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Newsletter

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The Youth for SDGs summit, brought together over 200 enthusiastic young Zimbabweans from across the nation.

Promoting Community Leadership in the Fight Against AIDS

Her Excellency Dr. Auxillia Mhangagwa, the First Lady of Zimbabwe, presided over the event, which also saw high-level delegates from around the world in attendance.

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Alarming statistics were shared during the event, revealing that approximately one in three women and girls worldwide experience gender-based violence.

Building Community Resilience: Lessons from the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme

The collaborative efforts, driven by a shared commitment to leave no one behind, combine resources made this a success.

Accelerating Progress through Localizing the SDGs

Mr. Kallon congratulated the Ministries of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, and Local Government and Public Works for organizing a weeklong national capacity-building workshop that ended on 6 October 2023.

EDITORIAL NOTE



Edward Kallon,
UN Resident and
Humanitarian Coordinator

Greetings for the New Year. In this newsletter, we are delighted to offer you a glimpse of the United Nations Development System’s work in Zimbabwe, focusing on recent joint campaigns, initiatives, and partnerships. These events and initiatives illustrate a dedicated effort to support the Government of Zimbabwe in addressing critical social, economic and environmental issues to advance sustainable development.

Zimbabwe’s commitment to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been a central theme, with various stakeholders collaborating to support youth engagement, combat HIV/AIDS, eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and promote community leadership in the fight against AIDS. Efforts also include private sector engagement for digital innovation and green economy, community resilience building, combating climate change, and partnerships at national and grassroots levels to enhance development programmes and results reporting.

The recent Youth for SDGs summit (2023) and the focus on empowering young Zimbabweans underscore the recognition of their pivotal role in driving positive change and advancing the nation’s development agenda. The emphasis on providing quality education and skills development for the youth is also highlighted as a crucial step in preparing them to contribute significantly to Zimbabwe’s future.

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, collaborations between the UN, government, and various organizations emphasize the importance of inclusivity, innovation, and community engagement. Additionally, the initiatives to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, celebrate achievements in eliminating violence against women and girls, and promote gender equality are significant steps towards building a more equitable and healthier society leaving no-one behind.

Furthermore, the involvement of the private sector holds promise for Zimbabwe’s economic progress and the realization of the SDGs, particularly with an emphasis on sustainable industrialization and green technology, demonstrating a forward-looking approach to economic development and environmental sustainability.

Efforts to address climate change and build community resilience, including lessons from the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme, as well as advancing the power of green technology in Zimbabwe are important reference points.

Strong partnerships in enhancing development results reporting, joint advocacy to invest in women and girls, showcasing devolution success, and commitment to education for refugees further underscore the dedication to inclusivity, local empowerment, and community based development.

Overall, the UN ongoing efforts, partnerships, and initiatives in Zimbabwe demonstrate a commitment to support an inclusive and sustainable development. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration and innovation to accelerate progress on SDGs and to drive progress in the achievement of national development priorities articulated in the 2021-2025 National Development Strategy and Vision 2030 to become an upper middle-income society.

We hope you enjoy reading the first quarter newsletter of the UN in Zimbabwe



Promising Future Rests on Empowered Youth and SDGs Achievement

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

In a momentous joint event, Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and Dr. Martin Rushwaya, Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, came together to highlight the crucial role of youth engagement in Zimbabwe's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Youth for SDGs summit, brought together over 200 enthusiastic young Zimbabweans from across the nation. The objective of the summit was to reflect on the progress of SDG implementation in Zimbabwe since 2016 and to create a youth roadmap for active participation in accelerating progress towards the SDGs. This included evaluating the impact of volunteerism on youth contributions to the nation's development agenda and designing a youth-led SDGs implementation roadmap for Zimbabwe.

During the event, Mr. Kallon emphasized the paramount importance of youth engagement, recognizing them as catalysts for positive change and the bearers of a brighter future. With the youth constituting over 60% of Zimbabwe's population, their involvement across all domains is indispensable in driving the transformative paradigm shift envisioned by the government and citizens.

The UN Resident Coordinator stressed the need to provide affordable, high-quality education and skills development opportunities for the youth. By encouraging entrepreneurship and empowering them to plan, decide, and work, the youth become better equipped to tackle life's challenges and contribute to the nation's development plans and vision.

Dr. Rushwaya [in a statement read on his behalf by Secretary for M&E Mr Albert Chikondo] highlighted the proactive action and commitment of the Government of Zimbabwe to engage and collaborate with the youth in achieving national and global development goals. Measures such as reserving parliamentary seats for youth representatives ensure that their voices and concerns are represented at the highest level of decision-making.

The government has also implemented initiatives to support youth involvement in crucial sectors like agriculture, mining, tourism, and construction, unlocking Zimbabwe's potential for growth and development.

Recognizing the significance of science, technology, and innovation, the government has invested in establishing innovation hubs in all State Universities.





These hubs create an enabling environment for the youth to nurture their ideas and contribute to national progress. Additionally, vocational training programmes have been expanded to equip the youth with the necessary skills for meaningful participation in the workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the power of youth-driven innovation. Zimbabwe's investment in science, technology, and innovation played a vital role in the national response, with innovation hubs successfully addressing pressing challenges faced by the nation.

Both Mr. Kallon and Dr. Rushwaya reiterated the commitments of the United Nations and the Government of Zimbabwe, respectively, to collaborate with the youth in achieving the SDGs, realizing the African Union Agenda 2063, and transforming the nation into an upper middle-income society by 2030. They encouraged the youth to remain focused on their goals, avoid harmful practices like drug and substance abuse, and unleash their full potential.

A call for collaboration from all stakeholders, emphasizing that by harnessing the power and potential of Zimbabwe's youth, the country can create an environment conducive to peace, equitable development, and the overall well-being of all citizens.

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The future holds great promise as Zimbabwe endeavors to accelerate progress on the SDGs, with the youth leading the way in shaping the nation's destiny.

Equality, Inclusion, Innovation in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS



At the official launch of the International Conference on AIDS and Sexual Transmitted Infections (ICASA) in Harare, Mr. Edward Kallon, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Zimbabwe, emphasized the imperative of addressing inequalities, promoting inclusivity, and fostering innovation to combat HIV/AIDS.

The conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and featured esteemed speakers including UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, UNFPA Regional Director Lidia Zigomo, and WHO Regional Director Dr. Matshidiso Moeti. Mr. Kallon highlighted the support of additional 22 UN entities in collaboration with ICASA organizers and the Zimbabwean government, all working towards ending AIDS and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

During his speech, Mr. Kallon acknowledged and applauded Zimbabwe's commitment to ending HIV/AIDS and its vision of becoming an upper-middle-income society by 2030. He specifically commended the contributions of Zimbabwe's First Lady, Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa, for her dedication to community engagement, investment, and efforts in response to HIV/AIDS, STIs, and other vital causes.

Furthermore, Mr. Kallon emphasized the significance of empowering women to foster inclusivity and drive innovation. He highlighted the transformative potential when women are given equal opportunities

, leading to the eradication of inequalities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Kallon recognized Zimbabwe's successful approach to devolution and community engagement, citing examples such as the mobilization of resources through the AIDS Levy, the establishment of schools across the country, and endeavors in combating natural disasters and challenges posed by COVID-19. He stressed that empowering communities to find their own solutions is key to ending AIDS and STIs.

Acknowledging the obstacles faced by Zimbabwe and many other countries in eliminating the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Mr. Kallon pointed out disparities in accessing HIV services based on factors such as age, gender, and geographical location. He called for the expansion of prevention and treatment programs, community involvement and leadership, the establishment of laws and policies for marginalized populations, and the assurance of sufficient funding and economic opportunities for communities.

