Working Together: For Life With Dignity & Ending Poverty

Dialogue on Fiscal Space • ZUNDAF Partnerships • Media Engagement • Women & Girls Empowerment • Human Rights • HIV & AIDS • Food Security • Post-2015 Development Agenda ...
Zimbabwe has set its development trajectory on firm ground. Major challenges still remain, but we are optimistic that Government efforts and our strong collaboration will get us there.

Our optimism is not unfounded. National institutions and laws are being aligned to the progressive Constitution. Strong partnerships have revitalised social services, with maternal mortality reduced by 36%. Joint efforts also saw the reduction of child mortality by 20%.

Universal primary school enrolment has reached 96.7% and AIDS-related deaths declined by 24% last year. Women representation in Parliament increased from 18% to 35%.

There has been modest strides in food security, however, more needs to be done in this sector, particularly in adopting climate smart agriculture, expanding agricultural extension services and irrigation schemes.

For the first time, efforts have been made to align the national budget to the implementation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim Asset) and ongoing strong discussions to expand fiscal space.

However, the recurrent costs are eating-up a significant portion of the national budget (over 90%), with only 10% available for capital investment. The limited fiscal space and low agricultural productivity as well as high under-employment and prevalent poverty rates (particularly in rural areas) call for enhanced policy adjustments and concrete steps in addressing these areas.

Concurrently, efforts to enhance legal and policy frameworks to attract much needed private sector investment to augment public investment are essential.

In an effort to highlight the strong partnerships, this edition of the UN in Zimbabwe Newsletter covers high level policy dialogue on enhancing fiscal space, key development results achieved thus far, our joint efforts on the MDGs, human rights, gender equality, HIV and AIDS, food security, and Post-2015 Development Agenda.
Implementing Zim Asset Crucial for Poverty Reduction, Economic Growth & Easing Fiscal Space

To enhance the Government’s capacity to finance social and economic programmes outside recurrent costs, which according to 2015 estimates, account for 92% of the USD 4.1 billion national budget, a high level economic dialogue was held in February 2015 in Harare.

The dialogue, comprising policymakers from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the donor community, economic think tanks, and the private sector was convened by UNICEF, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and the National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations.

Noting the tight fiscal space, Reserve Bank Governor, Dr. John Mangudy said, “We have very little room for manoeuvre”. “We need to hold down [recurrent] expenditure, gradually reduce it, and at the same time explore ways of raising revenue. We need bold and pragmatic decisions that will get us out of this vicious cycle of low revenues and higher expenditures.”

Fiscal space refers to the extent to which a government can mobilize resources to finance socio-economic programmes aiming at enhancing social services and poverty reduction without jeopardizing the sustainability of its financial position or the stability of the economy.

After successive years of hyperinflation, Zimbabwe’s economy stabilised when the multiple currency system was adopted in 2009. The economy began to grow, reaching a peak of nearly 12% in 2011; but that growth has dwindled to 3.1% in 2014 and projected to 3.2% in 2015. The net effect is domestic revenues falling short of targets and the government finding it increasingly difficult to finance national development programmes aimed at enhancing social services, economic growth and poverty reduction.

“As is the case everywhere, in times when competition for resources is fierce, it is the social sectors that tend to be under-funded,” said UNICEF Representative Reza Hossaini. “We are worried that the current constrained fiscal space means financing of the social sectors continues to rely heavily on donors. This is not sustainable in the long-term and any reduction in funding could erode the gains made in the last five years.”

Those gains include a reduction in maternal and child mortality, reduction of HIV prevalence rate, increased access to water and sanitation, monthly cash grants provided to 55,000 poor households and support provided to 340,000 orphans and vulnerable children to access education.

In going forward the high level dialogue agreed to develop a fiscal space framework and action plan. In addition, the dialogue proposed measures to reduce recurrent costs through constructive dialogue among Government, Business and Labour in the form of a social contract; to enhance Government engagement with the international creditors to address the debt overhang (currently estimated at USD 7 billion); as well as to address corruption, minerals revenue transparency, and to curb illicit financial flows. It was noted that illicit financial flows have costed Zimbabwe over USD 2bn between 2009 and 2013.

