness agenda in Zimbabwe as the constitution promotes civic participation, guarantees the freedom of assembly and association promotes human rights and fosters good governance. These pillars are critical in the establishment of an enabling operational environment that promotes Civil Society Organizations operations.

The struggle for constitutionalism in Zimbabwe is critically tied to the struggle for democracy and human development. Constitutional principles, norms, values and provisions are yet to be fully translated into practical reality. Constitutionalism entails the translation of progressive constitutional ideals and principles into tangible reality. NANGO and other like-minded non-state actors have a progressive, complementary role to play to enhance public participation in various socio-economic and political consultative processes critical for obtaining a democratic development state. This is a priority area that NANGO will continue to devote more resources to ensure the progressive realisation of all the rights citizens are entitled to.

Going forward, NANGO will work to enhance and improve operational environments within which CSOs function; promote and facilitate co-ordination, collaboration and co-operation within the CSO community and between the CSO community, the government, the donor community and the public sector; to further the understanding of CSOs as competent, professional and suitable agents of development; and to support members to build and strengthen their institutional capacity.

We also value and thank all our member organizations, financial & technical partners and other stakeholders for the support they afford NANGO.

It is my sincere hope that you will find this publication informative and relevant to your programming initiatives.

Enjoy the reading!
Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP)

Meet the former National Coordinator: Dr. Jesimen Tarisai Chipika, now Deputy Governor in the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

Government last year launched the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2016-2018, which has a compendium of policies, programmes and projects that seek to address high incidences of poverty prevalent in the country. This dovetails well with the aspirations of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio Economic Transformation Zim-ASSET, and Sustainable Development Goals. The I-PRSP will be implemented initially for two years 2017 and 2018 and will be succeeded by the full Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

NANGO Executive Director (ED) had a question and answer conversation with the former IPRSP National Coordinator, Dr. Jesimen T. Chipika.

ED: Congratulations Dr. Chipika on your appointment as the Deputy Governor for the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. I wish you continue to excel in your new responsibilities as many look up to the RBZ to solve the broad macroeconomic problems the nation is facing, in particular the cash and currency crises. Today we want to have a discussion on the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2016-2018 in your capacity as the former National Coordinator who successfully led the I-PRSP consultative process countrywide in 2016. In brief who is Dr. J.T. Chipika?

Dr. Chipika: I consider myself an independent economic development expert in Zimbabwe and the region, with a wealth of experience spanning over more than three decades, from lecturing in economics at the University of Zimbabwe, working as a programme manager and advisor with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), to economic development consultant and advisor in Zimbabwe and the SADC region, among others. In this regard, I am grateful to God and to the leadership of this nation, for recognizing this expertise by appointing me to serve the people of Zimbabwe in the current position of Deputy Governor in the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

ED: In your view why were you chosen to lead the process of the IPRS?

Dr Chipika: The position of I-PRSP National Coordinator (Consultant) was advertised as usual and interviews conducted jointly by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the World Bank. I emerged the best and most suitable candidate. I think my wealth of experience in economic development, particularly, as one of the former drivers of similar broad development processes such as the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Zimbabwe Human Development Reports (ZHDRs), when I was still in the UN, combined with widespread poverty-related development research and policy making experience, as a consultant for many years, must have given me a clear advantage. Also my objective analytical skills, and capacity to work with all development players at all levels, from grassroots to policy makers, was a critical requirement in managing the broad consultative I-PRSP process. However, when I now look back at the order of events in my career path, I think God just opened that I-PRSP door, to get me noticed by the national authorities, for onward movement!

ED: HOW different is the IPRS from ZIMASSET and other earlier policies and plans which were developed by the country to address poverty and inequalities?

Dr Chipika: Poverty and inequality in Zimbabwe are largely structural in nature, feeding on the colonial development template of dualism and enclave development, which excluded the majority of the population. That poverty has also been fuelled by transient poverty, related to ineffective policies and other exogenous factors over the years. Since independence, Zimbabwe has always desired to effectively address poverty, but the factors generating and sustaining it have largely outweighed the efforts to address it.
In my view the I-PRSP is a sub-policy of the ZimAsset, which is more focussed on consensus building around doable programmes and projects to reduce poverty in the country, even within a short period of two years.

**ED:** Many say that Zimbabwe is good at developing economic blue prints and fail to implement them. How different will be IPRSP in this context?

**Dr. Chikipa:** I applaud the national ownership character of the I-PRSP, the direct link to resource allocation both in Government and in development partner and grassroots initiatives, and clear M&E framework recently put in place, which are all critical for enhanced implementation of the I-PRSP. In my view, the I-PRSP complements and does not compete with the ZimAsset. Furthermore, both the I-PRSP and the ZimAsset constitute the implementation frameworks for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Zimbabwe, thus ensuring policy consistency in the long-term development thrust of the country.

**ED:** IPRSP is a precursor to the full Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) to be developed and anchored on a successor programme to ZIMASSET, could you shed light on this?

**Dr. Chipika:** The plan was that while the country is implementing the IPRSP up to 2018, we should also simultaneously be conducting indepth research and more broad consultations for the formulation of the full 5-year PRSP which would succeed the I-PRSP starting 2019. Before I left my position as National Coordinator, we had designed this broader full PRSP process, taking into account our lessons learnt during the I-PRSP process. This should help the current leadership in the PRSP Secretariat to transition smoothly to the bigger process.

**ED:** Dr Chipika you are now with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, and financial Resources are key in government efforts in poverty reduction, do you think your being with the Central Bank will somehow benefit the implementation of IPRSP?

**Dr Chipika:** The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) is a key stakeholder in the I-PRSP process, participating both at Secretariat level and also driving one of the key components on the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS). We have learnt over the years that programmes and projects that are not funded, no matter how nicely designed they are will never see the light of day in implementation. In this regard, under the NFIS, the RBZ has put in place empowerment revolving funds now totalling more than US$ 180 million, to support entrepreneurship by the poor and marginalised segments of the population, covering women, youth, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), smallholder rural farmers, and people with disabilities, among others. In addition, a movable Collateral Registry and Credit Guarantee Scheme, are being put in place to help these groups to access the availed resources safely. Many banks have sent up SME and Women’s desks to accommodate these groups in a user-friendly way. A lot is happening as the RBZ is working with all key stakeholders on this new initiative. In addition, the RBZ is also supporting re-industrialization, productivity and export promotion through various resource allocation initiatives and incentives, in order to keep the otherwise isolated economy afloat! The RBZ is also key in the country’s re-engagement initiative, which once carried through, should unlock significant international resources into the country. However, we need to push hard on the major structural reforms required in the country, in order for this process to gain traction.

**ED:** Some sections of the Zimbabwean society believe that any development initiatives that were to bring desired results need to have multi sectoral approach in nature, what is your take on that. Do you think the involvement of civil society in such programmes is important? What would be an ideal role for the CSOs?