Mr. Kallon emphasized the importance of comprehensive funding, capacity-building support, and creating an inclusive environment that safeguards the human rights of all individuals, especially marginalized and vulnerable populations. He further emphasized the necessity of addressing underlying factors that contribute to the spread of HIV, such as gender inequality and practices that perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence.

Referring to recent discussions at the 78th UN General Assembly on preventing future pandemics, universal health coverage, and the significance of political commitment, increased financing, innovation, research, and advocacy for human rights and gender equality, Mr. Kallon stressed that adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to global health, including universal health coverage, is crucial in ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and addressing future pandemics.

Highlighting Zimbabwe's successful community engagement and decentralized innovation hubs as an exemplar, Mr. Kallon urged ICASA delegates to draw lessons from these initiatives in their endeavors to end AIDS, STIs, and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ICASA held from 4-9 December 2023 provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share experiences, research/abstracts and establish partnerships in the fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Promoting Community Leadership in the Fight Against AIDS

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO



The UN System in Zimbabwe emphasized the crucial role of communities in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and achieving the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Zimbabwe, Mr. Edward Kallon has said during the national commemoration of World AIDS Day, which saw the participation of thousands of community members from Victoria Falls and various parts of Zimbabwe. With the theme "Let Communities Lead," Zimbabwe highlighted the significance of community engagement and called for immediate action to end AIDS by 2030.

Her Excellency Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa, the First Lady of Zimbabwe, presided over the event, which also saw high-level delegates from around the world in attendance.

The event coincided with the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) and was attended by dignitaries, including Minister of State and Devolution for Matebeleland North Provincial Affairs, Honourable Richard Moyo, Minister of Health and Childcare, Dr. D. T. Mombeshora, and Chief Executive Officer of the National AIDS Council, Dr. B Madzima. Representatives from development partners and the UN including, Ms. Elaine French, USA Embassy Charge d'Affaires; Ms. Winnie Byanyiswa, UNAIDS Executive Director, Ms. Etleva Kadilli UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and other UN officials were also in attendance at the World AIDS Day.

The UN Resident Coordinator commended the First Lady, Amai Mnangagwa, for her dedicated work in community engagement and expanding health services in rural districts. Zimbabwe acknowledged the transformative potential of community involvement and showcased progress made in resource mobilization, efforts against gender-based violence, and addressing the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Despite commendable progress, Zimbabwe acknowledges the challenges in achieving its goal of ending AIDS. Disparities in access to HIV services based on age, gender, and geography still persist, particularly affecting adolescent girls, young women, children, and key populations. Addressing these challenges and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires four critical actions: scaling up prevention and treatment programmes, community leadership and engagement, enacting and enforcing laws and policies, and ending stigma and discrimination.

According to the 2022 Zimbabwe HIV and AIDS Status report, approximately 1.3 million people in Zimbabwe, accounting for 8.7% of the total population, are living with HIV. Sadly, 20,000 lives were lost to AIDS-related illnesses in the same year, with women representing 61% of adults living with HIV.

The UN in Zimbabwe reaffirmed its commitment to support communities in the fight against HIV and AIDS, while advocating for human rights, gender equality, and inclusive and quality services.

The UN Resident Coordinator also highlighted the UN General Assembly deliberations at its 78th Session on preventing future pandemics, achieving universal health coverage, and the need for an integrated health system response. By prioritizing HIV/AIDS prevention and care within universal health coverage and strengthening community health systems, the mission to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic can be expedited.

As World AIDS Day was observed, the commemoration served as a reminder of the importance of solidarity, compassion, and collaboration. The objective is to build resilient health systems, reduce inequalities, and empower communities to lead toward a future where HIV/AIDS no longer exists. The UN Resident Coordinator called for concerted efforts to end AIDS, with communities at the forefront, renewing collective commitment, and accelerating progress towards a Zimbabwe and a world free of AIDS and pandemics.



#WEAREEQUAL Campaign to Eliminate Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

In a keynote address at the First Lady's Community Mobilization for the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT) and the Launch of Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) #WEAREEQUAL campaign, Her Excellency Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa, the First Lady of Zimbabwe, emphasized the importance of prioritizing the health of children and ending all forms of violence, as they are significant drivers of HIV infection.

The event, held at the Maria Theresa Clinic in the Mazowe District, brought together key stakeholders, including the UN Resident Coordinator, the Minister of Health and Child Care, National AIDS Council, Members of the UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS including UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, and other government and local officials.

Addressing the gathering, the First Lady expressed deep concern about the high rate of teenage pregnancies, currently standing at 22%, and the rising incidence of child marriages in Zimbabwe. She called for concerted effort to reverse these trends and ensure that girls are provided with the same opportunities as boys to contribute to the development of the country.

The UN Resident Coordinator for Zimbabwe, Mr. Edward Kallon, appreciated and congratulated Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa for her leadership in championing the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. He highlighted the significant progress made in increasing the number of pregnant women living with HIV accessing treatment, resulting in a remarkable 92.9% of pregnant women receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and giving birth to HIV-free children. He acknowledged the First Lady's goal of creating an HIV-free generation and commended Zimbabwe's success in containing the impact of COVID-19 through efforts to address PMTCT.

Mr. Kallon emphasized the importance of addressing gender inequalities in the fight against AIDS and the launch of the #WEAREEQUAL campaign. Gender inequality has been identified as a key driver of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and

young women. By promoting gender equality and tackling gender-based violence, Zimbabwe can strengthen its fight against AIDS and create resilient societies that unlock the potential of women and girls.

Giving the background of the campaign, the Minister of Health and Child Care, Dr. D. Mombeshora, highlighted the pre-ICASA High-Level Meeting (HLM). He noted that the Maria Theresa Clinic will feature in planned production of a video clip showcasing the First Lady's community engagement and its significance in achieving an HIV and AIDS-free generation. The clip was screened at the HLM, emphasizing the importance of high-level advocacy in the fight against HIV.

Dr. Mombeshora underscored the need for early booking for antenatal care, HIV testing, and lifelong antiretroviral treatment for pregnant and breastfeeding women, regardless of their HIV status. Adherence to treatment is vital to ensuring viral suppression and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The launch of the #WEAREEQUAL campaign aims to address gender disparities in Africa by empowering girls and women, promoting gender equality, and eliminating social and structural barriers that hinder access to services and opportunities.

The United Nations remains committed to support Zimbabwe to achieve the Global Alliance to end AIDS in Children by 2030 and its pillars: early and optimized treatment, closing the treatment gap for pregnant and breastfeeding women, preventing new HIV infections among adolescents and women, and promoting rights and gender equality. Through these collective efforts, Zimbabwe can make significant progress in ending AIDS among children and securing a better future for generations to come.

The event served as an important milestone in Zimbabwe's journey towards eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and achieving gender equality, with a strong focus on the well-being of children and the empowerment of girls and women.



Government, UN, Canada, and Sweden UNiTe to Invest in a Safer Future for Women and Girls



The Government of Zimbabwe together with the United Nations, and Embassies of Canada, and Sweden convened a media brief as a prelude to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence to address the urgent issue of gender-based violence.

The joint media event aimed to raise awareness, advocate for prevention, and emphasize the vital importance of investment in combating gender-based violence.

The joint media event aimed to raise awareness, advocate for prevention, and emphasize the vital importance of investment in combating gender-based violence. Under the global theme "Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls," this year's 16 days activism against gender-based violence campaign spotlights the significance of financing in implementing effective prevention strategies.

Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, reiterated the commitment to combat gender-based violence and highlighted various investments made to address this issue in the country.

These investments include the establishment of One Stop Centres, safe shelters, and economic empowerment initiatives for women. Minister Mutsvangwa emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration among stakeholders in prevention and response efforts.

The media briefing outlined advocacy objectives of the UNiTe campaign in 2023, with a call for united support for prevention strategies and increased funding to strengthen national laws, policies, and resources. Creating safer workplaces and integrating violence prevention into broader policies and programs were also highlighted as essential steps towards combating gender-based violence.