Moreover, the dialogue identified areas for improving business and investment climate, which include: establishing special economic zones, bilateral investment promotion and protection agreements for foreign direct investment, and tapping into the diaspora to invest in their own country.

The dialogue concluded that a full implementation of Zim Asset is crucial for economic growth and fiscal space. In particular, unless addressed urgently the food security challenges will have devastating effect for the fiscus due to huge cost involved to import food and the economy-wide value chains that are dependent on the agriculture sector.
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The United Nations System-through the 2012-2015 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) has been supporting national development programmes aimed at addressing key human development challenges.

The ZUNDAF priorities include job creation, addressing gender disparities, gaps in health, education, and HIV and AIDS, as well as ensuring climate change adaptation and strengthening institutional capacity to address these issues.

In 2014, the United Nations, under the 2012-2015 ZUNDAF, and with the generous financial support from development partners delivered USD 446 million in development grants bringing the total support to USD 1.2 billion since the ZUNDAF implementation started in 2012. These resources have contributed to positive developments in seven national priority areas: HIV and AIDS; Agriculture; Environment; Basic Social Services; Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment; Economy, Employment and Poverty; and Governance and Human Rights.

The United Nations System-through the 2012-2015 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) has been supporting national development programmes aimed at addressing key human development challenges.

Featuring in a ZUNDAF results report released on in February 2015, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Bishow Parajuli said, “Under the 2012-2015 ZUNDAF, our joint support has revitalized the social sectors and led to key progress in other sectors. Going forward, and building on the gains thus far, the next ZUNDAF (2016-2020) will support national efforts in addressing poverty, inequality, human rights and transformative change.”

The ZUNDAF results report was prepared based on a high level annual review meeting held in Harare in December 2014, co-chaired by the Office of the President and Cabinet and the UN Resident Coordinator. The 2014 ZUNDAF results were endorsed by over 120 stakeholders, including senior government officials, the UN Heads of Agencies, the diplomatic corps, international development organizations, civil society organizations, implementing partners and the media.

As co-chair of the 2014 ZUNDAF high level annual review, Rtd Col. Christian Katsande, Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet said, “We look to the UN system to increasingly supporting national management of development, including in areas such as, aligning the legal framework and general policy coherence, translating some of the key sections of the Constitution into a functional reality – such as setting-up of proposed vital commissions, transparency and accountability, and technical support to improve the business climate.”

The report also states that building on the successes and lessons learned from the 2012-2015 ZUNDAF, the Government and the UN developed and implemented a roadmap to craft the next ZUNDAF for 2016-2020. The roadmap included a series of high level consultations based on key steps which include the 2012-2015 ZUNDAF evaluation and country analysis to inform the design of the 2016-2020 ZUNDAF.

The scope and outcome of the next ZUNDAF were validated during the same high level review meeting. The focus of the 2016-2020 ZUNDAF will be: Food and Nutrition Security; Gender Equality; HIV & AIDS; Poverty Reduction and Value Addition; Public Administration and Governance; Social Services and Protection. The ZUNDAF, which will be launched in Q2 of 2015, will support the implementation of Zim Asset and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

(Left) Creating youth employment has been one of the major focus of UN programme support in Zimbabwe.

Major ZUNDAF Supported Programme Results in 2014

- Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission secretariat fully established.
- Over 3,000 children accessed legal services in 23 victim friendly courts.
- Over 8,000 youth (41% women) trained with an employment rate of approximately 90%.
- Over 126,000 vulnerable family farmers assisted with crop and livestock input.
- Over 100,000 people including children accessed supplementary food.
- Livestock Development programme designed and Livestock Policy validated.
- National climate response strategy and action plan completed.
- 1:1 pupil to textbook ratio maintained for all 2.5 million students.
- Immunization coverage maintained at 81%.
- Over 747,000 people accessed HIV treatment.
- Over 55,000 young girls, victims of abuse, accessed protection services.

