The United Nations system in Zimbabwe, together with the Government of Zimbabwe, signed the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF), ushering in a new programming cycle for the UN system for the next four years from 2012 to 2015. The signing ceremony took place on 7 April in the VIP lounge at the Harare International Conference Centre.

The ZUNDAF is the strategic planning document of the United Nations, jointly developed by the Government of Zimbabwe and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). With this document, the UN system in Zimbabwe reaffirms its support to the goals of the country’s Medium Term Plan (MTP), the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, fulfillment of the country’s international human rights obligations and a commitment to adopt a collaborative approach in continued support of national priorities. The ZUNDAF identifies UN support in seven (7) major areas namely:

1. Good Governance for Sustainable Development
2. Pro-poor Sustainable Growth and Economic Development
3. Food Security at Household and National Levels
4. Sound Management and Use of Environment
5. Access to and Utilization of Quality Basic Social Services for All
6. Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support
7. Women’s Empowerment, Gender Equality and Equity

The ZUNDAF uses a rights-based approach to focus assistance to the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society and promotes the fulfillment of basic human rights. It also aims at implementing UN programmes with greater efficiency through the results-based management framework.

ZUNDAF: Accelerating MDGs in Zimbabwe

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UN CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2011

“Equal access to education, training and science and technology for women: Pathway to economic development”.

Mr. Alain Noudehou in his remarks during the International Women’s Day commemorations.

This year’s celebration marks the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day commemorations. The focus of the celebrations is on equal access to education, training and science and technology. About two thousand women, men, girls and boys attended the commemoration where the Guest of Honor was the Vice President Honourable Joyce Mujuru. Women in a joyous celebratory mood danced, sang and ululated as the day’s proceedings went on.

Speaking during the commemoration, the Vice President encouraged women to be involved in science and technology inherent in the country’s traditional value system for a better future. She said that technology can only come to complement and improve upon what our people have known over the ages.

She also urged women to take advantage of opportunities that arise in education and business to improve their life. Women should be confident and prioritize things for the betterment of their lives and family she said. The Honorable Minister for Gender, Women Affairs and Community Development,

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ZUNDAF: Accelerating MDGs in Zimbabwe

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23 United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes participate in the implementation of the ZUNDAF as the UN Country Team. It has been developed with the participation of the Government partners across ministries as well as cooperating and non-government partners, including the civil society, NGOs and the private sector, who constitute the broader stakeholder groups the UN works with in Zimbabwe.

The ZUNDAF document was signed on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe by Dr Misheck Sibanda, Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet and for the United Nations, by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Alain Noudehou together with members of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Present at the signing ceremony were Senior Government officials including Dr Ray Ndhlukula, Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Retired Colonel Christian Katsande, Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet and Permanent Secretaries for the various ministries; Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Heads of Development Corporations; Representatives of the United Nations Country Team; Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector; as well as members of the media.

In his statement the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Zimbabwe Mr. Alain Noudehou highlighted two key underlying principles critical to the successful implementation of the ZUNDAF which he said were:

i) Increased effectiveness through UN coherence which is guided by the joint implementation matrix, a tool developed to map out individual agencies’ areas of intervention within the overall strategy

ii) Stronger partnerships with key stakeholders including donors, the private sector, and the civil society while at the same time promoting national ownership. This, he said was critical to leveraging all the interests, knowledge and resources necessary to implement this strategic framework.

The UN Resident Coordinator in his statement noted that “Through the official signing of the ZUNDAF, we seek to bring forward and solidify the growing partnership between the Government of Zimbabwe, the United Nations System and Development Partners. As such, we seize this opportunity to enhance our mutual collaboration, and remain committed to further advancing and broadening the scope and spirit of this partnership in Zimbabwe,”

The Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr Mishek Sibanda stressed as well, the importance of partnerships, and highlighted that given the partnership and cooperation between Government and the UN, he was hopeful about achieving results as a country. “It’s also my sincere hope and trust that the programming thrust of the UNCT will shift from relief to recovery, and hence results in more resources being channelled towards development rather than humanitarian activities, as is currently the case,” he said.
UN Celebrates International Women’s Day 2011
...continued from page 2

Dr. Olivia Muchena called upon women to aim higher. Young girls can also be professors, it is not impossible, it can be done she said.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon called for significant progress in women and girls health in his statement which was read by Mr. Alain Noudehou. He said that the September 2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals recognized the central importance of women and girls health, and UN member states pledged strong support for the global strategy to save lives and improve the health of women and children over the next four years.

“Investing in women’s and girls’ opportunities is a good investment, which aside from the direct positive effects on the lives of women and girls, often generates spin-off effects in other development areas. Without this investment we undermine the quality of our democracy, the strength of our economies, the health of our societies and the sustainability of peace,” he said.

The Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Permanent Secretary, Dr. Utete Masango acknowledged the support the Ministry is getting from UNFPA, UNDP and UN Women towards promoting gender equality.

An exhibition of works by women and on women was also mounted in the adjoining gymnastics hall. The United Nations Country Team in Zimbabwe mounted an exhibition of publications on women that were produced by the UN.

The celebration was attended by officials from the government, UN and civil society. This included members of parliament; senators; UN Agencies representatives namely Dr. Tambashe from UNFPA and Ms. Hodan Addou from UN Women; the Deputy Minister of Ministry for Women’s Affairs, Gender and Community Development Honorable Jessie Majome; the Governor for Mashonaland West among others.

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Zimbabwean Musician Oliver Mtukudzi Appointed as UNICEF Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern and Southern Africa

Oliver Mtukudzi, renowned Zimbabwean musician and child rights advocate, has been appointed as UNICEF Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern and Southern Africa. In his new role, Mtukudzi, affectionately known as “Tuku”, will work closely with UNICEF towards young people’s development and HIV prevention in the region.

Mtukudzi is joining another music legend, Yvonne Chaka Chaka of South Africa, who is supporting UNICEF mainly in its efforts to combat Malaria.

“You have demonstrated a genuine commitment to communicating strong and clear messages about the importance of child and young people’s rights, including their right to live free from HIV and AIDS,” UNICEF Regional Director Elhadj As Sy wrote in his appointment letter. “Our Regional Goodwill Ambassadors are chosen not only because of their name recognition, but more particularly because of the respect with which they are held and their appeal as genuine humanitarians.”

Through his powerful lyrics, Mtukudzi has spoken out against stigma, discrimination and abuse of children. His music has gone beyond the Zimbabwean borders and inspired leaders from government and civil society, as well as parents to take more positive steps in promoting children’s rights. With this appointment, he becomes the first Zimbabwean personality among other prominent celebrities, who through their artistic gifts, work with UNICEF in advocating for children’s rights.

“Through his 40-year music career, ‘Tuku’ has championed the plight of the African child,” said UNICEF Representative Dr. Peter Salama. “His songs such as ‘Todii’, and ‘Street Kids’, not only question society’s response to HIV and AIDS and to children living on the streets, but have motivated great progress around these issues.”

The appointment was unveiled on the Day of the African Child, June 16, with participation of Senior Government Officials, civil society, children and UN Agencies including UNDP, FAO, ILO, WHO, WFP and UNFPA.

UNICEF has a long history of enlisting the help of celebrities to advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable children. Currently there is a distinguished roster of international, regional and national Goodwill Ambassadors.

“I am humbled by this recognition of my efforts,” said Mtukudzi. “My role as a musician is to raise awareness and motivate wider responses to the social and economic problems that continue to deprive children of a good development. I am glad I can play my part in speaking on HIV prevention, against abuse, molestation, stigma, and to make our continent a better place for our children.”

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UN Helps to Combat Drug Resistance
– World Health Day 2011 –

Dr. Margaret Chan Director General of WHO.

The 7th of April every year is World Health Day to mark the founding of WHO. Each year, the Organization selects a key health issue and encourages people from all backgrounds and all ages to hold events that highlight the significance of the issue for good health and well being.

This year’s World Health Day focused on the dangers of resistance to today’s infection-fighting drugs. When the first antibiotics were introduced in the 1940s they were considered the miracles of modern medicine. Widespread infections that killed millions of people could now be cured, and life expectancy increased significantly. But resistance to these drugs is growing and is jeopardizing the gains made so far. If this phenomenon continues unchecked, many infectious diseases risk becoming uncontrollable and could derail progress made towards reaching the health related MDGs by 2015.

WHO issued a call for action to halt the spread of drug resistance by introducing a 6 point policy package for all countries to combat drug resistance. These are:

- develop and implement a comprehensive, financed national plan
- strengthen surveillance and laboratory capacity
- ensure uninterrupted access to essential medicines of assured quality
- regulate and promote rational use of medicines
- enhance infection prevention and control
- foster innovation and research and development for new tools.

“On this World Health Day, WHO is issuing a policy package to get everyone, especially governments and their drug regulatory systems, on the right track, with the right measures, quickly,” said Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO. “The trends are clear and ominous. No action today means no cure tomorrow. At a time of multiple calamities in the world, we cannot allow the loss of essential medicines – essential cures for many millions of people – to become the next global crisis.”

Dr. Custodia Mandlhate WHO Representative having her Blood Pressure checked.

In Zimbabwe, drug resistance is not a major issue because of the tight control of medicines by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ). An example is the resistance to the earlier generation anti-malaria medicine, chloroquine and fansidar. The country is now using co-artemether as a first line drug for malaria control.

