

NATIONAL YOUTH CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY



THE WORLD PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR  
YOUTH (WPAY)

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE EVALUATION

REPORT

ZAMBIA

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## CHAPTER 1

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Tenth Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth provides an opportunity to review the national and global situation of young people and to reaffirm the need for greater efforts to address the Programme's priority areas. To this end, young people world-wide are involved in consultative activities for the ten-year Programme review.

In 1995 United Nations adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), to the year 2000 and beyond. The World Programme of Action for Youth initially had ten priority areas however taking into consideration new challenges facing the Youth, five more priority areas were included. The WPAY therefore has 15 priority areas of action namely;

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Hunger and, Poverty,
4. Environment
5. Health
6. Drug abuse
7. Juvenile delinquency
8. Leisure-time activities
9. Girls and young women
10. The full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making.
11. Globalisation
12. Information and Communication Technologies
13. HIV/AIDS
14. Youth and Conflict prevention
15. Inter-Generation Relations

In preparation for the special meeting to review the implementation of the WPAY at the 2005 General Assembly, the United Nations Secretariat will be evaluating progress made in achieving the agreed upon actions in WPAY. This marks ten years after the adoption of WPAY.

This evaluation is based on Government reports alongside civil society reports prepared by Youth organisations and other stakeholders.

In Zambia, the National Youth Constitutional Assembly (NYCA) is the coordinating agency facilitating the Youth NGOs' WPAY evaluation process.

In December 2004, NYCA convened a preparatory meeting with representatives of youth organisations and the Government to develop a work plan on the preparation process of the evaluation process.

NYCA conducted a training workshop on research methodologies for participating organisations in the WPAY evaluation in January 2005.

## **1.2 WPAY EVALUATION OBJECTIVES**

- To identify and document existing Youth Programmes in Zambia in line with the WPAY.
- To involve Youths in the monitoring of Youth Programmes in Zambia through the WPAY evaluation process
- To identify gaps that exist in the implementation of youth programmes and recommend effective means of implementing youth programmes.

## **1.3 METHODOLOGY**

This report was produced utilising the Empirical and the Participatory methods.

The empirical method was used to look for verifiable facts and figures as a way of illustrating aspects, effects, factors and causes of surrounding issues under review.

Comprehensive institutional data from government departments and other institutions was collected and analysed. They included the National Youth policy, National Plan of Action for Youth, Education Policy, documents from Central Board of Health (CBoH), Ministry of Labour, Central Statistics Office and Youth Organisations

The participatory method was used to identify perspectives and observations from various stakeholders and actors in Youth development through consultative meetings, review of documents, interviews and observations.

## **1.4 LIMITATIONS**

The evaluating team had limited access to stakeholders outside Lusaka city. The team relied on available data.

## **1.5 FOCUS AREAS OF THE EVALUATION**

This report focuses on seven priority areas namely, Education, Employment, Health, HIV/AIDS, Girls and Young women and The full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **SITUATION ANALYSIS OF YOUTH IN ZAMBIA**

The population of Zambia is estimated at 9.9 million of which 21 percent is composed of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 (Central Statistics Office, 2000).

The situation of youth in Zambia has changed drastically since the last youth policy was approved for implementation a decade ago (1994). Since then, there have been programmes implemented such as the establishment of 16 youth resource centres in 16 districts. A number of youth organisations have also been established and are running youth programmes and projects. Among these are HIV/AIDS, peer education and vocational skills training, agricultural and social welfare projects. These have complimented government programmes, however with limited capacity to adequately meet youth needs.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) is crucial for a knowledge-based economy for youth development. Rapid advances in technology have opened up new avenues of opportunity for the youth but for the last ten years modern technology in Zambia has been confined to urban areas. Urban youth have appreciated access to modern communication facilities such as the Internet, which has broadened their scope of access to information and improved networking with other youth programmes in other countries. Some urban youth and most rural youth still have no access to these facilities.

Rural youths have access to a number of natural resources such as timber, honey and fish, which have been sources of their livelihood. What are lacking are industries to process and package these resources into finished products. In addition there are inadequate markets for the products.

Most youth programmes in Zambia are further affected by a number of factors. These include: poor information flow from the Government and other stakeholders to the young people at district level; inadequate staffing levels and resources in the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development. Poor access to the rural youth by the Ministry of sport; Youth and Child Development and other service providers limit youth participation in national youth programmes. As a result there has been poor coordination and networking of youth programmes in the districts as well as Provinces, leading to fragmentation. Poor road network and communication facilities have also contributed to poor information flow to young people.

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rates among the youth, in the range of 16 – 21% have proved a great threat to youth development in Zambia. Poverty levels that have affected 78 percent of the Zambian population, inadequate recreation facilities and limited information on HIV/AIDS especially in rural areas have contributed to these high levels of HIV/AIDS infections.

Despite the high levels of HIV/AIDS, young people have been unable to access ARVs due to poor information flow, stigma. Reproductive health services are inadequate to cater for the demand especially in rural areas. Additionally there is no clear HIV/AIDS policy to provide the necessary mandate for rendering services to all the youth.