For more info visit zw.one.un.org
Accelerating Momentum Towards the MDGs, Increasing Dialogue on Post MDGs

The United Nations system, through its agencies and together with development partners and Civil Society Organisations have been complementing the efforts of the Government of Zimbabwe to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

The UN in Zimbabwe organized a series of advocacy activities in the last quarter of 2014 around the 69th anniversary of the United Nations under the theme “Together Moving Zimbabwe Forward”. The activities included school outreach as well as joint Government and UN hosted media briefings and the main event in Harare.

Noting the need to empower the marginalized and ensure their participation in finding sustainable solutions to extreme poverty, hunger, and access to justice, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Bishow Parajuli said, “The cooperation demonstrated by the Government, coupled with the generous financial and technical support from donors and the United Nations System, social services in Zimbabwe are showing signs of respite and the country is on-track to achieving some targets of the MDGs.”

The UN Resident Coordinator was addressing over 300 invited guests at the main event of the 2014 edition of the UN Day held at the WHO Office grounds in Harare.

As a result of concerted efforts and strong development partnerships, Zimbabwe has made good progress on some of the MDGs.

The achievements include: attaining universal primary education (MDG2) which stands currently at 96.7%, and halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS (MDG6) which currently stands at 14.3% down by almost half from the late 1990s.

Zimbabwe has also achieved modest progress on gender equality (MDG3). Women in parliament increased from 18% (55) to 35% (123) through special measure adopted in the new National Constitution and the country has achieved gender parity in primary school enrolment. However, there remain some work to do to achieve gender parity at the tertiary education level as well as in increasing the share of women in wage employment. The country has also reduced child mortality (MDG4) rate from 94 deaths per 1000 live births in 2009 to 75 deaths per 1000 live births in 2014, and maternal mortality ratio(MDG5) by about one third from 960 per 100,000 live births in 2009 to 614 in 2014.

On environmental sustainability (MDG7), nearly all households (98%) in urban areas and 68% in rural areas have access to improved water source. On promoting global partnership (MDG8), the country has registered progress on its re-engagement with the international community and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to address its external debt burden (estimated at US$7.2 billion) and on the resumption of bilateral development cooperation. On other targets of MDG 8, Internet penetration rate has increased to 46% from 15% in 2011, making Zimbabwe the third ranking country in Africa.

Challenges remain, however. Extreme poverty and malnutrition levels remain particularly stubborn especially in rural areas, as does unemployment (MDG1). Recent studies indicate 76% of rural households are poor, compared to 38.2% of urban households and one in three children are stunted due to malnutrition. Urgent and special attention to these issues is required.

The Government is determined in building on the progress and addressing the challenges. The Deputy Chief Secretary to President and Cabinet, Col. (Rtd.) Christian Katsande said, “We stand by the UN Delivering as One agenda, and we know that a more efficient and joined-up UN system with all its agencies working together and fully aligned to the Zim Asset priorities will accelerate the achievement of the MDGs together”.

The UN in Zimbabwe is finalizing the 2016-2020 ZUNDAF to support Zimbabwe’s efforts towards achieving Zim Asset in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by building on the gains of the MDGs. Furthermore, the UN and the Government are gathering public opinions as well as mobilizing communities and stakeholder to define Zimbabwe’s SDGs priorities.
Enhancing Public Discourse on National Development Through Media Engagement

The United Nations in Zimbabwe in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services facilitated the first of its kind Media Awards for Best Development Reporting, recognizing 10 journalists in print and online as well as one in photography and one in broadcasting.

Addressing participants at the award ceremony held in February 2015 at the UN Information Centre in Harare, Mr. Bishow Parajuli, the UN Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe said, “The media has played a very important role in promoting the MDGs and in holding Government and international organizations to account on their commitments”.

