

2007 ZAMBIA

Human Development Report

Enhancing household capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS



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Team for the preparation of 2007 Zambia Human Development Report

UNDP Zambia team: Abdoulie Sireh-Jallow, Senior Economist; Elda Chirwa, National Economist; Veera Virmasalo, Communication Officer; Angelah Kumwembe, Administrative Assistant

Team of independent consultants: Dennis Chiwele, Nakando Luo, Augustus Kapungwe

Review team: Akashambatwa Lewanika, National Economic Advisory Council; Alex Simwanza, National AIDS council; Andre' Loosekoot, Embassy of the Netherlands; Anthony Tambatamba, Young Men's Christian Association; Ben Chirwa, National AIDS Council; Bonaventure Mutale, Ministry of Labour and Social Security; Chieftainess Chiyaba, House of Chiefs; Chris Petrouskis, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection; Christine Kaseba, Medical Women Association of Zambia; Clement Mufuzi, Network of People Living with AIDS; Cosmas Musumali, Economic Association of Zambia; E. Kafwembe, Tropical Disease Research Centre; Eato Aall, Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Fund; Elfridah Chulu, Central Statistical Office; Engware Mwale, Non-Governmental Organization Coordination Committee; Flint Zulu, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction; Grace Mtonga, Ministry of Labour and Social Security; Howard Armistead, PATH (A Catalyst for Global Health); J.E.K. Phiri, Cabinet Office-Gender in Development Division; John Milimo, Participatory Poverty Assessment Group; K.V. Masupu, National AIDS Council; Kenneth Mwansa, Alliance of Mayors Initiative to Combat AIDS at the Local Level; Leah D. Mitaba, Non-Governmental Organization Coordination Committee; M. Banda, Central Statistics Office; Millica Mwela, Zambia Association for Research & Development; Mubanga Mishimba, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives; Munda Mwila, Ministry of Energy and Water Development; Muyunda Mwanalushi, Copperbelt University; Ndrew Bowden, German Technical Cooperation; P. Ndubani, Institute of Economic & Social Research; P. Njobvu, Zambia Medical Association; Patrick H. Choolwe, Ministry of Finance and National Planning; Peter Henriot, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection; R. Sikamanu, Zambia Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS; Rana Ahluwala, Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Fund; Rhoda M. Mwiinga, Cabinet Office-Gender in Development Division; Rodwell Vongo, Traditional Health Practitioners Association of Zambia; Ronah K. Lubinda, Royal Danish Embassy; Rosario Fundanga, Global Compact; S. Chibangula, Traditional Health Practitioners Association of Zambia; Simon Nkunika, National Malaria Control Centre; Susan C. Mulenga, Council Churches of Zambia; Taziowa M. Banda, Cabinet Office-Gender in Development Division; Thomas M.C Mambwe, Zambia Open University; V. Ncube, Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants; Victor Chabala, Young Men's Christian Association; W.S. Mweenda, Law Association of Zambia; Waza Kaunda, Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Fund; William Muyaka, Central Statistics Office; Yussuf Ayami, Zambia Interfaith NGO Network

Peer reviewers: Alex Zinanga, UNDP Zimbabwe; Sennye Obuseng, UNDP Botswana

UN system readers: Barbara Barungi, RBA, UNDP; Catherine Sozi, UNAIDS; Golden Mulilo, UNFPA; Josefina Halme, UNDP; Lamin Manneh, RBA, UNDP; Rosemary Kumwenda, UNDP; Saskia Husken, FAO; Yolaine Michaud, RBA, UNDP

Message from the Government

HIV and AIDS is one of the major development challenges facing Zambia. The epidemic has affected every fabric of human existence. It has become the major cause of illness and death among the young and middle aged Zambians, who are the most productive age group. Consequently, it has deprived households and society of a critical human resource base. Further, it is reversing the social and economic gains the country is striving to attain. It has also continued to diminish the chances of alleviating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child and maternal mortality and ensuring environmental sustainability. In effect, HIV and AIDS is among the factors limiting the achievement of the MDGs.

In view of the foregoing, the Zambian Government has declared HIV and AIDS as a national disaster and emergency requiring concerted efforts for all relevant stakeholders. While there have been major advancement in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care in Zambia, efforts to significantly scale up responses to HIV and AIDS have been inadequate.

In view of the above, it is clear that HIV and AIDS is a huge challenge to development and therefore, there should be no business as usual. In trying to respond to this challenge, I urge all our cooperating partners to consider coming up with strategies that will help to prevent new infections; designing programmes that address specific problems brought about by HIV and AIDS such as taking care of children orphaned by the disease; and mitigating the effects of HIV and AIDS on poverty.

Furthermore, a more systematic approach is needed to build local capacity to manage a comprehensive response to the epidemic. To this end, the focus of the Report on enhancing household capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS is very appropriate and timely. Therefore, I would like to encourage all our development partners to read this Report and consider how they can adopt some of the ideas in the Report.



Ng'andu P. Magande, M.P.
Minister of Finance and National Planning

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