Youth unemployment is critical both in the formal and informal sectors. The overall unemployment rate for youth in the age group 15-19 is 22.6%. The unemployment rate for 15-19 girls is 20.9% and 24.5 % for 15-19 boys. The overall unemployment rate for ages 20 - 24 years is 20.8%. While the unemployment rate for the girls aged between 20 - 24 years is 18.1% and that of the boys is 22.9% (CSO, 2000-2001). The closure of industries in the various provinces due to the economic decline has reduced formal employment opportunities for young people. The limited number of Skills Centers, which are only two per Province, has limited youth's access to informal employment. This has been worsened by inadequate youth friendly credit facilities, which are a source of small-scale entrepreneurship among the young people. Furthermore youth find it difficult to access land and therefore cannot go into agricultural activities. Youth in their productive period therefore remain unemployed and continue to suffer from poor health.

Secondary Education is accessible for only a few young people while tertiary education is largely inaccessible due to the few colleges and universities in Zambia. The high fees in the tertiary institutions further worsen this. For instance, 6.2% of youth in the age group 15-19 years have had no schooling at all. 5.9% of youth in the age group 20-24 years have attained no schooling. 46.1% of youth between 15-19 years of age have some primary education and 25.8% among the age group 20-24 years have attained some primary education. Further, 18.7% of the age group 15-19 years have finished primary school while 21.4% among the age group 20-24 years have completed primary school. 26.6% youth of the age group 15-19 years have some secondary education while 28.8 percent among the age group 20-24 years have also some secondary education. Unfortunately only 2.1% among the age group 15-19 years have completed school and 14.2% among the age group 20-24 have completed school. 0.1% only have more than secondary education among the age group 15-19 years. Among the age group 20-24 years old only 3.6% have more than secondary education (CSO, 2000-2001).  
(Draft National Youth Policy 2005)

Majority of youth in Zambia are socially and economically disadvantaged. They have no adequate access to the basic conditions required to develop and live an independent life. It has been realised that youth have been

neglected or rather marginalized in decision-making processes in the private and public sectors due to delayed retiring age and demand for experience. These conditions are youth unfriendly and have lead to lack of representation in matters that affect them.

However there is hope in that the youth in Zambia have become vibrant and innovative and have been identified as possible source of manpower for development.

#### **DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

For the purpose of the Youth Policy in Zambia youth is defined as male or female persons aged between 15 to 24 years. However the current draft National Youth Policy recommends the age range of 15 to 30 years.

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## CHAPTER 3

### FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN THE LIFE OF SOCIETY AND IN DECISION-MAKING

#### **Action 1:**

*Governments agreed to “Improving access to information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making”*

#### **Action 3:**

*Governments agreed to “Encouraging and promoting youth associations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities”*

#### **Action 4:**

*Governments agreed to “Taking into account the contributions of youth in designing, implementing and evaluating national policies and plans affecting their concerns”*

The need to promote youth participation has been realised, and to that effect deliberate measures by the government have been undertaken to promote youth participation, however despite this acknowledgement youth participation is still wanting.

Among the measures that have been undertaken to incorporate youth participation in national affairs has been the creation of a decentralised department to facilitate youth development.

The establishment of the National Youth Development Council (NYDC) created under an act of parliament aims to facilitate youth empowerment through implementation of the National Youth Policy. However, observations show that the NYDC is not an autonomous body as the current national legislation does not allow for an elective board, but one nominated by the Minister responsible for youth.

Government ministries have youth development programmes. These programmes, however, the programmes are little known by young people themselves.

Through youth organisations, the Government has financially supported young people's empowerment. This support however has been inadequate in comparison to the needs of young people.

Young people have participated in international conferences and fora. This has helped young people to express their concerns. Need has been identified to incorporate the rural youth in such delegations in order to strike a balance in representation. The Youths have also identified the need for inclusion of Young people in Government delegations to United Nations and other regional meetings.

International youth exchange programme which encourage intercultural exchange among the young people of diverse culture have been promoted. Similar national exchange programmes are lacking.

Skills training programmes have facilitated placement of young people to resettlement scheme. A Youth College for Youth workers and Youth Leaders to offer professional youth training has been established. The Government with the support of the Commonwealth Youth Programme offers distance training for Youth workers.

The government involved young people in the revision and formulation of the National Youth Policy. Young people are represented on the National Youth Week organising committee, which organises youth celebrations in Zambia. Youth representation on this committee has however been inadequate, as there are few youth representatives thereby making it adult dominated, creating views among young people that it has led to predominantly adult generated ideas.

**Action 5:**

Governments agreed to “Encouraging increased national, regional and international Cooperation and exchange between youth organisations”

**Action 6:**

Governments agreed to “Strengthening the involvement of young people in international forums, inter alia, by considering the including of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly”

Zambia has several youth led youth organisations working at enhancing youth participation in national affairs. Operations of these organisations is mainly dependent on donor funding. The poor financial base of Zambian youth organisations has led to high staff turn over. Most founder members of youth organisations are reluctant to relinquish leadership positions in youth organisations despite being above the age group targeted by the organisations.

Youth organisations are involved in diverse activities. Among these include HIV/AIDS sensitisation, promotion of youth participation through youth parliaments, advocacy for youth involvement in voting and research activities.

Some have networking activities at local, national and international levels. This has led to the creation of networks among youth organisations, which has led to collective lobby and advocacy efforts. These are mostly urban-based youth organisations. Rural youth organisations have been disadvantaged by limited access to resources as these are predominantly urban based.

Youth organisations are involved in civic education for both school and out of school youth. Civic education by young people compliments government civic education efforts.

## **FININCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO YOUTH PROGRAMMES IN ZAMBIA**

Local and International NGOs have youth programmes alongside their core programmes. These organisations have been a source of funding for various youth activities in the country. It has been observed that youth organisations have increasingly accessed funding from these organisations other than the government. However, this funding is restricted to areas and geographical regions of the country where these organisations' operations are focussed.