**Dr. Chipika:** I totally support multi-sectoral approaches to development, they result in better delivery, and efficient use of resources. Working in silos, results in duplications, and loss of synergies, and suboptimal use of scarce development resources. The involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs) in development initiatives is central, as some of these by their nature represent and/or work with grassroot marginalised populations which are not easy to reach using Central Government machinery. The distribution of food aid during drought is a typical example, of the effectiveness of various CSO partnerships. The role of CSOs in development is very wide, ranging from problem identification, advocacy and training, policy formulation, implementing some programmes and projects, M&E, to resource mobilization, etc. I am encouraged by the current team-work approach to development in Zimbabwe, it never used to be like that before, it partly explains our resilience as a country, operating under very harsh conditions!

**ED:** Which are the critical stakeholders in your view who can contribute to the success of the IPRSP and what are their distinct roles and responsibilities.

---

continued on page 10
Dr. Chipika: Everyone is a critical stakeholder in the I-PRSP and in development in general. Remember that, even initiatives taken at individual, nuclear family, extended family and community level, using private resources can go a long way in addressing poverty in a country. People should not always wait for external help in the form of public resource support, they should start with what they have at their level. It is called the ‘endogenous model’ of development, it is powerful and sustainable! Of course larger initiatives should come from national Government, Development Partners, Private Sector (business and labour) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/CSOs, Academia and Research Institutions, faith based organizations (FBOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), and the Media. There is no poverty reduction or eradication without wealth creation. The private sector, both business and labour is critical in wealth creation. Entrepreneurship and high labour productivity, are central components in wealth creation and poverty reduction. No nation can develop without investing in innovation research and development. The Media can make or break a nation, their messages are very powerful, as everyday we are consuming from them. If the messages are toxic and negative, the nation slowly and surely looses hope and eventually dies, but if the messages are positive, the nation receives signals of hope and slowly but surely gets energized and holds onto life until we get a developmental breakthrough. The other groups are already discussed in the other questions.

ED: Domestic resources are the ones, which are being recommended during the SDGs era, do we have the capacity to fund the projects and plans in the IPRSP using domestic resources as a nation?

Dr. Chipika: In the case of Zimbabwe, we have no option, given our 16 years on international isolation. We cannot continue to sit there and cry, we have to be innovative in financing our development. The term domestic resources are a bit restrictive in the context of the financing of the I-PRSP in Zimbabwe. Instead, I would say, in identifying local resources available for the implementation of the I-PRSP, we considered resources from the fiscus, private sector, development partners operating in Zimbabwe, NGOs, faith based organizations (FBOs), communities and community based organizations (CBOs), families, and individuals. Most of these sources as you can see are domestic, but basically, funding partnerships are the critical thing even for the broader SDG agenda. Principally, of course we should align our national resource allocation in the national budget to our plans and priorities as reflected in the I-PRSP and the ZimAsset frameworks, and the 2017 national budget, did that to a large extent. However, as you know, the national budget is just an intention, whose delivery depends on the actual revenue available, which in turn depends on economic performance of the country. So to me, the bottom line is let us put our energies to grow the economy (production, productivity, exports etc), and pay our taxes, so that we can fund our sustained development!

ED: There are policy proposals which are included in the IPRSP which fall within the mandate of the RBZ, given that you were the coordinator of the IPRSP then how do you find it that you are now responsible for implementing those policy recommendations.

Dr. Chipika: True and these have largely to do with empowerment from national financial inclusion strategies. I am very happy to be in the RBZ and specifically overseeing the implementation of the NFIS. As I highlighted earlier, the RBZ has put in place empowerment revolving funds now totalling more than US$ 180 million, to support entrepreneurship initiatives by the poor and marginalised segments of the population, covering women, youth, micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), smallholder rural farmers, and people with disabilities, among others. We are doing all in our power to fund the implementation of our share in the I-PRSP. But as you know, provision of funding is one thing, utilization of the funding by the stakeholders on the ground with wealth creation for poverty reduction is another. The RBZ is only a facilitator for things to happen.

ED: What will be your advice to the Government and other stakeholders to the development and achievement of IPRSP based on your findings/experience?

Dr. Chipika: Simple, “All of us, let’s put our money where our mouth is, and let’s do more action than talking”!

ED: Are there any pointers for success for the IPRSP that you may share with us?

Dr. Chipika: The need to reduce and/or eradicate poverty is a noncontroversial agenda, so it is possible for all of us to rally around it and drive it under all circumstances. In so doing we will in actual fact be moving the country’s development agenda forward.

ED: AS we conclude this interview, is there anything that you may want to comment on or share with us.

Dr. Chipika: There are no perfect conditions for development in any country, we have to work with what is prevailing at any stage. This is the true challenge of development, and the true heroes will always accomplish something under any circumstance!!!!

ED: AS NANGO we would like to thank you for your precious time and wish you success in your new responsibilities as you save our nation.
2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals: Key aspects, messages and commitments

By NANGO

The majority of UN Member States converged in New York, United States during the period 9-20 July 2017 for the High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. The forum was running under the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" The 2017 HLPF reviewed SDGs.

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation and
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Broadly, it was acknowledged that extreme poverty fell during the Millennium Development Goals era, however, progress has been uneven, as 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty. The impact of poverty is diverse across regions both at continental and national level as the least developed and developing countries continue to experience high poverty incidences and within nations the rural areas bear the brand of poverty. In addition, children women, person with disabilities, indigens and young women and men were identified as the ones most susceptible to poverty, inequality and deprivations.

The Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, Parliament, National Association of Non Governmental Organisations (NANGO), Poverty Reduction Forum Trust, and Youth Engage constituted the Zimbabwe delegation. Zimbabwe was part of the 44 countries that presented the Voluntary National Review report at the 2017 HLPF. Judging from the previous year, where only 22 countries presented the number has doubled this year; the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Mr. Mashava, who is the Zimbabwe Ambassador to the UN commended the countries which presented and highlighted that this demonstrates the commitment countries have in ensuring the success of the agenda 2030. The Economic and Social Council, is critical for supporting efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges.

The 44 countries that conducted Voluntary National Reviews at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum are, Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay, Zimbabwe. They shared valuable lessons learned, as well as challenges encountered in the two years of the Agenda 2030. Across the 44 countries that presented their institutional, administrative and policy mechanisms for the Agenda 2030 showed that there was involvement of a wide variety of stakeholders, both in the preparations and in their presentations.

The 2017 Voluntary National Reviews highlighted the importance of support and leadership at the highest level, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans and strategies, and the importance of the involvement of local authorities. In addition, the importance of

continued on page 12
building national capacities for follow-up and review, and the usefulness of making assistance available for preparing for the Voluntary National Reviews was stressed. As such, Member States were encouraged to make best use of the lessons learnt from the review process to enhance their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to consider presenting Voluntary National Reviews at the High-Level Political Forum.

The 2030 Agenda is people-centered, universal and transformative. The SDGs are integrated, indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental aspects. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. SDGs foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, rule of law and good governance at all levels. They also promote transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Some of the key development priorities addressed by SDGs include, inequality, corruption, poverty, illicit financial.

**2017 HLPF Issues and commitments from the**

1. **Poverty Eradication:** Need to have targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and young women and men. Eradicating poverty requires transformative efforts, putting the furthest behind first and adapting institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, thus people who are vulnerable must be empowered.