Speaking at the media brief, Acting UN Resident Coordinator for Zimbabwe, Ms. Francesca Erdelmann, emphasized that despite notable progress, violence against women and girls remains a pervasive violation of human rights both in Zimbabwe and globally. The prevalence of weak enforcement and discriminatory social norms were identified as significant challenges in addressing this issue.

She pointed out that violence extends beyond physical spaces and has infiltrated online platforms and the workplace, with online violence against women being alarmingly prevalent. The COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and climate change have exacerbated violence against women and girls, intensifying existing challenges and creating new threats.

Ms. Erdelmann stressed the significant consequences of violence on women's physical and mental health, economic empowerment, overall well-being, and professional development. Moreover, gender inequality acts as a barrier for girls and young women in accessing education, employment, and leadership positions,

thereby increasing their vulnerability to violence and harmful practices.

She highlighted evidence-based strategies such as the RESPECT Women Framework and the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, which have shown positive results in prevention and response efforts.

The UN in Zimbabwe, in collaboration with various partners, has made significant strides in supporting the Government of Zimbabwe to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through joint programmes.

Additionally, Ms. Erdelmann called upon all stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, development partners, private sector, and universities, to strengthen protection mechanisms and eliminate violence against women in all its forms. She stressed the importance of investment in preventing violence against women and girls, as it yields multiple benefits for gender equality, poverty reduction, and development.

Ms. Erdelmann urged Zimbabwean society, particularly men and boys, to stand as allies in the fight against violence targeting women and girls. The UN reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Zimbabwe in this crucial endeavor.

As the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence begin, the focus will be on honoring the leadership of women's movements, amplifying the voices of young feminists and youth-led organizations, and adopting a survivor-centered approach that prioritizes the rights, safety, dignity, and confidentiality of survivors.

His Excellency Adler Aristilde, Ambassador of Canada to Zimbabwe,

reaffirmed Canada's commitment to ending gender-based violence and highlighted Canada's comprehensive approach, involving multi-sectoral programming and support for initiatives such as the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to end child marriages.

Canada has been actively supporting women's leadership, media inclusion, and the socio-economic empowerment of women in Zimbabwe. Ambassador Aristilde stressed the need for collaboration and solidarity among stakeholders to create a safer and more equitable Zimbabwe for women and girls.

Dr. Berthollet Bwira Kaboru, Head of Development Cooperation (Sida) and Deputy Head of Mission of Sweden to Zimbabwe, welcomed the 16 days activism against gender-based violence campaign and emphasized the importance of empowering women, promoting gender equality, and investing in gender-based violence response. Dr. Kaboru highlighted Sweden's long-standing commitment to gender equality and its continuous support to improve protection for survivors, prevent violence, and raise awareness on the issue in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Kaboru called for collaborative efforts between the government, civil society, and communities to eliminate discrimination against women and girls.

The collective efforts and commitments of the Government of Zimbabwe, the United Nations, Canada, and Sweden underscore the urgency and determination to eradicate gender-based violence and create a safer and more equitable society for all.



Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative Celebrates Achievements in Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls, Stresses Need for Continued Partnerships

By Sirak Gebrehwot, UNRCO



The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise, in collaboration with UN and EU, came together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the four-year (2019-2023) Spotlight Initiative Programme to eliminating violence against women and girls in Zimbabwe.

The event brought together some 80 senior representatives from diverse organizations, including #TeamEurope on Gender Equality, the UN, Government, Independent Institutions, Women Organizations, Civil Society, Organizations of Persons with Disability, Private Sector, and the media.

Under the leadership of the Government of Zimbabwe and supported by EU funding, the UN has successfully implemented the Spotlight Initiative, providing essential services worth over USD 30 million to survivors of gender-based violence. Moreover, the initiative has played a crucial role in developing policies, legal frameworks, and generating data to support decision-making. It has also fostered the mobilization of women's movements and civil society organizations.

Coordinated by six UN agencies (ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women), the Spotlight Initiative has actively engaged with various stakeholders, including

government ministries, institutions, civil society groups, traditional and religious leaders, youth innovators, and community members. By focusing on 23 districts across five provinces in Zimbabwe, the initiative has made significant strides in addressing gender-based violence.

While progress has been made, gender-based violence remains a critical concern in Zimbabwe, with alarming rates of physical and sexual violence against women. Harmful practices like child marriages exacerbate the situation, violating the rights of women and girls and having severe health impacts, such as early pregnancy, increased exposure to HIV/AIDS, and maternal mortality.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Ms. Fatou Lo, the UN Women Country Representative, applauded the progress made in fostering an empowering environment for gender equality and women's empowerment in Zimbabwe. She emphasized the need for increased investments in initiatives like the Spotlight Initiative, underscoring that gender-based violence often receives limited aid and development funding globally.

Mr. Edward Kallon, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, stressed the significance of addressing gender inequality and human rights violations faced by women and girls.

He recognized the comprehensive approach undertaken by the Spotlight Initiative, which encompasses education, reproductive health, economic empowerment, institutional strengthening, and the closing of legal and policy gaps. Mr. Kallon also called for urgent financial support, strengthened international cooperation, and resources for women's rights organizations to combat gender-based violence.

His Excellency Jobst von Kirchmann, the EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation, praised the power of partnerships in combating gender-based violence. He highlighted the progress achieved through initiatives like the Spotlight Initiative, which receives funding from the EU. Emphasizing the EU's dedication to promoting global gender equality, he commended the collaboration among the Government of Zimbabwe, civil society organizations, and the private sector in addressing gender-based violence.

The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development expressed its pride and unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Zimbabwe. Honourable Monica Mutsvangwa outlined strategic priorities that included the implementation of the High-level Political Compact on Ending Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices,

revitalization of the National Gender Machinery, and focusing on gender-responsive budget initiatives and women's economic empowerment.

Minister Mutsvangwa called for increased financing for gender equality and initiatives to eradicate gender-based violence. She stressed the significance of collective approaches that involve government, civil society, the private sector, and development partners. The Minister expressed her readiness to continue engaging with stakeholders to maintain the momentum of the Spotlight Initiative and achieve gender equality and empowerment for women and girls in Zimbabwe.

The event culminated with a call to action, urging everyone to take a stand, raise their voices, and invest resources to create a world that refuses to tolerate violence against women. The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development reaffirmed its commitment and outlined its strategic priorities for advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in Zimbabwe, including the implementation of the High-level Political Compact on Ending Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices, revitalization of the National Gender Machinery, and focusing on women's economic empowerment.





Focus on Investment, Empowerment, and Representation to End Gender-Based Violence

Honourable Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community Small Medium Enterprises Development, presided over the national launch of the 16 Days Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. During her keynote address in Hauna, in Mutasa Rural District of Manicaland Province, she emphasized the significance of economic empowerment and women's representation in addressing the root causes of gender-based violence.

The event witnessed the participation of thousands of community members, local authorities, dignitaries from Harare, including officials from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Mr. Edward Kallon (UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator), Ms. Miranda Tabifor (UNFPA Representative), Ms. Fatou Lo (UN Women Representative), representatives of Independent Commissions, Traditional and Religious Leaders, representatives of the Victim-Friendly Unit, and other Government Line Ministries. The decision to hold the event in a rural area aimed to showcase the Government's commitment to devolve services to local communities and ensure inclusivity leaving no-one behind.

Alarming statistics were shared during the event, revealing that approximately one in three women and girls worldwide experience gender-based violence. In Zimbabwe, the 2019 Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey found that 39.4% of women aged 15-49 have encountered physical violence at least once, while 11.6% have experienced sexual violence. Factors such as child marriages, cultural and religious beliefs, poverty, and peer pressure were identified as major contributors to gender-based violence in Manicaland Province.