Since 2008 WHO Zimbabwe has commemorated World Health Day by organizing wellness days for its staff. Present at this years commemorations were UN Agencies that include FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women; as well as representation from the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare. Different medical practitioners and service providers set up tents within the WHO compound and for 2 days people were visiting them for free consultations, other treatment options, and advice on the proper use of medicines to combat resistance.

Different Medical Practitioners and Service Providers offered free consultations, other treatment options and advice on the proper use of medicines to combat resistance.
he Government and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) of Zimbabwe have called for action to improve the status of women and children. The call was made when the Situational Analysis (Sitan) report on the Status of Women’s and Children’s Rights in Zimbabwe was released in Harare this year, a report which showed that access to basic social services and social protection remains limited for children and women in Zimbabwe.

Although the report acknowledges that progress has been made to improve the lives of women and children in Zimbabwe, it notes that reduced access to basic social services, lack of social protection mechanisms, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and child abuse are major impediments for women and children’s development. It also highlights endemic poverty and HIV and AIDS as contributing to high levels of vulnerability.

“The Situational Analysis we are launching today is an important reminder that despite our collective efforts, the status of women and children of this country remains critical,” said UNICEF Country Representative, Dr. Peter Salama. “It should be a reference point for those who are concerned about improving the lives of women and children in Zimbabwe.”

One in four children in Zimbabwe has lost one or both parents due to HIV and other causes. These children are being looked after by extended families and are among the 100 000 child headed households in the country. Every day 100 children under the age of five and eight women are dying from mostly preventable deaths. More than a third of children face permanent limitation on their life and potential due to chronic malnutrition or stunting. In addition, as the economy has faltered, the data demonstrates that the poorest quintiles of the population have suffered the most in terms of declining access to services.

Through its findings the Sitan recommends the development of programmes aimed at supporting access to basic social services for women and children such as the abolition of user fees for pregnant women and children under five and initiating a national social cash transfer programme targeting the poorest, among many others. It also recommends the development of policies and programmes to prevent violence against women and children.

“The Constitution making process presents a window of opportunity for us to address the social and economic disparities faced by women and children which hinder their development,” said Dr Olivia Muchena, Minister of Women’s Affairs, Gender and Community Development. “We must maximise this opportunity.”

Zimbabwe is recovering from a challenging period that led to the decline of the once acclaimed social safety net, leaving many women and children to bear the brunt of this deterioration. As well as recommending the Government of Zimbabwe continues to prioritise the social services, the Sitan encourages the donor community to continue to find transitional financing mechanisms that cushion women and children from hardships and reduce vulnerability.

“If there was ever a time when we needed the support from our local and international development partners, it is now,” said Hon. Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga, the Minister of Regional Integration and International Co-operation. “We call on our local and international partners to support the women and children of Zimbabwe against this background of numerous challenges”.

Developed through combined effort of Government Ministries, civil society, academia, UN agencies and children themselves, the Sitan will be a powerful reference tool to monitor changes in the situation of children and women in Zimbabwe.

“Our progress as a Government should be measured by how successfully we have been in helping women and children, especially the poorest and most vulnerable women and children to realise their rights,” said Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Thokozani Khupe. “We must consider this Situational Analysis of Women and Children as a blue print for collective action to support the most pressing development priority of our times. As Government, we remain committed to accelerate our efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is increasingly clear that women and children are central to the achievements of the majority of these goals.”
Taking Stock of the UN’s Contribution to Zimbabwe’s HIV Response

Zimbabwe still remains among the countries with highest HIV prevalence in the world and has the third largest HIV burden in Southern Africa. Latest estimates place the 2010 adult HIV prevalence at 13.13%, with an estimated 1.2 million people living with the disease.

The UN Secretary General has called on the global community to adopt six goals for the year 2015 towards the fight against HIV. These six goals are: provide HIV treatment for 13 million people; reduce by 50% tuberculosis deaths in people living with HIV; eliminate HIV transmission from mother to child, keep mothers alive, and improve the health of women, children and families; ensure equal access to education for children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS and reduce by 50% the number of countries with HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence. These targets have been incorporated into the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS which was formally adopted on the 10th June 2011 by United Nations Member States at the close of the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS which took place in New York from 8-10 June 2011 in New York. The declaration seeks by 2015 to double the number of people on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment to 15 million, end mother-to-child transmission of HIV, halve tuberculosis-related deaths in people living with HIV, and increase preventive measures for key populations at greater risk of HIV infection. While there has been significant progress in the HIV response in Zimbabwe, significant challenges remain and include the need to scale up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services to achieve Universal Access targets.