2. **Multi-Stakeholders Approach:** Building synergies across all dimensions of sustainable development is essential for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Engagement of all stakeholders is key to unlocking opportunities for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels. A multi-stakeholder approach where the government, civil society, private sector, policy makers, communities themselves, development partners, academia, UN family, and the affected effectively play their unique roles and collectives roles and responsibilities.

3. **Leave No One Behind (LNOB):** Nations were encouraged to develop mechanism that will ensure that no one is left behind during the era of the SDGs and that the most affected and vulnerable are catered for and involved. All women and girls, youths, children, persons with disabilities, indigenes amongst others have to enjoy full equality and equity and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have to be removed.

4. **Localizing and communicating the Sustainable Development Goals:** There can be no effective implementation, or accountability to the citizens, where no awareness of SDGs exists. Efforts should be made to reach out to all stakeholders, including subnational and local authorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, civil society, business, the private sector, the media, parliamentarians, and the scientific and academic community;

5. **Economic and Social Enablers:** Emphasize that infrastructure, industry, and innovation are strongly connected and share the common goal of achieving socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development and contribute to poverty eradication.

6. **Data Issues:** Stress the need for improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics and high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

7. **Financing and Policy Coherence:** That effort will require coherent policies and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors. Coherent policies and accountable institutions that respect tenure rights and prioritize women’s empowerment and gender equality are imperative. Recognize that despite
some positive developments, a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Need for strengthening domestic resource mobilisation was stressed as well.

8. **Climate Change**: Eradicating poverty cannot be achieved without sustainably using and protecting biodiversity and addressing climate change and environmental degradation. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Therefore, strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, in order to minimize the consequences of disasters is fundamental. Climate adaptation and mitigation measures involving responsible investments in sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries can have positive impacts.

**Conclusion**

Thus the agenda 2030 if it succeed provides a tool that will result in a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, leading to decent work for all; a world where innovation, industrialization and cooperation in productive capacity can accelerate economic growth and a world that protects and manages the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production and sustainable management of natural resources.

"The 2030 Agenda is people-centered, universal and transformative. The SDGs are integrated, indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development the economic, social and environmental aspects"
At the tender age of 13, her HIV-positive father fell ill and died and as her family struggled along, at the age of 14, her mother encouraged her to get pregnant by her boyfriend and get married in return for lobola and financial support. Her marriage was characterised by poverty in all its forms, and violence. Her husband abandoned the family in 2011 for another wife. Talent divorced her husband and is living with her unemployed mother and struggling to raise her three daughters. Two of them, aged five and seven, are not in school.

Talent's story is similar to the fate that has befallen hundreds of other young girls and boys in Zimbabwe. Young girls, for instance, are getting married at a tender age to escape poverty. Others are forced into marriage by their families on religious or cultural basis. Many families in Zimbabwe consider girls as a source of income rather than family members. The practice of child marriages – itself a consequence of poverty – reinforces itself and subjects girls to further and more acute poverty and the risk of health and livelihood challenges.

While there have been many positive changes in recent years, the challenges for children remain great: children are significantly more likely to live in poverty than adults, and the impact of poverty on children can be devastating and lifelong, with implications for future generations and society as a whole. Furthermore, children face these challenges globally, in richer and poorer countries alike.

Knowing that child poverty has devastating effects on children and Zimbabwean society, and that children are over-represented among those living in poverty, is a strong and unequivocal call to action, and what should compel us – morally and practically – is that child poverty is a problem with a solution.

It is important to distinguish between monetary and non-monetary child poverty. For children, poverty is about more than just lack of money; they experience poverty through being deprived of nutrition, health, water, education, protection and shelter. While these multiple dimensions of poverty and deprivation are of vital importance to children, monetary poverty – household income – also matters.

Monetary measurements of poverty are crucial because they reflect a household’s ability to purchase the goods and services that are required by children to reach their full potential. However, children experience poverty very differently from adults and these monetary measurements need to be complemented with non-monetary ones for us to get a full picture of the poverty that children experience. The distribution of wealth within a household is not always fair as some children are discriminated against because of their sex, age, disability, school performance etc.

Seventy-eight per cent (4.8 million) of these children live in consumption poverty, meaning they are in households that do not have the minimum amount required to purchase a basket of necessary commodities (both food and non-food). Twenty-six percent (1.6 million) live in households that do not have the minimum amount necessary to purchase enough food for adequate nutrition (usually 2,100 calories) and experience extreme or food poverty. In addition, evidence shows that 59.6 percent of children in Zimbabwe experience several deprivations at the same time and are therefore multidimensionally poor.

The statistics on child poverty in Zimbabwe are appalling. More so, when we consider the high likelihood that the children living in poverty are not only at greater risk of exploitation but are also likely to bequeath to their own children a life of disadvantage and exploitation. Interrupting this cycle of poverty is within our capabilities but we have instead chosen to turn a blind eye or make half-hearted efforts. Both you, the reader, and I have failed these children and the generations that will follow them.

It gets worse for the children! It is now widely agreed that unaddressed, climate change will harm the poorest and most vulnerable children first, hardest and longest. Young people, particularly those living in poverty, are among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Climate change and child poverty are two defining issues of our time, and they are inextricably linked. Both are universal problems with devastating and lifelong impacts now and for the future. And Zimbabwe is no exception!

In a Climate Change and Children study (2014), Sihi Motseti (not her real name), a 14-year-old girl from Hwangwage remarked, “When there is no food at home you cannot even talk to parents easily. Sometimes you cannot tell them that you have been sent away from school for none payment of school fees because of fear of making them angry.” So here is a family – to which Sihi belongs – already deprived and living in poor conditions even in the best of seasons, and now exacerbated by climate change impact on food security at the household level. This is the sad reality in Zimbabwe today, and in the rest of the world.

And then, think about the child from a poor household who has a disability. Child poverty (multidimensional and monetary) is both a cause and a consequence of disability. Correlates of child poverty such as inadequate health care significantly contribute to the incidence and impact of childhood disability. By the same index, many risk factors (e.g. malnutrition) triggering onset of childhood impairments are essentially preventable, thus proffering the opportunity to reduce both disability and child poverty.

Inversely, disability can result in child poverty where children living with disabilities are deprived of access to basic services setting them on a platform of limited opportunities for human capital formation. The presence of a parent with a disability in the family increases the risk of child poverty even further. Explicit targeting of disability and child poverty...
thus remains a priority.

Poverty is one of the factors perpetuating child marriage whereby women marry early or are married off early as a coping mechanism against poverty. Evidence shows that children from poor families are highly likely to marry early compared to those from rich families. MICS 2014 revealed that among married women aged 15-49, a higher proportion of those in the poorer households (7.1 percent) married before the age of 15 than those in the richest wealth quintile (1.7 percent). Even though we may be poor, we should surely maintain our dignity.

We do not live in a society that is lacking in resources, creativity or history of providing for the less privileged. We have claimed pride of place on the basis of ‘ubuntu/hunhu’. We claim the best of our culture but do little to uphold it. We claim the best of democratic governance systems and yet do not use the systems to deliver the best possible outcomes for our society. We cite a heritage of community and yet have pursued self-interest ahead of collective success.