Authorities from Manicaland Province reported that it has the third-highest number of gender-based violence cases and child marriages among Zimbabwe's ten provinces. In 2023, a total of 2,083 survivors sought assistance from the four existing safe

shelters in Mutasa, Mutare, Buhera districts, with one under construction in Chimanimani district. Out of these survivors, 585 found refuge in these shelters, and 294 survivors experienced physical abuse, 489 economic violence, 597 encountered sexual violence, and 703 emotional abuse.

The UN Secretary-General's UNITE by 2030 campaign to End Violence against Women seeks to raise awareness, advocate for change, and eliminate violence against women and girls. However, despite the presence of laws, enforcement challenges and discriminatory social norms continue to impede progress. Honourable Minister Monica Mutsvangwa urged girls to prioritize education, strive for self-reliance, and avoid dependency on others. She also stressed the importance of women in positions of influence and leadership supporting and uplifting fellow women.

Recognizing the crucial need for financial support, Mr. Edward Kallon emphasized the economic impact of gender-based violence, which can amount to 3.7% of a country's GDP. He called for increased investments in prevention services, comprehensive legal reforms, survivor support, and accountability for perpetrators. The role of women's rights organizations as valuable partners in addressing and mitigating the negative consequences of gender-based violence was also highlighted.

The United Nations recognized the Government of Zimbabwe strong leadership and collaboration under the United Nations Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls Programme funded by the European Union. The initiative has made significant investments in prevention efforts and engaged gender champions and implementing partners.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including the targets on Gender Equality, Mr. Edward Kallon emphasized the importance of adopting an integrated approach that considers the interconnected nature of the goals.



The six key transitions identified by the UN Secretary-General, including food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, were highlighted as strategic pathways for attaining gender equality and accelerating progress across all SDGs.

Investments in the prevention of violence against women and girls were emphasized as crucial, with a need to bridge the financing gap by engaging international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and other funding sources.

The launch event aimed to raise public awareness and mobilize resources to combat violence against women and girls in Manicaland Province. It called for collective action from all stakeholders to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and girls, free from violence and discrimination.

Zimbabwe Lights the Way for Children's Rights

Zimbabwe celebrated World Children's Day in Beitbridge, Matebeleland South Province. The event brought together more than five thousand participants who gathered to amplify and advocate for the rights of children.

The event was presided over by the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honorable Retired General Dr. C.G.N. Chiwenga. A notable activity during the event was the lighting of the bridge that connects Zimbabwe and South Africa in blue, symbolizing the commitment to promoting the rights of children. This gesture represents the collective dedication, led by the Government of Zimbabwe, to ensuring that every child is protected, receives a quality education, and has the opportunity to thrive.

In his remarks at the event, Mr. Edward Kallon, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, recognized the Government of Zimbabwe's unwavering commitment to the advancement and development of children. He also expressed appreciation to Dr. Tajudeen Oyewale, UNICEF Representative, and the entire UNICEF team for their support in organizing the national commemoration of World Children's Day in Beitbridge.

The event highlighted the investment in education in remote areas, demonstrating the commitment to the principle of leaving no one behind as outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN Resident Coordinator also acknowledged the efforts of various stakeholders, including parents, caregivers, teachers, healthcare professionals, government leaders, activists, religious and community elders, private sector, media, and most importantly, the children themselves, in ensuring the well-being of children in their communities.

World Children's Day is a significant occasion that commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. These milestones have played a crucial role in protecting and promoting the well-being of children worldwide. This year's celebration in Zimbabwe focused on the right to education, aligning with the African Union's Year of Education in 2024.

The United Nations recognizes education as a fundamental human right and believes that every child deserves access to quality education without discrimination. It is essential to address the challenges faced by vulnerable groups of children

who are excluded from school or at risk of dropping out. Investing in education and prioritizing its importance is key to protecting and empowering children and breaking the cycle of poverty.

To tackle the root causes of children not attending school, the United Nations, in collaboration with technical agencies like UNESCO and UNICEF, will work closely with the Government of Zimbabwe. The celebration also highlights the significance of children's participation and expression, as emphasized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children should not be seen as passive beneficiaries but as active participants in their communities, capable of making positive changes. It is crucial for adults and decision-makers to listen to their opinions and take them seriously.

On this special day, the United Nations family extends warm wishes to all children in Zimbabwe, hoping for a joyful World Children's Day. They also urge collective commitment and concrete actions to empower children and provide them with opportunities to thrive.

By upholding children's rights, listening to their voices, and helping them realize their dreams, Zimbabwe and the world can create a better future for all.



Private sector engagement critical in achieving SDGs

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO



Delivering a keynote address at the Economic Policy Dialogue Breakfast Meeting organized by the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) today in Harare, Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator emphasized the importance of the private sector's role in advancing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

The Economic Policy Dialogue brought together government officials, ambassadors, industry leaders, and representatives from various organizations.

The UN Resident Coordinator highlighted SDG 9, which focuses on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, as particularly relevant for Zimbabwe's economic progress. "The private sector plays a crucial role in driving sustainable development by raising employment rates, boosting GDP, and promoting inclusive industrialization," Mr. Kallon stated. He stressed that aligning business strategies, activities, and goals with the SDGs can generate new revenue streams, enhance market differentiation, and attract top talent.

The UN Coordinator also outlined six key transitions identified by the UN Secretary-General to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. These transitions include transforming food systems, ensuring universal energy access and affordability, enhancing digital connectivity, improving access to quality education, creating decent work opportunities, and taking action to mitigate climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

To actively contribute to these transitions and achieve the SDGs, Mr. Kallon proposed four "Engine Rooms" or turbo boosters that could facilitate private sector engagement. These included engaging in policy advocacy, investing in bankable projects, mobilizing financing, and supporting capacity-building efforts.

Mr. Kallon underlined the importance of collaboration between business and the United Nations, mentioning successful partnerships between the private sector and development partners in Zimbabwe. These collaborations focused on areas such as youth employment, dairy farming, clean water and sanitation, high-quality seeds for farmers, addressing childhood malnutrition and food insecurity, and delivering renewable energy to vulnerable communities and micro-businesses.

Mr. Kallon reiterated the United Nations' commitment to working with the Government of Zimbabwe and the private sector to support the country's development through the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (2022-2026).

The remarks by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator highlighted the need for partnership and collaboration between the private sector, government, and international organizations to achieve sustainable development goals in Zimbabwe.

With the private sector's active engagement, the country can make significant strides towards eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, and creating a prosperous future for all.

Harnessing the Power of the Private Sector for Economic, Sustainable Development

The role of the private sector in driving economic growth and sustainable development in Zimbabwe was highlighted at the recent Zimbabwe Economic Development Conference, where Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident and Humanitarian for Zimbabwe, delivered a compelling address. This article seeks to explore his remarks and shed light on the critical contributions the private sector can make to propel the country's development agenda.

Acknowledging the Government's efforts Mr. Kallon expressed his appreciation to the Government of Zimbabwe, particularly the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment Promotion, for organizing the conference. He commended the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive and noted their progressive policies that encourage private sector participation.

While acknowledging the ongoing efforts to create an enabling business environment, Mr. Kallon stressed the need to continue advancing reforms that prioritize ease of doing business, address corruption, streamline regulations, and ensure transparency and accountability. These measures are crucial for attracting more investments, both domestic and foreign, and unlocking the full potential of the private sector.

Highlighting the vital role of the private sector, Mr. Kallon emphasized that it has the potential to be a major driver of transformative change. By attracting investments, introducing innovative technologies, and creating jobs, the private sector can contribute to economic growth and sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Kallon also emphasized the importance of resolving the unilateral coercive measures (sanctions) imposed on Zimbabwe by some UN Member States. By amicably addressing these measures through constructive dialogue under the high-level structured dialogue on debt and arrears resolution, Zimbabwe can enhance its standing as an attractive destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).