Intergovernmental and International Organisations have greatly contributed in supporting Government programmes as well as those of Youth NGO's however limited resources have greatly compromised the quality of service rendered and sustainability of Youth organisations.

## **PROFILES OF ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE WPAY REVIEW**

### **Girl Guides Association of Zambia**

A uniformed Youth led non- profit organisation whose core activity is to build leadership skills among young people with a particular focus on the Girl-child. The organisation is involved in advocating for quality education, promoting girl child education and creating awareness on the HIV/ AIDS pandemic.

### **Zambia Scouts Association**

A uniformed Youth led non- profit organisation whose core activity is to build leadership skills among young people through equipping them with survival skills. Activities address emerging issues like HIV/AIDS and Streetism.

### **Rural Youth and Children in Need (RYOCHIN)**

A Youth Non – Governmental Organisation involved in Juvenile crime prevention activities as well as rehabilitation of juveniles in conflict with the law. RYOCHIN provides counselling and skills training facilities to its target group.

### **National Youth Constitutional Assembly (NYCA)**

A Youth organisation established to provide a platform for young people to participate in the conduct of Social, Economical and Political Affairs of the Nation, NYCA is a convenor of School and Youth Parliaments in Zambia. NYCA is involved in citizenship education, Youth Policy implementation monitoring and promoting Youth Participation at all levels of National development.

### **Youth Employment Summit (YES) - Zambia Network**

A Youth led organisation that aims to lobby and advocate for youth job creation in the country. It is involved in developing strategies aimed at alleviating the suffering of young people through job creation. Entrepreneurship training and Business Youth Mentorship Programme are the core activities.

**Youth Vision Zambia**

A Youth-led organisation aimed at involving young people in evaluating Adolescent Health strategies and conducts Research.

**Operation Young Vote**

A civic Youth Organisation established to involve young people in monitoring the Electoral Process in Zambia, The organisation also deals in Debt cancellation campaigns.

**Youthnet Zambia**

An organisation formed with focus on the following issues related to Youth Empowerment and Participation Governance and Democracy, Advocacy Campaigns, Gender, Poverty and HIV/AIDS.

**National Youth Development Council**

A statutory board established by an Act of Parliament to facilitate Youth empowerment processes.

**DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

A Government department responsible for planning and co-ordinating the implementation of Youth programmes in Zambia.

**Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)**

A development agency working directly with the Commonwealth governments focused exclusively on young people aged 15-29. CYP is involved in:

- Promoting youth enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods in Commonwealth member countries;
- Facilitating the development and effective operation of youth networks and structures for good governance;
- Developing and promoting youth work education and training for the professionalisation of the youth sector;
- Assisting governments in creating the enabling environment for young people's participation in economies, societies and governance;
- Disseminating and communicating experiences, results, lessons learned and best practices in youth development; and
- Providing opportunities for young people to develop critical knowledge and skills in the use of information technology to create employment and share experiences.

## CHAPTER 4

### POVERTY AND YOUTH EMPLOYEMENT

The World Development Report (1990) defines poverty as the **inability to attain a minimal standard of living** and the World Bank Report (1994) defines a poor household as one that is unable to attain a standard of living that is consistent with social standards and deprived of assets to fulfil basic needs. Measures of the standard of living include household income and expenditure per capita or consumption based measures, and social indicators such as nutrition, school enrolment, literacy levels, access to safe water supply and sanitation and access to health facilities.

Young people interviewed defined poverty as a situation of lacking food, clothes and money. The cited lack of securing jobs as the main cause of Youth Poverty in Zambia. The government of Zambia through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) initiated some poverty reduction programmes but non-of these Programmes however with minimal impact on Youth development.

The major sources of livelihood among young people in the cities and other urban set ups are street vending, employment in public transport sector (drivers and conductors) and small fraction of young people is engaged in formal employment and to some extent prostitution and stealing. The Major source of livelihood in the rural area is subsistence farming.

#### Employment Action 1:

Governments agreed to promoting “Opportunities for self-employment”

#### Employment Action 2:

Governments” agreed to providing “Employment opportunities for specific groups of young people

The declining formal sector employment over the past 10 years has negatively impacted on youth. In 1998, 62% of the population aged 12 years and above were in the labour force or were economically active (CSO). There have been retrenchments in the most productive sectors of the economy and increase in jobs in financial, trade and transport have not been able to absorb the retrenched persons from other sectors. The change of mindset from white-collar job expectation has proven to be a major challenge.

There is a growing evidence of the problematic transition of young people in Zambia. Typically or traditionally, transition programmes for youth have been seen as movement or pathway to work. The education system in Zambia has been designed to promote among others **Post-secondary education, Vocational training, Integrated employment** (including supported employment schemes) and **Continuing and adult education**. Many young people do not complete secondary school, while only a negligible proportion acquire tertiary education. There has been some attempt to create vocational pathways at the upper secondary school levels, these are not accessible to

many youth in the rural areas. The growing problematic transition of youth in Zambia today implies that there is no systematic process aimed at preparing both out of school youth and in school youth (including school leavers) for training and employment, especially in entrepreneurship and self-employment. As a result, the sequence in Zambia has become “school/Street-Youth-Unknown.

it is estimated that youth unemployment among youth aged 15-24 has risen to about 44% in recent years. Youth unemployment was slightly lower among females 21% compared to 25% in the age group 15-19 and 18% compared to 23% in the age group 20-25-(CSO-2000 census)

### **Poverty Action 2:**

Governments agreed to providing “Skill-training for income-generation by young people”

Government had put in place measures to help youth be self reliant through engaging in micro-small enterprises as a strategy for youth employment creation. The Government attempted to establish credit schemes that are targeted exclusively at youth. These are

**Youth Enterprise Promotion Fund** whose aim is to provide loans to youth groups and individuals, although the response from youth was overwhelming, it was not able to meet the demands due to limited resources.