To address monetary child poverty we need to support families and households to have a minimum income and ensure financial barriers don’t prevent children from reaching their potential. To address multidimensional child poverty we need to provide quality access to services to the most deprived children – including in areas such as nutrition, health and education which represent their multidimensional aspect of poverty and determine whether children will be able to fulfill their potential and end the cycle of poverty.

With the global agreement on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including children in the targets and indicators, there is now a rallying force to “leave no-one behind”. The SDGs – much to their credit – include children in the targets and indicators, and there is now a global mandate for reporting on child poverty and ending extreme child poverty and halving the poverty of children by 2030. For Zimbabwe, this requires us to report on progress on reducing poverty of children, and creates an opportunity for stakeholders – which really should be each and every one of us – engaged in the fight against child poverty to engage in national processes to achieve this goal.

The sad reality is that if Zimbabwe does not make investments in children that are sufficient, equitable, transparent, and efficiently spent, many children will continue to suffer deprivations, affecting their physical, cognitive and social development. The investment case for children is often not clearly defined or subsumed under the broader objective of social development and cohesion. There is need to make sure that investment in children is a self-standing and explicit priority for poverty reduction and sustainable development. For instance, the national budget should make child poverty a top priority by committing sufficient resources towards addressing the common deprivations faced by children in education, health, nutrition, clean water, sanitation and infrastructure that benefit the poorest children.

In addition, the investment agenda in children should focus on strengthening child sensitive social protection systems, including better targeting of cash transfer programs to poor families to help lift children out of poverty and help build resilience against shocks. The current cash transfer program is only covering 19 districts in the country and is mainly donor driven, making it important for the government to scale-up its level of investment to improve reach, whilst ensuring continuity should donor support decline, as current trends in global aid flows show. Donor support withdrawal can be catastrophic as witnessed in the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), which left only 145,212 children, about 15 percent of children requiring support, covered by current government support.

Children living in street situations are not a new phenomenon in Zimbabwe but what is now glaringly obvious is the increase in numbers. Street children have become a common feature at every street corner or shopping mall in Harare. In the current national budget of 2017 a paltry US$ 5,000 was allocated to the Street Children Fund, against the estimated 15,000 children requiring support. This translates to US$ 0.33 per child, and one can only imagine what can be achieved with that. While attempts have been made by a few organisations to provide services to these children, a multi-sectoral coordinated approach is required to find a long term solution to these overlooked children.

And hazardous child labour? Although official statistics are outdated or unavailable, the anecdotal evidence is overwhelming. There are reports that young school-going age girls are engaging in sexual exploits in exchange for very small sums of money, food and second-hand clothes (Young Women in Commercial Sexual Exploitation along two Transport Corridors in Zimbabwe, ZNCWC, 2017). A leisurely walk during the day or at night through the streets of the central business district in Harare will expose you to children begging, vending, hawking, indulging in substance abuse and sleeping along the pavements. This is not the Zimbabwe we want!

Zimbabwe has the capacity to make considerable inroads into reducing child poverty in all its forms. It requires a mindset of hope, compassion and love. It requires action from all of us, not just some of us, and because poverty in childhood is felt most immediately and brutally by children themselves, but its implications stretch much further, our failure to protect children is one of the most costly mistakes that society can make.

We have the opportunity to challenge each other in our different spaces to put children first and break the cycle of poverty. We have the tools and basis for strong local movements and a national movement to end child poverty. It is time to mobilise and organise for action on child poverty.

It can no longer be business as usual. Let’s take a reality check and be bold and serious enough to make the tough choices we have to make for a shared and meaningful prosperity for all. The solutions are a responsibility for all of us.
Working towards ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in all sectors:

The beginning of a journey in Zimbabwe

By Maxim Murungweni—Programmes Manager—ZNCWC

Introduction

In the year 2016, Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) commissioned a research on Young women in commercial sexual exploitation along two transport corridors in Zimbabwe: Causes, initiation prevalence and use of HIV and social services in 2016. The research sought to establish the drivers, initiation prevalence and extent to which children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation are accessing and utilizing HIV and social services. The research was supported by Progressio with funding from Comic Relief under the Amplifying the voices of people affected by HIV in Zimbabwe project—with a particular focus on advocating for children’s rights. 292 participants were interviewed.

Review of available literature showed that as is the case with most countries in Southern Africa, the magnitude of the problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Zimbabwe cannot easily be quantified due to lack of adequate data and surveillance mechanisms. The problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) has increasingly become a major global concern. Young women who sell sex (YWSS) in southern Africa including Zimbabwe are highly vulnerable to HIV, as the risks of being young and female in a high prevalence setting merge with those of commercial sex. YWSS are less able to negotiate safe sex, more likely to have higher risk sexual partners, and less likely to use available health services compared to older sex workers. The field research study showed the following key findings:

Key Findings

- The magnitude of the problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Zimbabwe cannot easily be quantified due to lack of adequate data and surveillance mechanisms
- 18% of the respondents were below the age of 18 years
- 81.2% of the respondents dropped out of school because of lack of school fees
- Push factors included: familial poverty (87.7%), breakdown of family unit (23.5%), Gender Based Violence (7.2%) and orphan hood (23.8%) while others reported inherited sex work (i.e., following their mothers into the trade).
- Pull factors included: peer pressure or introduced by friends and financial need.
- The majority (99%) of the young women selling sex in Zimbabwe reported that they were paid cash for providing their services.
- 91.7% of the respondents demonstrated a high level of knowledge about HIV and AIDS demonstrating awareness of their risk for infection and that correct and consistent condom use prevents transmission.
- More than two thirds (64.6%) of young women reported starting selling sex below the age of 18 years.
- 84.6% reported that accessibility and availability of HIV services was easy.

Recommendations on Key Advocacy Issues

- Develop standardised context specific guidelines and model on the re-integration of Young women selling sex into their families and communities in Zimbabwe.
- Develop alternative means of livelihoods for child victims and their families to prevent further commercial sexual exploitation
- Initiate interventions that reduce the susceptibility to HIV for girls newly entering sex work:
- Develop an early identification response system and recruit and deploy a well-trained cadre of youth peer educators
- Increased access to basic education and keeping girls in schools is needed:
- Strengthen public and targeted information campaigns to target the demand side, the sex exploiters.
- More operational research and information gathering and evidence generation is required on sexual exploitation of children in Zimbabwe.

What has been done so far beyond the research?

Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

In carrying out the research ZNCWC partnered with key stakeholders such as the National Aids Council (NAC), Ministry...
The problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) has increasingly become a major global concern. Young women who sell sex (YWSS) in southern Africa including Zimbabwe are highly vulnerable to HIV...

of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, National Employment Council for the Transport Operating Industry, District Administrators and District AIDS Committees and NANGO. This was done to ensure that the campaign is all inclusive to ensure sustainability and wider reach since the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a complex phenomenon that requires a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, local to global approach.

ZNCWC also became a member of the global network known as End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes (ECPAT). This resulted in ECPAT supporting ZNCWC in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry in Zimbabwe launching a Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Report of Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. The report was launched in Harare by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry Dr W Mzembiri in his capacity as the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Regional Commission for Africa Chairperson and the African Union Candidate for the position of UNWTO Secretary General. The launch was followed up by a Regional conference on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) held in South Africa in the month of June which saw the Hon Minister Dr W Mzembiri calling for an all Africa meeting/conference on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism which Zimbabwe is willing to host before the end of year 2017.