Building Community Resilience: Lessons from the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme

In a video message from Kadoma, Mr. Edward Kallon, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Zimbabwe, expressed his gratitude and solidarity to the local authorities, communities, and the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works.

This article highlights the achievements of the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme and emphasizes the importance of anticipatory action and community resilience in addressing future challenges.

Partnerships and Delivery of Services

Mr. Kallon acknowledged the valuable partnerships between the UN agencies and the generous US\$ 72 million grant from the World Bank. These partnerships enabled the participating UN entities, including UNOPS, FAO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, to deliver various social services, food security, health, protection, economic,

and community infrastructures to over 300,000 people in the Cyclone Idai affected districts in Zimbabwe. Their collective efforts highlighted the power of UN working together to achieve tangible results and enhance community resilience.

Guiding Principles and Lessons Learned

The Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme adhered to the principle of "building back better" as outlined in the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By incorporating the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals, the recovery programme aimed to create sustainable and resilient infrastructures capable of withstanding future shocks.

During Mr. Kallon's visit to Chimanimani and Chipinge districts, he witnessed firsthand the integrated approach of the recovery program. The full engagement of the government at all levels, along with the involvement of public, private, and other stakeholders, ensured complementarity and effective implementation of the program.





Importance of Anticipatory Action and Community Resilience

Looking ahead, Mr. Kallon emphasized the importance of anticipatory action and community resilience in the face of multiple challenges Zimbabwe currently confronts. The looming El Niño-induced drought, natural disasters like cyclones, and disease outbreaks pose serious threats to vulnerable communities. By adopting a forward-thinking approach and investing in preparedness measures, such as early warning systems, the impact of these disasters can be minimized, and lives can be saved.

However, anticipatory action must be complemented by continuous efforts to build community resilience. Engaging marginalized and vulnerable populations, such as women, children, the elderly, and those in remote areas, in decision-making processes and providing them with necessary resources and support is crucial. This includes livelihood diversification programs, improved access to quality education and healthcare, and the promotion of sustainable and inclusive economic development. Strengthening social safety nets and establishing robust early warning systems are also essential for reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience at the community level.

Partnerships and Delivery of Services

To make noteworthy progress in building community resilience, Mr. Kallon emphasized the need for partnerships among key stakeholders, including governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. These collaborative efforts, driven by a shared commitment to leave no one behind, combine resources, expertise, and knowledge to develop and implement comprehensive resilience-building strategies. Building on the successes of the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme, such partnerships will pave the way for a future where no community is left behind, and Zimbabweans are equipped to face and overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

The Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme serves as a testament to the power of collaboration and comprehensive

planning in building community resilience.

By combining anticipatory action with community involvement, governments and stakeholders can protect vulnerable populations and ensure their inclusion in disaster management processes. The lessons learned from this program will guide future efforts to address the challenges of climate change, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks in Zimbabwe. Together, through collaborative partnerships, a resilient and inclusive future can be forged, leaving no community behind in Zimbabwe.



Advancing Power of Green Technology in Zimbabwe's Industrial Transformation, Economic Development

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Edward Kallon addressed the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) annual congress, highlighting the transformative potential of green industrialization and technology for Zimbabwe's economic development.

Commending CZI CEO Ms. Sekai Kuvarika and the CZI management and staff for organizing the congress, Mr. Kallon emphasized that industries are not just economic tools but also catalysts for social and democratic transformation. The UN Resident Coordinator stressed that when green and sustainable industries thrive, they contribute to an improved quality of life, increased life expectancy, better social services, and overall socio-economic transformation.

Mr. Kallon acknowledged the pressing challenges faced by the business community in Zimbabwe, including limited access to funding, rising operational costs, under-investment in infrastructure, exchange rate volatility, and inflation. He emphasized the importance of addressing these challenges to create an enabling environment for business.

The UN Resident Coordinator also highlighted the escalating impact of climate change, which is threatening the environment and pushing the most vulnerable communities further into poverty. He called for urgent action to mitigate climate change and adopt environmentally friendly technologies and systems.

Mr. Kallon emphasized the need for Zimbabwe to embrace green industrialization and technology to unlock its immense potential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

He urged the private sector to explore access to green financing, focus on technology transfer, develop specialized human capital, and strengthen institutional capacity. Furthermore, he encouraged Zimbabwe to take advantage of regional and international partnerships, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), COMESA, and strategic partnerships with countries like BRICS.

To accelerate progress towards industrialization and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Mr. Kallon emphasized the importance of collaboration between the private sector and the UN development system under the UN Global Compact. He highlighted six key transitions identified by the UN Secretary-General, including transforming food systems, ensuring universal energy access, enhancing digital connectivity, improving access to quality education, creating decent jobs, and taking action on climate change.

Mr. Kallon underlined the integration of environmental sustainability with industrialization and economic growth. He called for the adoption of a circular economy model and the expansion of green financing, such as the use of green bonds, to mobilize resources for sustainable development.

By embracing green technology, innovation, and international cooperation, Zimbabwe can transform its industrial landscape and achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development.



By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO



Zimbabwe's Path to Climate Resilience Explored



By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Zimbabwe, Mr. Edward Kallon delivered a public lecture at the University of Zimbabwe, addressing the progress, challenges, and the way forward for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 13. The lecture, held at Diamond Hall, emphasized the importance of achieving good health and well-being (SDG 3) and combating climate change (SDG 13) for a sustainable future.

During the lecture, Mr. Edward Kallon highlighted the significant improvements in global health outcomes achieved over the past few decades. He mentioned that life expectancy has been increasing, child mortality rates have reduced, and progress has been made in preventing and treating infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. However, challenges such as healthcare disparities and the rise of non-communicable diseases still need to be addressed.

Regarding SDG 13, the UN Resident Coordinator discussed the global efforts to combat climate change and the role of the landmark Paris Agreement. He emphasized that progress in mitigating climate change has been slower than anticipated, and global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. He commended Zimbabwe's increasing awareness and adoption of renewable energy sources, along with successful climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, such as sustainable agriculture, forest conservation, and climate-resilient infrastructure projects.

Mr. Kallon also stressed the importance of investing in healthcare infrastructure, training healthcare professionals, and ensuring the availability of essential medicines in Zimbabwe to improve overall health and well-being. He highlighted the need for collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations, to achieve SDGs 3 and 13.

In addition, the UN Resident Coordinator highlighted various development financing opportunities that can support countries in achieving the SDGs, including SDGs 3 and 13. These opportunities include the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the UN Summit on Financing for Development, the UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Package, and Zimbabwe's High-Level Debt and Arrears Clearance Dialogue.

Mr. Kallon urged active participation and engagement of all stakeholders, especially students and staff at the University of Zimbabwe, in accelerating momentum to achieve the SDGs. He proposed strategies such as raising awareness and education, creating platforms for dialogue, incorporating the SDGs into the curriculum, establishing student-led initiatives, providing resources and support, fostering partnerships, and celebrating success stories.

The UN Resident Coordinator emphasized that achieving the SDGs requires ongoing efforts, continuous communication, and collaborative action. He called for collective work to build a better and more sustainable future for Zimbabwe and the world.

Green approach to UN supported development projects

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon, visited two FAO supported projects in Kariba, Mashonaland Province, Zimbabwe. Accompanied by local and provincial government officials, Mr. Kallon toured the University of Zimbabwe Lake Kariba Research Station and the Kariba Fisheries Research Institute (LKFRl), where he expressed his admiration for their research-oriented and green transition approach.

The University of Zimbabwe Lake Kariba Research Station focuses on engaging youth, value addition, adopting green and renewable methods, and innovative approaches. Mr. Kallon emphasized the importance of research and science-based approaches to ensure the sustainability of resources in Lake Kariba, which plays a crucial role in Zimbabwe's food security.