**Constituency Youth Fund Scheme (CYFS)** whose aim is to evenly distribute resources at constituency level, has become politicised, with allegations that the main beneficiaries were/are members of the ruling party.

**The Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI)**, a credit delivery scheme that provides unemployed youths with access to start up capital and/or expand their entrepreneurial activities. The scheme was faced with operational challenges in monitoring, resulting in poor loan recovery.

## CHAPTER 5

### EDUCATION

*“ Governments in the WPAY agreed to improving the level of basic education, skills training and literacy among youth”.*

*To this effect the government through the Ministry of Education, has worked towards the agreement by putting in place deliberate programmes and policies in the education sector, to create an enabling environment for young people to progress in life through education, as is the single most important factor for young people to lead productive and responsible lives.*

Access to Education is an important indicator for levels of poverty as it affects and is affected by other areas of life such as health, nutrition, employment and earnings. It is emphasised that a school system should provide quality education as a precondition for development.

Every individual has the right to education. Article 26 of the United Nation Universal Declaration of human rights states that education is a human rights, and that elementary education in particular should be free and compulsory.

In line with the Education for All (EFA) goals Zambia has made commitments. Under this theme activities for young children, 0-5 years old, have expanded, with emphasis on community based intervention. Enrolment has increased from 2 percent in 1990s to 25 percent in the year 2000. In 1998, only 8.4 percent of children going into grade 1 had access to Early Childhood Care, Education, and Development (ECCED). Rural areas received little attention with only 2.7 percent of children having ECCED experience, compared with 23.6 percent in urban areas.

The Basic Education Sub-sectors Investment Programme (BESSIP) has been a priority. Suffice to say that the program only promotes grade 1-7. This has not worked very well in as far as WPAY is concerned as this means that the average Zambian pupil has been denied a Comprehensive Education that can form a firm foundation for the future. Enrolments at primary level, in particular from 1996, have increased marginally. In 1996, there were 1,547,389 pupils enrolled from grade 1-7 and by 1998 this figures dropped slightly to 1,555,707. Consequently, universal basic education has not been achieved. Dropout rates have also increased and by 1996 they ranged between 4.5 percent and 10.3 percent for grade 1 and 6.

With respect to secondary school level has not received adequate attention either in terms of expansion, rehabilitation, education material support and curriculum review. As a consequence, the quality of teaching and learning has been adversely affected. Currently, less than 50 percent of primary school leavers are absorbed by secondary schools. Similarly, progression from grade 9-10 has fluctuated between 16.5 percent and 20.5 percent in the 1990s.

Very few students graduating from secondary school find places in tertiary institutions due to a severely limited number of secondary school. The University of Zambia for example has on average only of about 4,500 students registered at any one time. Similarly, very few students who graduate from secondary school go into teacher training colleges. There are a total of 350 skills training institutions of various sizes registered with the Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Authority (TEVETA). Of these, the Trades Training Institutes, which total to 23 are large while the rest are small, most of these institutions are urban based, located mainly in Lusaka and the Copperbelt province. A total of 22,000 youths are engaged in some kind of skills training, this number is desperately small compared to over 600,000 young people who is not receiving any skills training.

### **Curriculum Reforms, Major Changes, Successes and Constraints**

One of the main purposes of the school system is to provide quality education to all students.

The Government reviewed the National Curriculum with focus to safeguard the right to the fullest possible personal development through high standards of teaching and educational support that promotes really effective learning.

To this effect, major curriculum reforms have been undertaken in the Basic school that from grade 1-9 and the high school from grades 10-12.

Basic School Education is sub-divided into lower and middle basic education and the upper basic education.

### **Government Commitments to Distance Education**

The Ministry of Education continues to be committed in the provision of Continuing and Distance Education. The Department of Continuing and Distance Education is responsible for four major types of educational programmes which are (i) Providing junior and senior secondary course (ii) Organising and managing open secondary schools study (iii) Organising and teaching evening classes at primary and secondary level and (iv) Training in specific skills for recent school leavers and adults in schools for Continuing Education.

The Policy on Continuing and Distance Education recognises the central importance of Continuing and Distance Education for personal development, updating knowledge and skills and for overcoming those disadvantaged during initial education stages.

### **Non-Formal Education Promotion**

The Technical Vocational Education Training Authority (TEVETA) has comprehensive skills training programmes which aim to improve the skills in human resource for both formal and non-formal sectors. TEVETA is involved in curriculum review to meet demands of the job market. The certificates awarded to the individuals who graduate through TEVETA are recognised by employers in trades, technical and commercial field.



### **Accessibility of Education to Young People**

Good quality education brings about personal, social, economical and educational benefits. It enables young people to realise their potential as they develop into complete and integral persons and prepared for life.