Noting the United Nations’ continued commitment to support in media capacity building through training programmes, the Resident Coordinator underlined “the struggle of ordinary Zimbabweans is that of resilience, perseverance, doing more with less, and outstanding achievements against all odds, not of misery, despair, and hopelessness, and the media needs to capture these”.

The media award on development reporting was initiated to encourage increased reportage of development issues through raising awareness on major milestones realised, alongside gaps, in the implementation of the seven ZUNDAF national priority areas and the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Agenda.

The priority areas include good governance and human rights; economic development; food and nutrition; as well as environmental sustainability. The last three areas of focus are social services; HIV and AIDS; and gender equality.

At the media award ceremony, Rtd. Major Anywhere Mutambudzi, Director of Urban Communications, Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services said, “Aside from bringing development topics, the media has a role to play in inspiring public debate through bringing innovative ideas that are important to build on our achievements and to overcome our challenges”.

The contest was open to all journalists based in Zimbabwe who have published stories with accredited media houses in print, online, radio or television. The competition received 118 stories from 36 journalists.

“Good journalism must not only be about description, it must delve, debunk and decode information for and about people. Development issues are indeed complex, slow, non-prescriptive and uncertain. Therefore reporters are required to appreciate and explore the interplay of diverse realms such as health, education, environment, agriculture, governance, local and national economics just to mention but a few” said Mr. Obrey Harris, FAO Officer in Charge addressing the media at the media award ceremony.

Mr. Nelson Chenga, Features Editor at the Financial Gazette, the first winner of the contest said that development reporting are as important as political issues and called on his fellow journalists to cover on national development issues.

Meanwhile, addressing participants at the national commemoration of the World Radio Day on 13 February 2015 in Gweru, Dr Gurira, the Director of International Organizations in the Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services said that the Government was in the process of considering applications for commercial radio licenses, which will provide opportunities for creative youths to consider radio broadcasting careers.

Representing the UNESCO Harare Office at the event, Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng called for an effective utilization of media in general and radio in particular by all development partners as a force for social inclusion, and social change.
How Far Has Zimbabwe Come on Gender Equality Since Beijing Platform for Action?

Year 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women that presented the UN Member States including Zimbabwe with the Beijing Platform for Action.

Signed by 189 countries, the Beijing Platform for Action – an agenda for women’s empowerment, offers a defining policy framework and roadmap for achieving gender equality and women’s rights.

“Implementing policies and strategies adopted to promote gender equality and women empowerment as well as addressing value systems that discriminate against women and girls are key to achieving the outcomes of the 4th World Conference on Women”, said Ms. Revai Makanje Aalbaek, UN Women Deputy Representative.

To promote public debate on the milestone of the Beijing Platform for Action and as part of a series of national advocacy campaign, Ms. Aalbaek featured at the 12th edition of the Wednesday@UNIC public discussion forum at the UN Information Centre in Harare.

Ms. Aalbaek briefed over 70 participants representing senior national and international Development Partners including the media on the strategic objectives of the platform, the progress Zimbabwe has made thus far, the challenges being faced by women in the country, the causes behind those challenges and the way forward.

The empowerment of women in Zimbabwe is a national priority which the United Nations fully supports. In line with the principle and strategic goal of empowerment, the UN has supported the adoption of progressive and gender sensitive constitution, development of a national Gender Based Violence Strategy; as well as advocacy for and provision of quality social services, including maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV & AIDS services.

Zimbabwe’s constitution provides for an increased representation of women in the parliament from 18% to 35% - above the global average of 21%. It also provides for the establishment of a Gender Commission to advocate for a better future for all the women and girls whose aspirations remain to be fulfilled”. To this effect, several policies and laws are being aligned to the constitution.