The support provided by the FAO, in collaboration with development partners like the European Union, was acknowledged and aligned with the Zimbabwe UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the National Development Strategy. This investment aims to contribute to national and local development priorities.

Mr. Elmon Dhlomo, Chief Technician at the University of Zimbabwe Lake Kariba Research Station, expressed gratitude for the support received from FAO and emphasized the station's role in spearheading research related to the dynamics of Lake Kariba and its surroundings. Mr. Dhlomo also highlighted the FAO-Thiaroye processing technique, which enhances small-scale fish drying and smoking operations.

In addition to the University of Zimbabwe Lake Kariba Research Station, the UN Resident Coordinator also visited the Kariba Fisheries Research Institute (LKFRl). Mr. Takafara Gozo, representing LKFRl, presented the progress made on FAO-supported fisheries and discussed future activities. LKFRl conducts research, management, and extension activities related to fisheries development, including areas such as hydrology, limnology, aquatic botany and ecology, stock assessment, and socio-economic studies.

During technical consultations, discussions were held to address the development and management of fisheries and aquaculture in Lake Kariba and Cahora Bassa. Topics covered included catch effort trends, aquaculture practices, and the impact of climate change.

Notable achievements of the Technical Cooperation Programme include enhancing community resilience and sustainability in the Lake Kariba and Zambezi River small-scale fisheries. The project aims to establish the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFm), and a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) has been established for the period from 2023 to 2033. The FMP's objectives are to maintain stock levels, minimize environmental impacts, and maximize economic returns.

Plans for the projects include improving governance and co-management arrangements, promoting the participation of women and youth, enhancing market access, and conducting research on climate change impacts, invasive species, fish stock assessments, and water quality monitoring.

Efforts by ZIMPARKS, such as the review of legislation, research initiatives, lunar closures, and law enforcement, have been undertaken to support fishery management.

The visit by Mr. Edward Kallon underscores the commitment of the United Nations in partnership with the government and other stakeholders, to ensure sustainable resource management and enhance food security in Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba region.

How Informed Choices Shape the Future of Farming in Zimbabwe

By Tatenda Macheke, WFP

In Zimbabwe, the Government, supported by UN agencies, uses PICSA to empower farmers with climate insights, transforming agriculture for resilience and sustainable futures.

Mangwe, Zimbabwe - Annah Dube (58) looks up at the clear, blue sky, patiently waiting for the rain. By this time of the year, November into December, the crops in Mangwe District, where she lives, should be at knee level. But the residents haven't felt a single drop, and their wilting crops are in desperate need. It's not looking good; a dry season, El Niño, is looming.

For over a decade, Zimbabwe has faced such severe weather events - prolonged dry spells, erratic rainfall patterns, and shifts in temperature patterns. Rural residents like Annah bear the brunt of these climatic changes as they affect their means of producing food.

"The rain is late this year. Many crops are not doing well. We might have a poor harvest at the end of the season," Annah remarks.

According to the 2023 Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee's (ZimLAC) Rural Livelihood Assessment, about 2.7 million people in rural areas are projected to be food insecure during the peak lean season, January to March, coinciding with the El Niño phenomenon.

Annah knew this was coming. She receives regular climate and weather information through the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) initiative. PICSA aims to enable farmers to make informed farming decisions based on locally relevant weather and climate information using participatory decision-making tools.

The programme supports government efforts to reduce food insecurity and enhance climate risk management. WFP and UNDP, through technical assistance from the University of Reading and financial support from the Green Climate Fund, have rolled out PICSA in 5 districts in Zimbabwe (Masvingo, Rushinga, Chipinge, Mwenezi and Mangwe).

Farmers like Annah are updated by PICSA-trained agricultural extension officers who work closely with the Meteorological Service Department (MSD) to produce and disseminate relevant climate information and advisories.

The farmers attend sessions which combine historical climate data and forecasts with their knowledge and experiences. They receive daily weather updates via WhatsApp groups and, in some areas, through community radio stations, which include call-in programmes where farmers can ask farming-related questions. All this information is used to plan which agricultural and livelihood practices to adopt.

“As we expect a long dry season, which will likely lead to drought, I was taught to plan, prepare, and adapt using the local resources I already have. El Niño is coming, and I have a plan B,” Annah said.

She explained that she decided not to sell her grain stocks from last year based on the climate information her agricultural extension worker shared.

“I’ve invested more time and effort in my garden this year as it is near river water. I also have some livestock, chickens, and goats, less likely to be affected by the dry spell. All these decisions were influenced by the knowledge we received through PICSA,” Annah shared.

In the past, farmers would have resources but lacked information to take appropriate action. These farmers, the majority of whom are women, would be affected at the end of the season when their crops failed, and their families were left short of food. The training and updates through PICSA have helped change this reality.

“The season forecast from us at the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe (MSD) is not a planting tool but a planning tool,” explained Roger Munyira, the Matabeleland South Provisional Officer.

“Our job is to provide information that helps communities mitigate food insecurity.”

Today, people like Annah have changed their outlook on the farming season. They integrate climate forecasts into their farming practices, adjust planting and harvesting schedules based on weather predictions, and positively change livelihoods.

Additionally, many have adopted climate-resilient crops like small grains and sustainable farming techniques, enhancing their adaptive capacity. Through women’s groups and community networks, they share climate-smart strategies, fostering a supportive environment for collective learning and resource-sharing.

According to Winnet Mzila, District Agronomist for Mangwe, PICSA has helped community members to perceive their farming activities as a business and prepare wholly for the season.

“PICSA looks at what can be done before, during, and after the season. We have taught farmers not only to depend on crop farming but also on livestock production. Farmers were taught to practice farming as a business, things like budgeting and how much they have invested and whether they made a profit or a loss,” she shared.

PICSA is implemented as part of an integrated climate risk management project where farmers engaging in asset creation activities receive tailored climate services, access weather index insurance, access markets and financial services, and benefit from anticipatory action plans to mitigate the impacts of climate shocks.

Urgent Action to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa

The United Nations has today issued a call for immediate action to address the escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Africa. Ms. Francesca Erdelmann, Acting UN Resident Coordinator for Zimbabwe made the call to action in her statement delivered on behalf of the UN Country Team in Zimbabwe during the official launch of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, which aims to combat this urgent challenge.

Ms. Erdelmann stressed the significance of World AMR Awareness Week and commended the efforts of Zimbabwe’s Government, FAO, UNEP, WHO, and Development Partners for organizing the Africa week of AMR advocacy in Harare. The launch brought together over five hundred delegates representing, Government, UN, health experts including CDC Africa (online and in person) drawn from across the Africa region covering over forty-eight countries.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, observed from 18 to 24 November annually, aims to raise awareness and combat the urgent challenge of AMR, which has been declared a global crisis with far-reaching implications for health and food security.

Antimicrobial resistance has been declared a global crisis with significant implications for global health and food security by world leaders during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. The World Health Organization has identified it as one of the top ten global public health threats facing humanity.

Sub-Saharan Africa faces serious challenges in combating antimicrobial

resistance due to unregulated and inappropriate use of antimicrobials across various sectors. This lack of regulation has led to the proliferation of substandard and falsified drugs, endangering not only health but also key sustainable development goals related to health, agriculture, animals, the environment, and food security.

The theme of this year’s AMR awareness week, “Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together,” emphasizes the need for urgent multisectoral action under the One Health Approach to safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobial medicines. In 2019 alone, antimicrobial-resistant infections claimed 4.9 million lives globally, surpassing the combined death toll from HIV/AIDS and malaria, with sub-Saharan African countries bearing the heaviest burden.