### **Access to Basic Education**

Since the commencement of the basic school movement in the 1980s, the number proceeding grade 7 to grade 8 have than doubled, the number selected from the 1995 grade 7 candidates being 122 percent more than in 1984. That was a remarkable achievement. Nevertheless the data show clearly that the provision of upper basic education is quite inadequate and that the benefits of education at this level are not equally available across the country. The inadequacy of provision is most pronounced at entry point, with room in grade 8 classes for less than one third those who complete grade 7. In 1996 only 56,620 grade 7 pupils were selected for progression to grade 8 out of the total 180,054 who sat for the selection examination late in 1995 giving a progression rate of 33.1 percent.

In 1990, there was 140 government and grant aided secondary schools with a total enrolment of 68,379. In 1996, these schools increased by 40 percent or 228. In 1999, enrolment increased 142,069. The introduction of Academic Production Unit (APU) these run from grade 8-12.

### **The Role of NGOs/Youth in the Promotion of Education for Youth**

NGO's participate in the promotion of education in Zambia. NGOs, private sector and churches play an active role in availing resources for service delivery in schools and other training institutions. This financial involvement of parents, the community and the wider NGO sector is central to the improvement and expansion of education, within the framework of liberalisation and complimentary role to government resources.

### **Community/Institution Participation**

The participation of the voluntary agencies is greatest at the secondary level, where there are 44 schools catering for over 26,000 pupils, that is 13% of total secondary enrolment.

The drastic reduction in public resources for education has resulted in a major part of the direct cost being transferred to Parents Teachers Associations.

The private sector has also played a significant role in the provision of education through private schools by individuals and organisations. Private sector and NGOs mainly target disadvantaged/marginalized groups. This diversity in focus makes the sector unique, interesting and enriching to the education environment in the country.

Civil society organisations play a watch dog roles to ensure that government provides quality education to its young people.

## **CONSTRAINTS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR**

Major constraints facing the education sector were identified as Access, Cost, infrastructure, human resource, negative cultural beliefs that favour the boy child.

## CHAPTER 6

### Girls and Young Women

#### *Girls and Young Women Action 2:*

*Governments agreed to ensure “Universal and equal access to and completion of primary education for girls and young women as well as equal access to secondary and higher education”*

The major policy objective of government is to promote equality in access to participation in successful completion of education at all levels, irrespective of gender. The Ministry of Education aims at ensuring that girl's like other disadvantaged target groups become equal participants and beneficiaries of education at all levels.

The Ministry of Education is committed to the socio-economical improvement and empowerment of women and girls through various programmes and affirmative actions. The National Policy on Education gives high priority to education of girls and the elimination of all gender disparities within the education sector.

Currently, girls' enrolments in Grade one is almost equal to that of boys. In subsequent grades, however, the number of girls decreases steadily, with a noticeably high female drop outs from Grade 4 onwards. These gender disproportions are more obvious in rural areas mainly because of , work load at household level, early pregnancies and marriages, preference of sending the boy child to school and, teachers/parents' attitude towards girl children.

The Ministry of Education has attempted to improve girls' participation and retention in schools through the Programme for the Advancement of Girls' Education (PAGE) and the Bursary Scheme for vulnerable girls at basic and high school level to some level University.

PAGE aims at increasing girls' enrolment, progression and equality of education by creating girl-friendly schools, sensitising communities and parents on girl child education, creating single sex classes for girls and the Re-Entry Policy – Allowing girls with children to return to school

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **HEALTH**

#### *Action 1:*

*Governments agreed to ensuring “Provision of basic health services”*

Zambia has been implementing the health reforms since 1992 under the framework of the Sector Wider Approach (SWAP), which takes a holistic development approach in view of the sector.

The sector is facing numerous problems principally caused by the double burden of declining resources in real terms and escalating disease burden. The sector, however, has some strengths and in-built opportunities, which can be utilised to make it more efficient and equitable.

With the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which came to an end in 2004, the government through the MoH has tried to address some of the disparities in the health sector.

#### **ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH**

Youths in Zambia do not have preferential treatment when it comes to accessing health facilities and it should be mentioned that there is no deliberate policies or programmes in that direction.

Specific attention has been towards component of the Basic Health Package that is pro poor in impact. However, current mechanisms to protect and target interventions to the vulnerable groups in society has been reviewed and refined to ensure that user fees are not a barrier to the poor accessing public health services.

#### **YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES**

Youth Friendly Corners are in place in most of the hospitals and clinics (health centres) although much focus is in the area of HIV/AIDS and Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI's) through Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT). Treatment is done in the area of STI's and in case of HIV/AIDS victims are referred for CD4 count and later put on ARV's.

#### **PROMOTION OF HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**

The school curriculum at Basic and High school level offers '*Health Education*'. This is done through subjects such as Home Economics, Environment Science, Social Moral and Spiritual Education and Human and Social Biology. Extra curricular activities such as Reproductive Health (RH) and HIV/AIDS Education Clubs are designed to complement the curriculum.

Areas of major concern include HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, environmentally related sicknesses and the general health and well being of people. Physical education and Sport is gaining increased recognition.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF HEALTH EDUCATION**

The implementation and evaluation of the curriculum in particular the Health Education component lays in the education practitioners or specialists and stakeholders such as teachers, faith-based organisations, civic leaders and the community leaders. The wider community also plays a major role in monitoring and implementation of Health education.

### **YOUTH NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION INTERVENTIONS**

NGO's in the youth fraternity have formulated various school outreach programmes. Very prominent is the Youth Alive Zambia (YAZ) which conducts Life Skills workshops and Behavioural Change Process (BCP) seminars especially in government schools, other organisations carry out one off seminars and workshops on different topics under the theme Health Education.