At the same forum Ms. Choice Damiso, UNFPA Programme Specialist on Gender described the efforts of the UN in tackling the issue of gender-based violence. She lamented the widespread nature of the retrogressive phenomenon in the country, where one in three women have suffered sexual violence in their lifetime and two thirds of the women have experienced domestic violence. Ms. Damiso noted that significant progress has been made in Zimbabwe on the legal and social fronts to address Gender Based Violence and in achieving the outcomes of the Beijing Platform for Action. However, Zimbabwe’s Gender activists who were present at the Beijing Conference 19 years ago, observed that there was a need to revive the spirit and redefine the efforts in achieving the outcomes of the Beijing Conference.

The Government of Zimbabwe has set clear targets to be reached by 2020, in the Girls and Young Women’s Empowerment Framework. This Framework aims to achieve, among others, an increase in the percentage of girls and young women’s access to sexual and reproductive health services; an increase in the percentage of girls’ participation in decision making processes; parity in all levels of education; and an increase in the rate of reporting incidents of violence against girls from 3% to 50% by 2020.

Success of the Empowerment Framework will depend on promoting women and girls education, comprehensive health services, access to resources and equal opportunities, as well as addressing the challenges of early marriages, early pregnancies, and combating all forms of violence against women.
Empowerment Programmes Help Girls Break Free of Violence

Fourteen-year-old Shamiso Nyamutamba has endured more than her share of tragedy. When she was three, her mother died. Two years later, her father also passed away. She went to live with an abusive uncle, and was nearly forced to marry an older man. She has only recently found peace – and the promise of a better future – with the help of a unique programme designed to empower adolescent girls, in the rural Mbire District of Zimbabwe.

Too many Shamis face entrenched discrimination and violence, abuses often exacerbated by grinding poverty. But with knowledge of her rights, and the support of other girls and women, this extraordinary girl was able to break free.

When Shami's parents died, an uncle from Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, offered to bring her to the city and enroll her in school. But when she arrived, he sent her to work instead. She performed menial jobs.

As she grew older, the abuse worsened. Shami had no choice but to leave her uncle to live with her sister on a farm. But her sister could not afford to send her to school. An attempt to obtain an education grant for orphans was unsuccessful. However, Shami learned about the Sista2Sista club, a girls' empowerment programme run by the Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention and Support Organisation (ZAPSO), with support from UNFPA and other development partners.

Launched in September 2013, the Sista2Sista club offers a safe place where vulnerable adolescent girls can speak with mentors and with each other about their problems. Girls in the club learn about sexual and reproductive health and rights, financial literacy, and how to navigate difficult social situations, including coercive relationships. The club also encourages girls to get an education. With the intervention of the Sista2Sista programme, Shami was able to enroll in school. She has proven to be academically gifted.

She is now the chairperson of the Kodzero Sista2Sista Club, where she encourages other girls to join so they can learn the same lessons she did. “Sista2Sista taught me that early marriage is wrong... and to report cases of abuse straight away,” Shami said.

The programme has had an enormous impact: so far, 10,388 Zimbabwean girls have enrolled and actively participated in Sista2Sista clubs. And many of these girls have committed to improve not only their own circumstances but those of other girls as well. Shami, for example, says she dreams of becoming a police officer. “I want to join the police so I can protect other young girls from being abused,” she says.
Working Towards Advancing Human Rights for All

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, laid out the rights necessary for a life of dignity, freedom from fear and want—encompassing health care, education, housing, political participation and the fair administration of justice.

The Declaration notes that these rights belong to all people, everywhere, and without discrimination, 365 days a year. Zimbabwe has shown its commitment to promote human rights. The adoption of a progressive, people centered and rights-based constitution is a key milestone in Zimbabwe’s human rights history.

In an effort to reach out to communities with human rights messages, the United Nations together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Zimbabwe Commission for Human Rights launched the UDHR in Shona and Ndebele on 12 February 2015 at the United Nations Information Centre, in Harare.

Addressing the media, and representatives from Government, the UN as well as Development Partners, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Bishow Parajuli said that the UN will support the translation of the UDHR in all 16 official languages of Zimbabwe so that “our Zimbabwean children and youth will have the opportunity to read the articles of the Declaration in their own mother tongue and apply them in their lives and for the benefit of their communities.