The upcoming UNGA 2024 High-level Meeting on AMR is seen as an opportunity to set new targets and practical steps to address the issue. Heads of Government, Government Ministers, and political leaders will gather to discuss effective approaches to combating AMR, considering aspects such as funding, policy development, and international collaboration

The United Nations, in collaboration with the African Union and the Republic of Zimbabwe, calls for enhanced political advocacy to highlight the severity of the growing AMR threat across the continent. Ms. Erdelmann echoed the “call to action” to Member States, including increasing and maintaining domestic funding for AMR National Action Plans and supporting the development of resilient health systems.



The United Nations, in collaboration with the African Union and the Republic of Zimbabwe, calls for enhanced political advocacy to highlight the severity of the growing AMR threat across the continent. Ms. Erdelmann echoed the "call to action" to Member States, including increasing and maintaining domestic funding for AMR National Action Plans and supporting the development of resilient health systems.

Enhancing surveillance and laboratory capacity, implementing targeted awareness campaigns, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders were also highlighted as key steps to combat AMR.

As World AMR Awareness Week 2023 is observed, the United Nations urges for a coordinated and joined-up efforts to prevent antimicrobial resistance and strive for a healthier and more sustainable future for all, leaving no one behind.

Government, Partners Renew Strong Commitment to Accelerate Action on SDGs

Honourable O.C.Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri, Minister of Defense, delivered a statement on behalf of President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, highlights the United Nations' growth over the past 78 years to include 193 Member States governed by the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. The Honourable Minister stated while addressing the 78th anniversary of the UN that brought together over 250 dignitaries, including senior government officials, UN representatives, Ambassadors, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Heads of International Development Cooperation, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, academia, youth and women's movements, organizations of persons with disabilities, and the media.

Honourable Muchinguri-Kashiri acknowledged the ongoing human suffering caused by conflicts around the world and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, emphasizing the protection of civilians, healthcare workers, and humanitarian workers. The theme of this year's commemoration, 'Accelerating action on SDGs,' emphasized the urgent need to redouble efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Expressing Zimbabwe's readiness to continue working with the United Nations, Honourable Muchinguri-Kashiri emphasized the importance of revitalizing the organization to address the complex challenges of the world. She called for renewed commitment to multilateralism for peace, security, justice, economic growth, and environmental protection.

In a video message screened at the event, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized the UN's role as a reflection of the world as it is and the world it aspires to be. He called upon everyone to help build a world of peace, sustainable development, and human rights for all. Guterres highlighted the importance of expanding opportunities, ensuring justice and equality for women and girls, providing life-saving relief, and addressing new challenges such as climate change and artificial intelligence.

Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Zimbabwe, praised Zimbabwe for its commitment to global peace through participation in UN peace operations. He emphasized the need to uphold the UN Charter and prioritize consensus-building within and among UN Member States to address challenges such as the climate crisis, conflicts, inequalities, and growing nationalism.

The UN Country Team in Zimbabwe is implementing the UN Cooperation Framework (2022-2026) aligned with national and global development agendas. With a focus on capacity building and strengthening institutions, the UN aims to support Zimbabwe's development aspirations in areas such as economic growth, social services, resilience building, climate action, gender equality, good governance, and human rights.

Through technical collaboration and development financing, the UN Country Team in Zimbabwe has delivered various development programs and projects worth USD \$524 million in the first year of the cooperation framework. The UN in Zimbabwe aims to accelerate SDG achievement by supporting conducive policy environment, strengthening institutions, and promoting the involvement of the private sector in sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, clean energy, and ICT.

Mr. Kallon emphasized the need to address outdated structures and processes hindering SDG progress, focusing on key transitions such as food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs, social protection, and addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. He emphasized the power of multilateralism, partnerships, and global solidarity to build a better future for all.

Paul Mavesere Ndhlovu, a member of Global Young Leaders on SDGs, shared his experiences and contributions towards achieving the SDGs. He emphasized the role of young people in advancing the SDGs as intergenerational solidarity, critical thinkers, change-makers and innovators, communicators, and leaders. He highlighted the need for young people's engagement as partners, service providers, and consultants, advocating for youth-friendly policies, training programmes, and financial support.

A video montage screened at the event highlighted the work of the UN in Zimbabwe, focusing on the achievements made so far in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It emphasized the role of partnerships, international cooperation, and integrated approaches in achieving the SDGs and called upon everyone to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

The anniversary celebration in Zimbabwe showcased the country's commitment to multilateralism, sustainable development, and achieving the SDGs. With the support of the United Nations, the Government of Zimbabwe aims to continue progress towards a better future for all Zimbabweans and become an upper middle-income society by 2030.



Government, UN Collaborate to Strengthen Results Reporting Capacity



By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

In a collaborative effort, the Office of the President and Cabinet of Zimbabwe and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office organized Results Reporting Capacity Building Workshop. The workshop reflected to address the capacity gap in results reporting, communications and enhancing monitoring and evaluation practices across Zimbabwe's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

During the opening remarks, the Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet for Social Services Reverend Paul Damasane expressed the commitment of the Government of Zimbabwe to improving results reporting as the country approaches the end of its 2023 activities and plans for 2024. It was emphasized that Zimbabwe is facing challenges in effectively implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to the insufficient reporting of results and the absence of appropriate data for interpretation.

The workshop focused on equipping monitoring and evaluation personnel within the MDAs with the necessary skills to enhance results reporting. It was acknowledged that while various activities are being carried out by different MDAs, the current reporting does not adequately capture the government's achievements, resulting in a lack of understanding of the work being done.

The Deputy Chief Secretary underscored the importance of clear and informative reporting to accurately reflect the government's efforts. The workshop aimed to bridge the capacity gap and improve data interpretation, enabling effective communication of achievements to both the domestic and international communities.

The workshop serves as a platform for the Government of Zimbabwe and the United Nations to collaborate and strengthen their capacity for results reporting. By emphasizing data interpretation, transparency, and accountability, the workshop aims to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs, with a focus on inclusive development.

Addressing participants, Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Zimbabwe, commended the Government of Zimbabwe for establishing Monitoring and Evaluation Units across all MDAs during the workshop. He emphasized the significance of effective results reporting in fostering trust, credibility, accountability, and transparency. Mr. Kallon emphasized the need for producing high-quality reports that demonstrate the commitment and progress of both the government and the UN in achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of prioritizing the principle of "Leaving No One and No Place Behind," ensuring that every individual, regardless of their circumstances, benefits from development programs and progress.

The workshop highlighted the role of monitoring and reporting in identifying gaps in policies and practices and tracking progress towards the SDGs. It emphasized the accountability aspect of reporting, ensuring that stakeholders remain responsible for their commitments, and emphasized the importance of evidence-based policies and programs.

The Government of Zimbabwe and the UN expressed their commitment to working together to translate aspirations into actions, ultimately building a sustainable future for all Zimbabweans. To address the issue of effectively communicating results, data, and progress, Mr. Sirak Gebrehiwot, UN Communications, Partnerships, and Development Finance Advisor, was introduced to provide support in this critical area.

During the workshop, Mr. Gebrehiwot assured the UN-Government Programme and Monitoring and Evaluation Officials of his commitment to support initiatives in enhancing communication efforts and effectively conveying the results, progress, and outcomes of development initiatives within Zimbabwe.

Improving communication in results reporting plays a crucial role in promoting transparency, accountability, and public understanding of development initiatives. By effectively communicating results and progress, stakeholders can gain a comprehensive understanding of the impact of various programs and policies.

With the support of Mr. Gebrehiwot and the UN Communications Group, Zimbabwe can establish clear and effective communication channels that inform and engage stakeholders. Their assistance will enhance the visibility of Zimbabwe's development initiatives and facilitate a greater understanding of the progress made to date.