ZNCWC has also engaged both the print and electronic media so as to raise awareness and key advocacy issues on the commercial sexual exploitation of children. A research findings dissemination meeting with the media was conducted and this resulted in increased coverage of the issue in both print and electronic media and has helped draw the attention of other stakeholders, development partners and responsible authorities to pay attention to the issue.

ZNCWC in partnership with NANGO under the Non State Actors Alliance Capacity Strengthening Programme is making sure that the advocacy campaign on ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children reaches across all the sectors involved in the project.

Next Steps
ZNCWC in collaboration with other partners has planned to carry out the following activities so as to step up the campaign on ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children in all sectors.

- Development of policy papers on commercial sexual exploitation of children for engagement with policy makers.
- Training/capacity building of journalists on advocacy issues on commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Publication of press statements and articles on advocacy issues on commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Building strategic partnerships with more development partners, stakeholders.
- Holding an All Africa meeting on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism.
- Training of NECTOI Site agents on children’s rights.
- Referral and signposting of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation to support services.
- Publication and wide distribution of the research findings on commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Engagement meetings and advocacy lobbying with policy makers (MPs, Government Ministries) on advocacy issues on commercial sexual exploitation.
- Development of key child friendly advocacy and IEC material on commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Supporting the Junior Councillors and Junior Parliamentarians child rights advocacy and child participation activities and engagement with Senior Parliamentarians on commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Engagement of debates amongst Junior Parliamentarians on Commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Conclusion
While the problem of young women involved in commercial sexual exploitation is as immense as ever, there is an opportunity to tackle this problem collectively across all sectors in Zimbabwe and Africa as a whole. Now, more than ever, the increasing measures to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children in all sectors (Travel and Tourism, Transport Industry, Mining Industry etc.) needs to be energized, equipped, encouraged, funded and inspired in Zimbabwe. Together we can end the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Zimbabwe and at the same time meaningfully contribute to Global commitment of ending AIDS by 2030 through smart partnerships.
Africa and the EU working together for an enhanced partnership

on peace and security, and job creation for youth

By Linda Katenga

Ahead of the Africa-EU Summit to be held in Cote d’Ivoire in November this year, which will put a specific focus on youth, the European Union presented the vision and strategic interests of the EU in a reinforced partnership with Africa.

At this occasion, High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini said: “2017 is the year for a new impetus of the partnership between Europe and Africa: every obstacle we may face is a common challenge, and Africa’s hope is our hope. A strong Africa matters to Europe; our friendship matters to our people. Only by joining forces and working in partnership can we provide our youth with a more hopeful and peaceful future. Today, we don’t simply look at what we can do for Africa but what we can do with Africa, together”.

The EU presented innovative proposals in a number of key areas such as peace and security, migration, job creation and energy, based on priorities defined by African countries that will contribute to stepping up the existing fruitful cooperation between the two continents for a revitalised framework for joint action, to build a stronger strategic partnership between Europe and Africa for more prosperity and stability in the two continents.

The European Union proposal identifies three objectives for building an EU-Africa alliance to address common global and regional challenges:

- a stronger mutual engagement and increased cooperation bilaterally and in the international arena, based on common values and shared interests,
- security, on land and on sea, and the fight against transnational threats
- sustainable and inclusive economic development in Africa, in order to create the jobs that the continent needs.

In Zimbabwe, the EU Ambassadors together with their African colleagues will engage with youth in preparation for the Summit to ensure that the voice of young Zimbabweans will be heard in Abidjan in November.

Additionally, the EU is supporting the work of the Youth taskforce, led by the National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO), to coordinate the preparation of a roadmap for the EU-Africa summit and the development of a position paper detailing the youth position on key priority areas. The Taskforce will facilitate the collection of the views and aspirations of the youth through multi-sector consultative platforms in all the provinces of Zimbabwe, including social media. This will promote youth participation in national and international processes and ensure that their voices are heard. EU-Africa Summits of Heads of States and Governments take place every three years alternatively in Africa and Europe. These Summits take stock of the progress made in the implementation of commitments and provide political guidance for further work.

“...In Zimbabwe, the EU Ambassadors together with their African colleagues will engage with youth in preparation for the Summit to ensure that the voice of young Zimbabweans will be heard in Abidjan in November...”
Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030:

The power of collective effort

“The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children . . . and there can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children” (The famous quote from the legendary Nelson Mandela at the launch of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund in 1997). The Heads of State and Governments in the Preamble of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children reiterated the unique and supra value placed on children particularly in the African context. “Recognising that the child occupies a unique and privileged position in the African society and that for the full and harmonious development of his personality, the child should grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.” Biblically the child is a symbol of humility and purity. The dedication of 16 June every year as a special day set aside to celebrate the gift of childhood in the African context through the Day of the African Child is clear testimony of such commitment to situate children at the centre of humanity.

As I was going through the theme of the 2017 Day of the African Child, I realised this is a heavily packed and complex issue to limit the scope of this first edition of my publication to the first part of the theme that is “Accelerating protection . . . for Children in Africa” with a focus on the collaborative child protection interventions from the state, Childline Zimbabwe and the entire child protection fraternity. Progressive articles will address the preceding components of the theme.

The government of Zimbabwe and its development partners need to be commended for the commitment demonstrated towards the progressive realisation of children’s rights through the domestication of various child protection instruments articulated in international and regional laws the state is party to. To demonstrate the complexity of the need to accelerate the protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Zimbabwe, in 2016 Childline Zimbabwe responded to 609,480 calls via the free phone 116. From these calls, 17,985 child protection cases were reported and provided with psychosocial support to empower as well as promote resilience. The reports were appropriately referred to relevant for further management.

At the beginning of 2016, the nation celebrated and ululated following the landmark constitutional court ruling outlawing child marriage. This was a giant milestone towards the protection of children from the myriad of vulnerabilities related to child marriages. This led to a sharp increase in the number of cases reported to Childline Zimbabwe and other authorities across the country. The war against child marriages is not however over as the constitutional court ruling was as good as winning a battle in the context of an ongoing war. What now needs to be done with expedition is the criminalisation of child marriages through the alignment of the Marriages Act and other consequential legislations to be in sync with the Constitution of Zimbabwe as successful prosecution of perpetrators has been scarce owing to the inconsistent legal provisions that have not yet been harmonised.

One of the critical steps towards the acceleration of child protection lie in the power of the coordinated collective. There is an urgent need to address the disparities in service provision emanating from siloised programming on child protection issues. An example of the possible silos in Zimbabwe would be the fact that child protection seems to be domiciled in different ministries with different approaches, thrusts and intervention modalities but lack the coordination framework.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for administration of the Children’s Act, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education administers the Education Act; the Ministry of Health and Child Care oversees the implementation of the Public Health Act but also has a vested interest in child care. Noble as the approaches are, there is however strong need for collaborations, coordination and collective programming to address potential leakages and exclusions. If the approaches are not harmonised and coordinated, this could lead to some unintended errors of exclusion or errors of duplication given the fact that both are targeting the same child. A harmonised approach would therefore be more economical in terms of programming in the spirit of Value-for-money.
The new constitution of Zimbabwe (Act 2013) laid up a concrete foundation for young people in Zimbabwe. Section 20 outlines the need to leave no youth behind in political, social, economic and cultural affairs of the country. In line with the Africa Youth Charter and the Zimbabwe Youth Policy, focus should be placed on the practical development of young people; this will act against potential extremism, abuse of drugs among other vices which destroy the social fabric of a country.