The Government of Zimbabwe through the National AIDS Trust Fund (NATF) (3 per cent tax on income) collected USD5.7 million in 2009 and USD15.9 million in 2010 towards the fight against the disease. The National AIDS Council which administers this fund has succeeded in attracting a significant amount of external and internal resources. Bilateral and multilateral agencies contributed a total of USD38 million in 2009 alone. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) has contributed and committed a total of USD158.7 million towards fighting HIV in its Round 8 Phase 1 and 2 Grants; a consortium of bilateral development partners have also supported the national HIV response through the Expanded Support Programme (ESP), which has contributed a total of USD66 million over 2007-10.

Through rigorous implementation of the ‘three ones’ principle in the country’s response which includes one multi-sectoral action framework and response, one national coordinating authority and one monitoring and evaluation system Zimbabwe is one of the first African countries to record a significant drop in HIV prevalence from a peak of 29% in 1997 to 14.26% in 2009. This impressive drop of more than 50% can be attributed to an aggressive social and behaviour change programme and a substantial increase in the accessibility and coverage of Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART). By the end of 2010, 54% of adults were on treatment, up from a mere 8.3% in 2005. This is complemented by a strong Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme and an overall national effort to improve the lives of people living with HIV.

Under the guidance of the UNAIDS, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Population Fund (UNFPA) play a leading role in policy and programmatic issues related to empowering men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people to protect themselves from HIV infection and to fully access antiretroviral therapy, advocacy on removing punitive laws, policies, practices, addressing stigma and discrimination that block effective responses to AIDS. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA co-convene empowerment of young people to protect themselves from HIV. UNICEF also leads in initiatives to enhance the social protection for people affected by HIV, Prevention of Mother to child Transmission in partnership with WHO, while the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) address HIV in humanitarian emergencies. WFP also convenes integration of food and nutrition within the HIV response. The International Labour Organisation works to the scale up HIV workplace policies. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) ensures high-quality education for more effective HIV responses. A strategic and prioritised multi-sectoral national AIDS plans is coordinated by the World Bank.
UN SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT IN CAP 2011

Zimbabwe’s 2011 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) has made some progress, amidst a good, on-going response to humanitarian challenges. According to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) as of 31 May 2011, the $415 million CAP request was 31% funded at $130 million, showing that there has been some support from donors, albeit on a low scale. In comparison, by end of May 2010 Zimbabwe’s CAP requirement of $423 million was 37.5% funded with $158 million.

An assessment of the CAP shows that efforts to improve Zimbabwe’s humanitarian situation have so far this year met with mixed fortunes, characterised by both successes and challenges. Health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) partners successfully responded to disease outbreaks, especially cholera and malaria which have been largely contained through the respective clusters’ Emergency Response Units. The support given towards agricultural inputs at the beginning of the 2010/2011 agriculture season resulted in the achievement of most of the targets by mid-year. Similarly, food aid needs were largely met by the end of the peak lean season from January to March although the impact of the dry spell from February to March 2011 has resulted in increased vulnerabilities.

The CAP is the main tool for humanitarian and recovery coordination, strategic planning, programming and fundraising. It has contributed significantly to developing a more strategic approach to the provision of humanitarian assistance and recovery and fostered closer cooperation between Government, donors, aid agencies, the Red Cross Movement and nongovernmental organisations (NGO). As such, and in order to respond to the evolving context in Zimbabwe, the Government and the Humanitarian Country Team are currently engaged in defining the most adapted approach for 2012, with the development of a humanitarian action plan and a more targeted CAP.

About the United Nations

The United Nations was founded in 1945. It is committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. The organization takes action on a wide range of issues, and provides a forum for its 193 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peace-building, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

In country, the United Nations plays a key role in supporting the Government uplift the standard of living of the people of Zimbabwe. It supports the delivery of coherent, effective and efficient assistance for relief, recovery and development in order to attain internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. As such, the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework focuses on: Governance; Poverty; Agriculture, Lands and Environment; Basic Social Services; HIV and AIDS, and Gender.
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world’s centre of co-operation in the nuclear field. It works with member states and partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the international organization responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialised agency that finances agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organisation that works to ensure the humane and orderly movement of people.

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is the specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for information and communication technologies.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA) is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies.


UNAIDS is the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, it is an innovative partnership that leads the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF) is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nations’ global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

United Nations Education and Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) works to build peace, eradicate poverty and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

UNHABITAT is the United Nations Human Settlement Programme that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency whose mandate is to promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries.

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) links the United Nations with people around the world, disseminating global UN messages to the local audience.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, international crime and terrorism.

United Nations Office for Projects (UNOPS) acts as a service provider to various actors in the development, humanitarian and peacekeeping arenas.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

UNAIDS aims to strengthen capacity of Civic Society Organizations (CSOs) to advocate for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for coordinating postal development activities worldwide.

World Food Programme (WFP) is the food aid arm of the United Nations system.

World Health Organisation (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system.

For additional information, please contact the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in Zimbabwe at rco.zw@one.un.org