Highlighting the strong collaboration between the Government and the United Nations, the Principal Administration Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Francis Munhundiripo said, “The translation of the UDHR into Shona and Ndebele could not have come at a better time where the Government is aligning 400 laws to the national Constitution as well as preparing to gather public views on human rights situation in the country as part of the preparation to report in 2016 to the UN Human Rights Council on the implementation of 130 recommendations accepted by Zimbabwe in 2012.”

Zimbabwe participated in the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights for the first time in 2011-2012. The country accepted 130 recommendations out of 177 proposals and has since been working to implement them. The review is a global process which allows all countries to review their human rights achievements and challenges every four years.

The Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Mr. Elasto Mugwadi, commended the United Nations for its initiative and said, “These Ndebele and Shona translated UDHR versions will go a long way in advancing the work of the Commission by ensuring Information Education and Communication materials on human rights are available in local languages which are more easily understood by communities.”

Meanwhile, addressing participants of the Human Rights Day held in December 2014 under global theme “Human Rights 365”, Ms. Verity Nyagah, UNDP Country Director reiterated the United Nations’ “long term commitment to work with the national stakeholders in ensuring the realization of all rights through available national frameworks such as the Zim Asset as well as through new Sustainable Development Goals”.

The UN, through the 2012-2015 ZUNDAF, has contributed towards the cause of protecting Human Rights by strengthening capacity of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, decentralising legal aid to enhance access to justice, particularly for vulnerable communities, establishing Victim-friendly Courts, where vulnerable groups such as women and children have improved access to justice, and training over 8000 youth to access economic opportunities through wage or self-employment, along with various other programmes aimed at improving the lives of the citizens of Zimbabwe.
Ending AIDS in Zimbabwe?

Zimbabwe is at the center of fighting HIV and AIDS and is part of the leading key regional and global bodies. The country is the current chair of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Africa Union (AU), the vice chair of the global UNAIDS board, and a member of a 30-team UN General Assembly commissioned Open Working Group for the SDGs.

In line with its enhanced role in Africa, Zimbabwe hosted the African Union conference on health financing recently, on the theme “Getting to Zero in Africa” sending the message that ending the epidemic by 2030 is possible. As such, a concerted effort to close the gap between people who have access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services and people who are being left behind is required to make this dream a reality.

To achieve these targets, Zimbabwe is following a balanced approach which includes a combination of prevention strategy, scaling up treatment, concentrated efforts in eliminating mother-to-child transmission and a focused strategy targeting the youth. These efforts are made possible through the generous contributions from Global Fund and other development partners and organizations.

Speaking at the continental conference on health financing, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative to Zimbabwe, Dr. David Okello, said, “We are confident that an AIDS free generation is within our reach—we just need to persevere and we will get there. I would like to recognize the political will and commitment of our Governments in the AIDS response and also partners’ investments that have helped us achieve the good progress we talk about today”.

Zimbabwe has managed to almost halve its HIV-AIDS prevalence from its peak of 27% in 1997 to the current 15%; an estimated 1.2 million people living with the virus today. As a result of increased access to life saving antiretroviral therapy, less deaths (55 000) were reported in 2014 compared to 2009 (72 000).

In his remarks at the conference the Minister of Health and Child Care, Dr. David Parirenyatwa, said “Zimbabwe owes its resilience in part to the support we have received from the UN family and development partners both in and out of Africa”.

Under the umbrella of UNAIDS, 11 United Nations agencies-UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and World Bank-have partnered with the Government, international development partners and the civic society in revamping efforts to end AIDS by 2030.

In 2014, with the support of the United Nations in Zimbabwe, over 1.7 million people received voluntary HIV counseling and testing; over 700,000 adults and children received free antiretroviral therapy and 81% of HIV infected pregnant women and 74% of infants received antiretroviral prophylaxis treatment, contributing to reduction of mother-to-child transmission from 18% in 2011 to 8.8%.