In realizing the above, the National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO) an umbrella association of 184 youth organizations working in the ten provinces of Zimbabwe and its key youth stakeholders has mooted the Youth Development Model (YDM)—one of the key tenants of this model is the concept of the Leave No Youth Behind.

The Leave No Youth Behind is a concept that embraces the practical idea of youth development in Zimbabwe. It focuses on the rights of youths and their development in political, economic, social, spiritual and cultural spheres. That is to say young people are treated as leaders and stakeholders in national development not only as mere beneficiaries of state resources (Youth Development Model).

Currently the Leave No Youth Behind concept has facilitated three projects that is: the Leave No Youth Behind 2018 which is rallying youth to participate effectively in the national elections in 2018, the Leave No Youth Behind – Youth 4 SDGs program that has hundred youth community based organizations (CBOs) that are championing the popularization and monitoring the implementation of SDGs.

The third project under Leave No Youth Behind is the AU-EU Summit also known locally as the #RoadToAbidjan; this initiative is being coordinated by NANGO an umbrella organization of CSOs in Zimbabwe and NAYO, collecting the voices of youth through consultations nationally to package the message for a youth strategy before the summit and for use after the summit for youth programming.

Realizing that the youth are key actors in developmental discourse, the Leave No Youth Behind believes that youth development is not a privilege but a right. Any country’s social and political terrain is defined and determined by the youth mores; in the case of Zimbabwe where youths make 67% of the population. This is not just because of who they are, but it is a fact that youths constitute 47% of the voting population in our country. Naturally, it means that their views must be appreciated as they are the critical substratum of our beloved country. In the past the youths’ energy has been diverted towards negative contribution to the electoral process and they have become infamous and synonymous with the violence that has characterized previous elections in Zimbabwe and raven most of them to the peripheries of the electoral process.

Given this scenario, NAYO Africa and other strategic youth partners in 10 provinces of Zimbabwe have begun to take the conversation to youths in rural, mining, farms and urban communities on the present and future of the youths. The youth have not defined and determined their future since the 1980 election. They have remained bystanders and complainants of the exclusion mechanisms entrenched in the voter registration processes and the long queues that come with the process.

The Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU) shockingly revealed that in the 2013 harmonized elections, only 8.87% of the youth were on the voter’s roll. The
statistics on the youth translates to nearly 2 million people who did not vote. Youth participation in these elections was negligible, except when used as instruments of violence and intimidation by political entrepreneurs. Common among the reasons were lack of identification cards, lack of proof of residence, lack of knowledge of the Zimbabwean political terrain and youths not being interested in the political dynamics of the country.

Youths in Zimbabwe belong to one of the most abused and disenfranchised groups of people. This is witnessed by how some of them are used for violence purposes during election time. Some are discriminated against on purely tribal lines when opportunities avail themselves. Youths in Zimbabwe are at the receiving end of poor governance, corruption and to some extent HIV and Aids. Independent researchers have revealed that the general unemployment rate stands at more than 80% with many youth graduates resorting to vending and cross boarder activities to support livelihoods out of the mainstream economy. Contrary to the above figures which point towards an apathetic youth towards civic and political processes, young people have actually been a crucial factor in many elections that have occurred in the past. Due to the endemic shrinking of space for political participation by an elderly ruling elite, bend on perpetuating their stay in power, the energy and eagerness of young people to participate in the electoral process has been systematically channeled towards peripheral roles. It is common knowledge that previous elections in Zimbabwe have seen them competing with their mothers as praise-singers of elderly politicians at political rallies during electoral campaigning periods. Nefarious politicians have gone on to drudge the youth and coercing them to perpetrate gruesome acts of violence against real and perceived antagonists and rivals of these politicians. Youth militias and vigilante groups have become synonymous with elections, and this trend was quite evident in the run-up to the 2008 presidential run-off election.

Youths through the concept of Leave No Youth Behind have begun a dialogue to set their expectations and mobilize across communities for a cause for seeing a government that rids itself of corruption, social exclusion, clientelism, impunity, tyranny and non-democratic practices that deprive all Zimbabweans of accountable, transparent and efficient state institutions.

Realizing that the youth are key actors in developmental discourse, the Leave No Youth Behind believes that youth development is not a privilege but a right. Any country’s social and political terrain is defined and determined by the youth mores; in the case of Zimbabwe where youths make 67% of the population.

"Realizing that the youth are key actors in developmental discourse, the Leave No Youth Behind believes that youth development is not a privilege but a right. Any country’s social and political terrain is defined and determined by the youth mores; in the case of Zimbabwe where youths make 67% of the population."

National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO) is an umbrella association with 184 youth organisations in 10 provinces of Zimbabwe; with four Clusters: Development Effectiveness, Civil Participation, Social and Mainstreaming Cluster. Our role is to Coordinate, Advocate, Capacitate, Share information and Provide platform for youth.
Web: www.nayofrica.org Email: misheck@nayofrica.org / nayozim@gmail.com: https://twitter.com/NAYOZimbabwe
Many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Zimbabwe today are involved in humanitarian and development work, democracy and governance, and the promotion and protection of human rights. One strand of CSOs work is involved in the promotion and protection of human rights. These are mainstreamed across different thematic areas that include civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, women’s rights, children’s rights, the rights of people with disabilities, the media and environment. In view to ensure that all these key sectors are covered, the National Association of Non Governmental Organisation (NANGO) has ten thematic sectors that its member organisations are clustered into to effectively deal with the ills, peculiarities and challenges of human rights.

Monitoring and documentation of human rights information is imperative in the effort to reduce the incidences of human rights abuses across sectors and regions. Additionally, lack of capacity by key stakeholders on how human rights implementation can be monitored and how human rights violations can be documented and reported has incapacitated them to effectively programme around the said issues. NANGO through its membership has been and will continue to work around these key areas to ensure the progressive realisations of the social, economic and political rights of the general citizenry. As the country will be going for the 2018 elections and through experience human rights abuses tend to increase pre, during and post elections. NANGO therefore implores all stakeholders to work together and ensure that these elections are conducted within a peaceful environment.

NGOs and other non-state actors seek to promote, protect and fulfil social, economic and political rights through:

- Advocating and lobbying for the ratification, domestication and implementation of relevant human rights treaties and as well as for other issues affecting the different civil society sectors;
- Monitoring, advocating and lobbying for the implementation of human rights obligations by government;
- Acting as watchdog for instance looking out for and speaking out against human rights violations;
- Human rights reporting, e.g. Shadow reporting;
- Focusing on the constitution to ensure that government delivers on the rights enshrined in the constitution. Some of the sectors are also participating in the government process to align the laws with the constitution and working on issues pertaining to the practical implementation of constitutional provisions; and
- Dissemination of human rights and related information and raising awareness on the human rights situation in relation to rights such as socio-economic rights.