Through the National Youth Constitutional Assembly, School Parliaments have been established and it is envisaged that the School Parliaments will discuss critical issues such as free Access to Basic Health by Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC's), access to Reproductive Health Education, taboos in discussing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and Gender in youth Development.

Positive developments have been in the area of creating reproductive health information which can easily be understood by young people such as adverts, posters and brochures through a Programme called the Help Each other Act Responsible Together (H.E.A.R.T) campaign spear headed by the Zambia Integrated Health Programme (ZIHP).

The representation of one Youth Worker on the HIV/AIDS Council is also one way the young people are involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of health information and services such as HIV/AIDS information.

The drawing up of the PRSP of 2002-2004 saw young people involved in the development of the strategy paper with representation in cardinal areas such as Health. Young people have continued to be involved in monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

## **PREVENTION OF DISEASE, ILLNESS AND EXPLOITATION**

*WPAY Action 5 and 6, Governments agreed "to promotion of good sanitation and hygiene practices" and also agreed "to prevention of disease and illness among young people resulting from poor health practices"*

The Ministry of Health (MoH) through the Central Board of Health (CBoH) has continued to provide awareness and education of drinking safe and clean water, washing hands after using the latrines and washing of fruits before eating, this is done to avoid common disease such as cholera and diarrhoea. This is done through adverts on National Television and Radio station. The other mode is through drama to carry out sensitisation and awareness programmes in the community on issues pertaining to water and sanitation.

Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) under the Ministry of Home Affairs has in place a Programme targeting young people in combating issues of drug and Substance abuse and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse. The creation of Anti Drug and Substance Abuse Clubs in schools both at Basic and Secondary school has facilitated awareness on the adverse effects of drug and Substance abuse. Further, the commemoration on the World Anti Drugs day serves to provide awareness among young people but and the country.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### HIV/AIDS

#### *Action 1:*

*Governments agreed to “By 2003, ensure the development and implementation of multisectoral national strategies and financing plans for combating HIV/AIDS”*

#### *Action 2:*

*Governments agreed to “By 2003, integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support and impact mitigation priorities into the mainstream of development planning...”*

#### *Action 3:*

*Governments agreed to “By 2003, establish time-bound national targets to achieve the internationally agreed global prevention goal to reduce by **2005** HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15 to 24 in the most affected countries by 25 per cent and by 25 per cent globally by 2010...”*

#### *Action 4:*

*Governments agreed to “By 2003, establish national prevention targets, recognizing and addressing factors leading to the spread of the epidemic and increasing people’s vulnerability, to reduce HIV incidence for those identifiable groups...”*

#### *Action 4:*

*Governments agreed to “By **2005**, ensure that at least 90 per cent, and by 2010 at least 95 per cent of young men and women aged 15 to 24 have access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection; in full partnership with youth, parents, families, educators and health-care providers”*

#### *Action 5:*

*Governments agreed to “By 2003, develop and by **2005** implement national policies and strategies to: build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS including by providing appropriate counselling and psycho-social support; ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition, health and **social** services on an equal basis with other children; to protect orphans and vulnerable children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance”*

Generally Zambians become sexually active at quite a young age. In 2003, among young people 15-19 years old, 28% of boys and 44% of girls reported having had sex within the last twelve months. The average age for first sex is around 17 in females and 17.5 in males. In Zambia, sexual contact is the direct cause of about 80% of new HIV infections. According to the demographic and health survey, the HIV prevalence rate for the entire country was 16% in 2002. HIV prevalence rates among the youth are high especially

among the females. HIV/AIDS levels among the youth are estimated at 16.3 percent for females and 4.4 percent for males aged between 15 – 24 years, 25.1 percent for females and 15 percent for males in the age range 25 – 29 years while in the higher age groups of 30 – 34 years, it is estimated at 29.4 percent females and 20.5 percent males are infected.

### **Political Commitment**

The current National HIV/AIDS STI and TB intervention strategic plan was formulated from an analysis of the critical causal factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS and the social and economic impacts of the epidemic on the Zambian society. The strategic plan identifies eight causal factors and some of them are unsafe sex, inadequate monitoring of HIV/AIDS response and coordination of the response, increased number of orphans due to deaths vertical mother-to - child transmission of HIV and increased number of orphans due to deaths. The plan does not recognize that economic disempowerment of young peoples especially young women and girls are one of the critical causal factors of the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country.

The plan recognizes the fact that young people lack accurate and adequate information, and does not have access to preventive measures such as condoms. The plan has interventions to address the situation. One of them is to promote the implementation of multi-sectoral behavior change communication campaigns by encouraging safe sex practices so as to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence in the 15-19 age group by developing and disseminating information packages, which are culturally sensitive on safe sex practices for different categories of the sexually active. Ensure the implementation of information dissemination on HIV transmission and prevention methods by training teachers in schools to give this information as part of the lessons and incorporate life skill training in the curriculum. For out of school youth, whose population is lower than those that go to school<sup>i</sup> ensure the dissemination of the information through NGOs that give out reproductive health information in communities. Develop IEC material on HIV/AIDS and disseminate the information through electronic and print media.

Apart from the National HIV/AIDS strategic plan which recognizes the importance of catering for youth there are no policies that specifically target the provision of sexual and reproductive health information and services to young people either in or out of school neither are there policies that ensure that youth have access to youth friendly health services and access HIV/AIDS interventions especially condoms. There is however a Programme under the ministry of health that trains service providers to be youth friendly and has established youth friendly health corners in health centers.