At the conference, the UNAIDS Country Director, Mr. Michael Bartos said, “The United Nations commits to continue to support the nation to consolidate the gains made so far, and to build a secure future by embracing the global “fast track” targets for 2030 so Zimbabwe can lead the world in ending AIDS”.

The United Nations reiterated its commitment in the fight to end AIDS by allocating one out of the six priority areas to fight against HIV and AIDS in its new 2016-2020 ZUNDAF. The United Nations will take steps that include retention in effective therapy, providing blanket access for treatment, introducing access to cheaper viral load tests and self-testing as well as making prevention easier.
Getting Zimbabwe Back to Breadbasket Status

Globally one in every nine people go hungry every day. Sub Saharan Africa has not kept pace and the figures on cases of hunger are much higher in the region.

The UN General Assembly recognizes the role of family farming in reducing hunger in developing countries. Family farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is operated by a family and usually reliant on their own labour. Family farming accounts for 50% of global food production.

Recently the Ministry of Agriculture, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) together with agriculture affiliated organizations launched an advocacy initiative on family farming in the Chitora Irrigation Scheme - run by 41 smallholder family farmers - in Mutoko district.

To achieve food and nutrition security, the Government is seeking an average of 8.38% annual growth in Agriculture, Hunting and Fishing sectors of the economy for the 2013-2018 period under the Zim Asset. The Government has also announced plans to strengthen key agricultural financial institutions to provide farmers with access to capital. To achieve this growth, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for southern Africa, Mr. Chimimba David Phiri said, “The UN has supported the Government in the elaboration of policies, with a view to creating a conducive environment for agricultural growth and hunger reduction”.

In addition, and in support of ongoing national initiatives, the UN in Zimbabwe in 2014, under the 2012-2015 ZUNDAF has assisted over 126,000 vulnerable family farmers with crop and livestock inputs; over 400,000 people with health and nutrition programmes; the protection of over 87,000 livestock from the effects of drought; as well as supported national early warning systems and the development of national climate change and response strategy.

These joint efforts have so far registered modest gains. The food security situation has improved compared to previous years owing to the good agricultural season in 2014. Mr. Sory Oaune, WFP Representative said, “Food security in Zimbabwe has improved compared to last year (2014) and even the previous years. National assessments estimated that only 6% of the rural population compared to 25% during the same time last year, would require food assistance at the peak of the hunger season”. In addition to pockets of food insecurity, chronic rates of undernourishment also remain high in Zimbabwe. Consequently one in three children under 5 years are stunted for their age.

These remaining challenges call for a renewed commitment and increased collaboration between the Government, the United Nations and the Development Partners. As such, ending hunger remains at the core of UN support to Zimbabwe in achieving the MDG targets on hunger.

Under the 2016-2020 ZUNDAF, the UN system in Zimbabwe will continue to support national efforts aimed at ensuring food and nutrition security by targeting vulnerable households in rural and urban areas and equipping farming communities to cope with the effects of climate change and build their resilience.
The United Nations and the Government of Sweden signed a three-year (2015-2017) cooperation agreement in February 2015 in Harare. The US$ 1.5 million cooperation agreement will significantly contribute to better support of national development priorities and results.

Noting the continued collaboration and generous support from the Government of Sweden, Mr. Bishow Parajuli, UN Resident Coordinator said, “The support will be key in enhancing the impact, efficiency and effectiveness of the UN System to jointly deliver on development programmes in line with Zim Asset. We are here to make a difference, to support people’s efforts to lead better lives.”

Sweden is one of the Development Partners that plays significant role in advancing UN reform efforts at global and national levels.

The three-year cooperation agreement is a continuation of the Government of Sweden’s commitment to support UN coherence for development results in Zimbabwe since 2011.

The Ambassador of Sweden, Mr. Lars Ronnas said, “Our support to the UN emanates from a strong belief that a robust, more coordinated, and efficient UN system is critical to provide support to national efforts in uplifting vulnerable communities out of poverty”.