In the spirit of the leave no one behind, NANGO and its member organisations target among others women, children, the youth, the underprivileged, persons with disabilities, and the other marginalised and vulnerable groups.

According to NANGO report (A Guide to Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation for NGOs in Zimbabwe, 2013) very few organisations produce reports on the human rights situation in the country, be it reports on the overall human rights situation or on the specific thematic areas or issues. The exceptional few include Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZHLR), NGO Forum and Childline. Also, not many CSOs systematically monitor and document the implementation of human rights generally and human rights violations in particular (the like of Counselling Services Unity (CSU)). Most of the organisations that monitor and document human rights either rely on tools developed by other stakeholders, such as the United Nations (UN). In view of the above, NANGO has developed a guide to assist NGOs to monitor and properly document the implementation of human rights generally and human rights violation in particular.
Following the exponential rise of social media, making the media a megatrend that is transforming lives economically, socially, politically and culturally across the globe, development actors across the entire human rights spectrum have been quick to harness the unbridled magic multiplier effect of the media to disseminate development information to all parts of the world seamlessly, and at times almost instantaneously.

While, undoubtedly, information in the hands of many, and not money in the hands of a few, has now become the new source of power, allowing people of every description around the world to learn about new interventions and innovations, adopt and adapt them, reap the attendant benefits of best practices, unlock international networking and cooperation opportunities, and enable creation of communities of practice, development actors recognise the need to complement this interface with another efficacious multiplier strategy - mainstreaming. Not only does this process of assessing the implications for vulnerable groups of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in all areas and at all levels result in the inclusion of these vulnerable groups in these planned actions, legislation, policies and programs; it also allows for downstreaming of these inclusive activities to the grassroots level, and “upstreaming” issues of the marginalised in response to new aid modalities.

For people with disabilities (PWDs) who suffer from an encompassing social exclusion in all spheres of social, economic, political and cultural spectrum, disability mainstreaming, defined as a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of PWDs an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that PWDs benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated, holds the best scope for disability inclusion.

Regrettably, impediments to disability mainstreaming abound. Zimbabwe has no disability mainstreaming policy to guide its implementation and it has been largely left to the discretion of CSOs who have given it lip service. In addition to lack of a disability policy, a clear guide on disability mainstreaming and best practices, no training and capacity building has been done for disability organisations and CSOS in Zimbabwe and there has been no practical coordination of disability mainstreaming initiatives. All this needs to be done.

A number of compelling reasons exist for mainstreaming disability in development:- there are PWDs in all target groups of developmental interventions; mainstreaming addresses the shortcomings of the medical model approach, where the needs of PWDs are often not understood, with medical treatment and rehabilitation being prioritized at the expense of economic survival and social participation; it responds to the interconnectedness of disability problems (poverty, lack of access to education, health, employment, accommodation, etc.) in a holistic manner; inclusion is cheaper than special services; it is in accord with the United Nations Convention on the Rights on Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which provides a roadmap for...
disability inclusion, and which most countries have signed or ratified; it is essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The benefits of disability mainstreaming are manifold and include:

- Fostering of social inclusion. It helps decrease attitudinal barriers against impairment, whereas disability-specific program often increases stigmatisation. Experience has shown that when PWDs are allowed to take part in and co-decide over ‘regular’ development programmes, they become more visible to the rest of society. Society will start to accept PWDs when they see the person instead of the impairment. It also affords an opportunity to celebrate human diversity, of which impairment is but one aspect.

- Mainstreaming disability also creates a range of opportunities for people who formerly were hidden away in shelters and institutions, thus generating self-esteem for PWDs. Instead of being dependent ‘inmates’, they are gradually allowed to go into the ‘real’ world and do the things that all people do: working, learning, socialising and having fun.

- Mainstreaming generates increased action for rights of PWDs and results in raised awareness of disability and disability concerns in the mainstream society.

- It provides momentum for participation and lifting of institutional barriers as policies, laws and basic services become inclusive of PWDs and is cheaper because it relies on existing infrastructure, common knowledge, locally produced equipment and people’s self-sufficiency.

- Because mainstreaming is a sector-wide and holistic approach, development programs are capable of reaching many more PWDs. PWDs will be more likely to participate because it will be more affordable to them and more socially accepted.

- It enables PWDs to contribute to the economy by availing them with educational opportunities and employment. According to a World Bank study in 2000, the annual loss in global GNP due to the large number of unemployed PWDs was estimated to be between 1.37 and 1.95 billion U.S. dollars.

- Universal design and accessibility for PWDs also benefits other groups of people such as elderly persons, pregnant women, people wearing glasses, people with temporary injuries, etc. Empowerment through capacity building is an investment for life for PWDs.

The experience of gender mainstreaming, which has been phenomenally successful in Zimbabwe, provides valuable learning points for disability mainstreaming, including: a clear mandate on disability and development (i.e. a policy and strategy with targets); robust institutional structures to promote a disability equality agenda; an organisational culture that is supportive of disability equality and staff with disability mainstreaming skills; policy-relevant research and information; practical, relevant guidelines and tools to mainstream disability (and dissemination of knowledge about their existence); involving PWDs and disabled people’s organisations at all levels; to ‘upstream’ disability issues in response to new aid modalities, and; appropriate tools for monitoring progress and outcomes.

Zimbabwe has no disability mainstreaming policy to guide its implementation and it has been largely left to the discretion of CSOs who have given it lip service.
The world over, in a bid to enhance efficiency and credibility of electoral processes there has been an introduction of technologies in key electoral process such as voter registration. One such technology is the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) which Zimbabwe is set to adopt for voter registration in preparation for the 2018 harmonised election.

Important to note is the fact that the BVR system requires careful planning, preparation and implementation which if not properly implemented could have more disastrous consequences to the integrity and credibility of the electoral process.

By definition, BVR is where one or more physical, biological behavioural characteristics are stored usually in a database and used for identification and verification of the voters unmistakably using biometric identifiers such as fingerprints or iris of the eye. The biological and behavioural characteristics are then stored in a database and are used for identification of voters on polling day. BVR is not to be confused with other electoral technologies such as electronic voting where voters will use machines to cast their votes on election day.

In Zimbabwe, the technology will only be used to register voters resulting in the production of a manual paper voters’ roll whose difference from the previous rolls will be that it will have pictures of the registered voters. Thus on election day, voters will still be identified using a printed voters’ rolls and be issued with a paper ballot paper and not vote electronically using machines.

The BVR system has a number of advantages, if implemented in accordance with the internationally accepted principles for voter registration such as inclusivity, transparency, accuracy, integrity, sustainability, comprehensiveness, and security of data, the BVR will result in a clean, comprehensive and credible voters’ roll with no duplicate names and will minimise multiple voting.

The system enhances trust and confidence in the voters’ roll which in previous elections has been highly contested emanating from the presence of duplicated entries and other errors and this is an opportunity for Zimbabwe to get a fresh voters’ roll. Thus the BVR system has the ability to improve the quality of the voters’ roll as it accurately captures voters’ data and increases efficiency of the registration process.