There is therefore need for the formulation and implementation of policies that ensure that sexual and reproductive health information is incorporated into the school curriculum and that out of school youth have access to this information through other modes. The policy should also ensure the provision of youth friendly reproductive health services that are accessible and affordable to young people. The draft HIV/AIDS policy must be passed and implemented



and must address the plight of youth living with HIV and the reduction of HIV/AIDS. It must also address the reduction of prevalence rates in young women by ensuring the implementation of programs that specifically target young women.

### **Financial Commitment**

The HIV/AIDS funds are designed to support a broad range of prevention, care, support and treatment programs. Resources for HIV/AIDS come from international sources, the government budget, the private sector and individual households. Estimating past expenditures on HIV/AIDS and projecting future needs is difficult. Zambia has not had a National HIV/AIDS Account (NHAA) to track the different financial inflows for HIV/AIDS interventions and the amounts spent on those different interventions. A NHAA would permit better tracking of future financial investments into the fight against HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS estimates, low-and middle –income countries will need a total of \$ 9.2 billion per year by 2005 from all sources, including households, to address the epidemic. Currently, these countries are spending about \$ 2.2 billion per year, the projected annual shortfall of \$ 7 billion must be met over the next few years to mount an effective response to the epidemic

The World Bank, which has provided a five year \$42 million grant through the second multi-country HIV/AIDS Programme for Africa. The U.S government has also chosen Zambia as a recipient under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR). PEPFAR has committed \$90 million to Zambia for 2005. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development has also initiated a five-year Programme at a minimal cost of 20 million pounds. In August 2004 the Global Fund, which is an independent fund initiated by the United Nations to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria, made Zambia eligible to receive \$478 million of which \$346million is for HIV/AIDS work. From the government budget allocations and the funds from donors, it is not clearly specified what percentage would be used for youth programs.

NGOs and international organisations fund most youth programmes. The government mostly funds youth programmes related to information dissemination especially abstinence and delay of first sexual encounter for young people. Most of the funds from donors comes with conditions, for example, youth programmes that involve the distribution of condoms and the provision of sexual and reproductive health information without a focus on abstinence only, do not receive funds from donors like the U.S government.

There is an urgent need to allocate funds to all youth programmes that are making efforts towards combating HIV/AIDS. The separation of HIV/AIDS from the rest of Sexual and Reproductive health programs has been an issue of concern that needs serious attention. The magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic poses a threat not only to the development of the country but also to the survival of sexual and reproductive health programmes. At the same time the importance of sexual and reproductive health in resolving the HIV/AIDS epidemic must be recognised and appropriate measures taken. Since the

development of the global funds for AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria, donor countries have increasingly seen HIV/AIDS as their main target for funding and organisations have stopped providing Reproductive health services and rushed for greener pastures in Global Funds.

### **Access to Information and Services**

Young people have access to information and education about HIV/AIDS through the publication of Information Education and Communication materials (IEC), which have played a vital role in addressing issues about HIV/AIDS. The formation of Family Life Education clubs in schools and communities through peer education has also been another way that young people access information on HIV/AIDS, the adoption of Youth friendly Corners at some clinics in Zambia. These Youth friendly Corners offer information on HIV/AIDS to young people through discussions, drama performances and distribution of brochures and booklets. Apart from this some NGOs working around reproductive health have established reproductive health centres where young people easily get information through discussions in communities and discussions at the centres. The government has also trained some teachers in schools to provide life skill education but this is not incorporated into the curriculum and the teacher can only give this information when the class has free time which does not happen often and in most cases does not happen at all. The information given by the teacher is mainly focused on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention methods; it is not comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and does not specifically address gender issues.

### **Youth participation in HIV/AIDS Programmes**

Youth form more than half of the total Zambian population; they also constitute the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates. The high HIV/AIDS prevalence levels among the youth, which range from 16 – 21 percent, have proved a great threat to young people's survival in Zambia. Despite these high levels of HIV/AIDS infections, young people have been unable to access ARVs. This is mainly due to the fact that most young people are unemployed and therefore unable to afford these drugs. In instances where ARVs are given for free young people are still sidelined. Additionally there is no clear HIV/AIDS policy to provide the necessary mandate for rendering services to all youth.

Despite the fact that young people know the problems they face and are able to formulate solutions to these problems, they are not consulted in HIV/AIDS interventions such as Programme designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Youth therefore are mostly on the receiving end of programmes that are designed for them to combat HIV/AIDS.

More space has to be given to young people in order for their ideas and interventions in combating HIV/AIDS to be incorporated in to the national strategic plan and other government documentations such as the HIV/AIDS policy and the youth policy. It is also important to have more young people including those living with HIV/AIDS on the National AIDS Council board in

order to allow them to contribute meaningfully to the development of the nation. There is also need to respect young people's views and incorporate their ideas into programmes that work for behaviour change in young people. HIV/AIDS has the highest number of organisations and individuals providing information, education and services to young people and the general populace at large. But young people's behaviour has not changed. This clearly indicates that young people need more than just information; they need empowerment, employment and space to effectively participate in order to attain some success and acceptance.