Sweden remains a strong partner to Zimbabwe’s development efforts with an annual contribution of USD 25 million. Working in partnership with UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and others, Sweden supports the achievement of development results on key national priorities including gender equality, health, education, child protection, social protection, good governance and accountability.

This cooperation agreement provides UN agencies with the required tools to deliver together on programmes, partnerships, operations, and advocacy, contributing to a more efficient and responsive system. Ultimately, it complements efforts by all entities of the UN System in Zimbabwe to achieve concrete results under the ZUNDAF in support of Zim Asset as well as the MDGs and the SDGs. Through the ZUNDAF, the UN aims to strengthen Government leadership and ownership of national development processes, as well as coordinated access to technical support from the UN system.
Towards a Sustainable Development Agenda: Ending Poverty & Ensuring a Life with Dignity

2015 is the year when countries will shape and adopt a new development agenda that will build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDGs were established in the year 2000 and include eight anti-poverty targets to be accomplished by 2015. Since then, enormous progress has been made towards achieving the MDGs:

- Global poverty have been reduced by half compared to the levels in 1990.
- More children than ever are attending primary school.
- Child deaths have dropped dramatically.
- Access to safe drinking water has been greatly expanded.
- Targeted investments in fighting malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis have saved millions.

The MDGs are making a real difference in people’s lives, and this progress can be expanded in most of the world’s countries with strong leadership and accountability.

What’s next?

The MDGs show that targets work. They have helped end poverty for some, but not all. For example, poverty remains a challenge in Zimbabwe with 62.5% of households in the country are poor.

2015 presents an opportunity to bring the countries and citizens of the world together to decide and embark on new pathways of the Post 2015 Development Agenda aiming at improving the lives of people everywhere. These decisions will determine the global course of action to end poverty, promote prosperity and well-being for all, protect the environment and address climate change.

In this regard, the United Nations is now in the process of defining the Sustainable Development Goals as part a new Post-2015 Development Agenda that must finish the job started under the MDGs and leave no one behind. This agenda, which will be launched at the Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, is currently being discussed at the UN General Assembly, where Member States and Civil Society Organisations are making contributions to the agenda.

The process of arriving at the Post 2015 Development Agenda is Member State-led with broad participation from major groups and civil society stakeholders.

There have been numerous inputs to the agenda, notably a set of Sustainable Development Goals proposed by an open working group of the General Assembly, the report of an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, UN General Assembly dialogues on technology facilitation and many others.

In December 2014, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released his Synthesis Report, which summarizes these inputs and presents the vision for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Drawing from the experience of two decades of development practice and from the inputs gathered through an open and inclusive process, the Secretary General’s Report titled “The Road to Dignity by 2030” charts a road map to ending poverty, transform all lives and protecting the planet in the next 15 years.

What is Zimbabwe Doing?

Zimbabwe has actively participated in the regional and global discussions and negotiations in defining the SDGs.

Zimbabwe has also started integrating the SDGs into its national development blueprint, the 2013-2018 Zim Asset, and should continue to do so beyond 2018 through successive national development plans.

The Zim Asset, for instance, articulates issues raised in the SDGs in its four clusters and sub clusters. In support of these national and international goals, the UN in Zimbabwe is finalizing its ZUNDAR for 2016-2020 period to support Zimbabwe advance on the SDGs.

What you can do?

So far 16,080 Zimbabweans have voted for the issues that are the most important to them in defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

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them in defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Visit www.vote.myworld2015.org website to join the global conversation on sustainable development and vote for goals that are important for you. You can also help raise awareness about the importance of 2015 by joining the civil society-led on www.action2015.org, which will be hosting multiple events around the world.

The Infographic below shows the transition from the eight MDGs to the Proposed 17 SDGs:

Millennium Development Goals Sustainable Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. Achieve universal primary education 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Promote gender equality and empower women 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Reduce child mortality 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
5. Improve maternal health 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
7. Ensure environmental sustainability 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
8. Develop a global partnership for development 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development