Having established the various advantages that the BVR system offers, it is important to note that in the absence of proper planning and implementation there are a number of challenges that could be faced. This is a new system which will require robust and comprehensive training of voter registration officials and data clerks on the use of the equipment. Limited knowledge and poor training of implementers may result in inaccuracies and human error leading to mistrusts and suspicions of the entire process.

However it is important to note that BVR is not the panacea to all of Zimbabwe’s electoral challenges it has great potential to transform the electoral system in Zimbabwe given that it offers significant protection against double registrations and inaccuracies. The system must however be accompanied by other appropriate legislative, administrative and political reforms that electoral stakeholders have been calling for. There is need for an inclusive and comprehensive Voter Education on the part of the electoral commission and other stakeholders such as political parties and civil society organisations to demystify some of the questions around the introduction of the new technology.

As the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is in the process of finalizing the regulations for voter registration, it is imperative that clear provisions for the implementation of the BVR are incorporated to ensure that the system is backed up a sound legal and administrative framework. Adequate resources should be availed to ZEC to ensure that the quality of electoral processes is not compromised. In addition, given that the tender for the supply of the BVR equipment has been awarded it is crucial for ZEC to publicize the election operational calendar with clear timelines for when the various processes will be conducted and how the exercise will be phased.

About ZESN

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) formed in 2000 is a coalition of 34 non-governmental organisations formed to co-ordinate activities pertaining to elections. ZESN’s vision is a Zimbabwe where a democratic electoral environment and processes are upheld.

www.zesn.org.zw | Twitter: @ZESNI | Facebook: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) +263 4 250736/791443, 798193, 791803 PO. BOX BE 630, Belvedere Harare
Featured Org/Alliance

Non State Actors Alliance is a NANGO Coordinated cross sectoral alliance that is comprised of apex bodies representing NGOs, Labour, Business and the Church. These stakeholders are committed to working together and coordinate a networking framework in order to address underlying constraints inhibiting Non State Actors from effectively responding to the social, economic and political development challenges in Zimbabwe. The alliance is designed to strengthen the collective capacities of the CSOs in their role as stakeholders in national development; building on the strategic and comparative advantages of each CSO’s thematic area while emphasizing multistakeholder partnerships to increase the impact of individual results into collective developmental results. NSAA was established in 2016 with financial and technical assistance from the European Union (EU).

While acknowledging that CSOs in Zimbabwe are well organised if compared to other countries in the region and on the continent, the alliance realises and recognises that their actions however remain disjointed; at times compete for the same space rather than fostering collaboration leading to duplication and wastage of resources. The platform supports the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which views Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as development actors in their own right, committing governments and donors to “work with CSOs to provide an enabling environment that maximizes their contributions to development.”
Child Marriages Banned

Last year the full bench of the Constitutional Court handed down a very significant judgment for children, in particular girl children. The Deputy Chief Justice, Judge Luke Malaba, declared the long enduring practice of child marriages to be unconstitutional. This is a triumph not just for the two courageous young women who brought the constitutional case to court, but was also a victory for our fledgling Constitution that came into being in 2013.

Child marriage most often stems from poverty and powerlessness, and it reinforces the gendered notions of poverty and powerlessness stultifying the physical, mental, intellectual and social development of the girl child and heightening the social isolation of the girl child. Child marriage is a tool of oppression, which subordinates not just the woman, but her family. Not only does it perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of poverty and lack of opportunity, it reinforces the subordinated nature of communities that traditionally serve the powerful classes by giving a girl child in marriage to an older male.

While the judgment marks an important and welcome development on the issue of banning child marriages, a significant challenge remains with regards to the factors that perpetuate the practice. It is clear that our marriage law regime both customary and civil is now in need of urgent reform to bring them into compliance with the Constitution. Changing of those social, religious and cultural mores that drive the practice will however need much more of an investment by the State and other concerned stakeholders than mere legislative reform, important as that may be. The Constitutional Court did its part. The real work of ending child marriages now has to begin in earnest.

(This was adapted from an original article by Catherine Makoni - Programme Specialist on gender and Human Rights at UNICEF)

Corporal Punishment outlaw

The recent ruling early this by Justice Muremba outlawing corporal punishment on children as was previously permitted by the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act has raised a storm among the Zimbabwean populace, with those in the child rights sector mainly applauding the ruling while others in the general public and some sections of the education sector bemoaning the outright ban as unsuitable for the Zimbabwean context.

The main reason proffered in the general public outcry has been that the ban will promote unruly behaviour among children while those in authority will have nothing to use in disciplining children that are under their control. A general implication is thus being made that corporal punishment is synonymous with child discipline and vice-versa such that the banning of the former means children can no longer be disciplined. However those that are for the ban do not buy this argument for instance Blessing Mushohwe a child rights and policies consultant argues… “It certainly is not true that a successful adult is what they are today because they were physically punished as a child, just as it is likewise not true that women of yester-year were more groomed and respectful. Your thoughts?

Command Agriculture

The command agriculture is a government programme said to have been designed to mobilise sustainable and affordable funding for agriculture so as to ensure food security, eliminate imports of food, to increase exports from the sector and reduce poverty.

Despite these government assertions and explanations that the subsidies will help farmers and feed the nation, there remain those that are sceptical of the programme and fear that it would benefit mostly ruling Zanu PF members who benefited from the land reform programme, and that the Treasury would have to fork out large sums of money to sustain it and that it is a fiscal nightmare. What do you think civil society has to play and why?

The magazine covers a number and wide ranging developmental and societal issues, however, there remains a lot more to discuss. NANGO CSO Magazine editorial team is interested in hearing from you on the following topical issues:

1. Child Marriages Banned
2. Corporal Punishment outlaw
3. Command Agriculture

Let’s get to hear your suggestion, comments and contributions. Your contributions will be published in the next issues as well as on the NANGO website. Please send your thoughts and contributions to us via e-mail: director.nango@gmail.com
Security guaranteed

DID YOU KNOW, YOU ARE ABLE TO REDEEM E-FUEL AND COUPONS AT ALL PUMA, REDAN AND SAKUNDA SERVICE STATIONS NATIONWIDE?

Call us now or visit our offices:

Harare:
Redan Coupon Sales Office: Block 4, Tendeseka Office Park, Samora Machel Avenue, Eastlea, Harare | Tel: +263 8677001200, +263 772 928381, +263 774687649, +263 772186186 | Email: sales@redan.co.zw

Bulawayo:
Redan Coupon Sales Office: 143 JMN Nkomo Street, Bulawayo | Tel: +263 773455662, +263 966307/8 | Email: emily.demandema@redan.co.zw

Mutare:
Redan Coupon Sales Office: 78-80 Forth Street, Mutare | Tel: +263 773302883, +263 2066886 | Email: finish.bonda@redan.co.zw

Kwekwe:
Arman Kwekwe Sales Office: 8430 Amaveni Road, Kwekwe | Tel: +263 772913164 or +263 5523128 | Email: nadia@redan.co.zw

Gwanda:
Redan Gwanda Sales Office: Stand 1150 Soudan Street, Gwanda | Tel: +263 772454787, +263 28424742 | Email: gwanda@redan-retail.com