### **Summary of Achievements and Gaps HIV/AIDS**

The government has drafts of the HIV/AIDS and the Youth policy. It also has the National strategic plan on HIV/AIDS that has a multi-sectoral approach towards combating HIV/AIDS. There is still no policy that ensures the provision of adequate sexuality education in schools and the provision sexual reproductive health information and services and treatment for all young people including access to ARVs for young people living with HIV/AIDS. The government has established youth friendly health corners for young people and trained some of the service providers in youth friendly service provision. NGO reproductive health centres that provide youth friendly reproductive health services have consolidated the government's efforts. Not all NGO reproductive health centres and government health centres offering youth friendly health services are in practice, youth friendly. This prevents young people from accessing information and services.

The government allocates funds to the ministry of health but it is not certain exactly what percentage is allocated to HIV/AIDS interventions or young people's programmes for HIV/AIDS. The strategic plan gives priority to communication strategies that promote abstinence and delay of first sexual encounter for young people, however much needs to be done to ensure that young people have a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education that offers all the other prevention methods. Except for the National AIDS Council board and the National Youth Development Council board, which have young people represented, no other Programme formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation boards or councils have youth representation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **WPAY YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.**

We the Youth of Zambia who gathered at Commonwealth Youth Programme Africa Centre (CYP), on, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, and critically evaluated the performance of the Zambia National Youth Policy, in line with the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), which is a global commitment by governments including Zambia, to address more effectively the problems of young people and to increase opportunities for their participation in society resolved to forward the following recommendations to the government through the Ministry of Sport Youth and Child Development (MSYCD).

#### **1. Youth Participation**

We the young people appreciate government commitment to improving access to information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making as well as the encouraging and promotion of youth association through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities.

In order to ensure that full and effective youth participation is enhanced we recommend that the government:

- Supports the strengthening of the Youth Parliament and consider resolutions made by Youths in such fora;
- Amends the NYDC Act in order to change the method of appointing Youths in the National Youth Council by immediately calling for transparent and fair elections for positions in the Youth Council.
- Create opportunities for young people aged between 18 and 25 years to be nominated for Parliament, Currently Youths aged 18 to 25 years are not represented in parliament;
- Involve young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of all Youth programmes;
- Increase budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Sport Youth and Child Development (MSYCD); and
- Increase its financial support to the National Youth Development Council.

## **2. Poverty and Youth Empowerment**

We recognise and appreciate government commitment to promotion of skills training for income generation by young people as a Poverty Reducing Measure.

We the young feel that more needs to be done and therefore recommend that government;

- Create job opportunities for young people by revamping industries;
- Involve Young people in planning, monitoring and implementation of Youth Enterprise promotion Fund (YEPF)
- Puts in place a deliberate policy to build the capacity of youth organizations so that they are able to fight poverty and engage in activities that promote self reliance and creation of employment opportunities among young people;
- Ensures the Constituency Youth Fund Scheme (CYFS) should be free from partisan influence; and
- Revamps the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI);
- Facilitate private sector involvement in wealth creation among young people.

## **3 Education**

We are aware and do appreciate government commitment to improving the level of basic education, skills training and literacy among the youth, promoting culture heritage and contemporary patterns of society, promoting mutual respect and understanding the ideals of peace, solidarity and tolerance and promotion of civic education among the youth.

In achieving these commitments we urge government to ensure:

- Quality education should be provided through improved and attractive conditions of service for those providing the service;
- Education is enshrined as a right in the Zambian Laws, in line with the United Nations Declaration;
- Education is cost-free up-to grade nine;
- Higher and tertiary education should be made accessible even to the vulnerable groups of society;
- Orphans and vulnerable young people are exempt from paying School fees at Basic and high Schools;
- Graduate Teachers are posted to Schools in good time to full fill the need for teachers in schools;
- Community Schools operate within the expected standards of education;
- 75 percent of teachers working in International Schools in the country are Zambian;
- There is promotion of civil society organizations that contribute to programmes in the educational sector;
- laws oblige parents and guardians to enroll their children to School especially in line with the free education Policy;

- Improvement of the quality of Teacher trainings; and
- Improvement in infrastructure and ensure that teaching aids are available in Schools.

## **5 Girls and young women**

We appreciate government commitment to take actions to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women, as well as ensuring universal and equal access to and completion of primary education for girls and young women as well as equal access to secondary and higher education.

In addition to this commitment we the young people urge our government to:

- Sensitize parents and females that females that fall pregnant to take leave of absence and return to School in line with the re-entry Policy under the Ministry of Education; and
- Come up with measures that will protect the Girl child from discrimination when she returns to School after delivery.

## **6. Health and HIV/AIDS**

HIV/AIDS in Zambia affects the young people more than any other age group. We appreciate the multi sectoral national strategies and financing plans for combating HIV/AIDS.

We the young recommend the following measures to address our plight towards HIV/AIDS.

- The Government should place Youth Friendly Corners where they are accessible to all young people;
- Should ensure that the Health centers and staff are youth friendly;
- Promotion of Health Education should be encouraged in School and out of School Youths;
- HIV/AIDS Education should be extended to communities and the private schools;
- Health boards should employ young people at youth friendly centers and in Clinics; and
- Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARVs) should be availed free to all vulnerable young people.

We the young people urge our government to consider the above recommendations, as they are meant to better the lives of young people. We further urge the Government to support annual review of the Youth Policy by Youth NGO's in line with the World Programme of Action for Youth.

In conclusion we thank the National Youth Constitutional Assembly NYCA, the Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Center for Africa and the Germany Technical Corporation (GTZ) for providing us a platform to effectively participate in evaluating the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).

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