Moving forward, the Government of Zimbabwe and the UN can anticipate valuable support from Mr. Gebrehiwot as they collaborate to improve results communication. By fostering strong partnerships and utilizing effective communication strategies, Zimbabwe can showcase its achievements and progress to both domestic and international audiences.

The Results Reporting Capacity Building Workshop marks a significant step forward in achieving transparency, accountability, and effective communication in Zimbabwe's development journey.

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO



UN Calls for Stronger Partnerships with Private Sector and Civil Society



Dr. Ayodele Odusola, acting UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, called for increased collaboration between Government, United Nations, the private sector and civil society organizations during a powerful address at an NGO conference convened by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Zimbabwe (ICAZ).

Dr. Odusola highlighted the critical need for collaborative effort to increase momentum on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He pointed to the role of the UN in Zimbabwe, which involves cultivating resilient partnerships that strengthen the government's ability to achieve both local and international development goals.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN is actively seeking to pool resources encompassing knowledge, expertise, technology, and finances through these alliances.

He commended ICAZ and participants for their roles in fostering multi-stakeholder conversations. Dr. Odusola stressed the imperative of cooperative efforts across public sectors, businesses, and civil societies to effectively tackle development challenges at various levels.

Dr. Odusola underlined the diversity within civil society, which includes a spectrum of groups representing women, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, and professional bodies to name a few.

He referred to the Zimbabwe United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (ZUNSDCF) 2022-2026 as the cornerstone for the partnership between the United Nations and Government of Zimbabwe as well as other stakeholders including private sector and NGOs.

The United Nations continuously seeks to harness partnerships that bring together diverse skills, knowledge, and resources to realize the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. Dr. Odusola recommended the creation of a civil society platform to boost partnerships and offer a forum for strategic dialogue and collective action.

Despite the hurdles faced by CSOs, Dr. Odusola praised their determination and the remarkable progress they've made in meeting community needs and expanding their reach for services.

Going forward, Dr. Odusola emphasized the need to rejuvenate the civil society sector with a collective and influential voice that can inform development policies and operations. He urged for dialogue to enhance collaboration between civil society and government entities, aiming for a united and harmonious society. Dr. Odusola reiterated the importance of united efforts, underlining that unity can lead to transformative changes and expedite progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The conference led by ICAZ served as an important conduit for strengthening cooperation and discourse among the Government of Zimbabwe, the UN, private sector, civil organizations, and other key players, all working towards sustainable development and realizing the country's aspiration as outlined in the National Development Strategy 2021-2025 and Vision 2030 to become upper middle-income society.





Stakeholder Briefing Highlights Significance of Refugee Education

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

In a multi-stakeholder briefing, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon, emphasized the importance of refugee education in Zimbabwe. The briefing, coinciding with the 78th anniversary of the United Nations and the entry into force of the UN Charter, aimed to address the challenges and opportunities in providing education to refugees in the country.

Mr. Kallon recognized the efforts of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Zimbabwe Commissioner for Refugees in promoting refugee education. He highlighted that education is not only a fundamental human right but also a vital tool for refugees to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their host communities.

Refugee education acts as a pathway to empowerment, self-reliance, and resilience, enabling individuals to overcome the challenges they face. Recognizing this, the United Nations, in collaboration with its Member States and partner organizations, has initiated comprehensive efforts to address this issue and ensure the inclusion of refugees in education.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4, which emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and Goal 10, which focuses on reducing inequalities for marginalized populations, including refugees, serve as a roadmap for promoting inclusivity in education.

During his visit to Tongogara refugee camp, Mr. Kallon witnessed the positive impact of refugee education firsthand. He highlighted the example of young people applying their knowledge to harvest renewable energy and promote organic farming, demonstrating the practical skills gained through education.

Despite the progress made, challenges persist in advancing refugee education, requiring increased support from all stakeholders. Mr. Kallon urged the Government of Zimbabwe, UN agencies, Development Partners, Donors, civil society organizations, the private sector, and host communities to strengthen their support for refugee education initiatives. Resource mobilization, expertise sharing, and innovative solutions are crucial for realizing the collective vision of inclusive and quality education for refugees.

Mr. Samuel Armstrong Chakwera, UNHCR Representative, in his opening remarks emphasized the significance of refugee education in Zimbabwe. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Zimbabwe, the Commissioner for Refugees, and the donor community for their continuous assistance and protection provided to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Mr. Chakwera stressed the urgent need to address the education gap among refugee children, as more than half of the world's school-aged refugee children are currently missing formal education according to a recent UNHCR report. He underscored that inclusive and equitable quality education for all is integral to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Zimbabwe, home to over 23,300 refugees and asylum-seekers, has made notable progress in providing education to refugee children and young adults. They have access to the national school system and follow the same curriculum as Zimbabwean students, exempt from additional fees.

To further support refugee education, the UNHCR's multi-year strategy for Zimbabwe, aligned with the five-year

Zimbabwe-UN Cooperation Framework, focuses on safe learning spaces for children and their equitable and sustainable inclusion in the national educational system.

Initiatives to improve infrastructure, internet connectivity, online learning tools, and inclusive education for children with special needs are among the key focuses.

However, ongoing funding challenges pose a threat to the sustainability and quality of refugee education. Mr. Chakwera emphasized the need for long-term partnerships and increased funding to bridge these gaps. By doing so, a brighter future can be ensured for refugee children, benefiting individuals, and contributing to community development and stability.

Strong partnerships and collaborative efforts are essential to provide refugee children with access to education. Through sustainable funding and partnerships, a conducive environment can be created for their academic and socio-economic development. This collective action will pave the way for a brighter and more hopeful future for refugee children in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Showcasing Success of Devolution: Nyamhunga People's Market Commissioned in Kariba

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

The Nyamhunga People's Market in Kariba was officially commissioned today by the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Hon. Marian Chombo. The commissioning event garnered significant attention, with the presence of various dignitaries, including District Development Coordinators, local government officials, line ministries, Kariba Municipality Councilors, and United Nations (UN) officials led by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon.

The commissioning of the market comes after previous successful devolution projects in Kariba, including the commissioning of road equipment and the installation of solar streetlights. These projects have aimed to enhance road connectivity, improve trafficability, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the area.

By implementing these projects, the government is aligned with the country's vision of achieving a prosperous and empowered upper middle-income society by 2030, 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and its seventeen goals. The Government's Emergency Road Rehabilitation Program (ERRP) has played a vital role in facilitating urgent repairs and maintenance to further enhance road connectivity in Kariba.

The Nyamhunga People's Market is set to provide a dedicated workspace for small to medium enterprises, aiming to bolster the informal sector of the economy. The Minister emphasized the importance of grassroots community involvement in the planning and execution of devolution projects. Beneficiaries of the market were encouraged to seize the opportunity and grow their businesses.

Furthermore, the Minister urged the youth to refrain from drug and substance abuse, emphasizing its detrimental effects on their health and prospects. The Municipality of Kariba was commended for their commitment to the devolution agenda and the successful implementation of the Nyamhunga People's Market project.

In a congratulatory message, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon, acknowledged

the achievements of Minister Marian Chombo and her team in successfully implementing devolution-funded development projects in Kariba. The UN recognizes the pivotal role played by devolution in bringing public and social services closer to communities, enabling them to plan and achieve their own development goals.

Kariba, renowned for its hydroelectric power supply, fisheries, and status as a tourist destination, serves as a prime example of the positive impact of devolution. Projects such as the Nyamhunga People's Market exemplify the success of devolution by providing crucial infrastructure, essential services, and economic opportunities.

The collaboration between government officials, District Development Coordinators, and community members has paved the way for economic growth, job creation, and community development. These projects underscore the significance of community participation and affordable housing, showcasing the advantages of devolution.

The UN expressed gratitude to all parties involved in making these projects a reality and commended the Government of Zimbabwe for its unwavering commitment to devolution. It called for continuous support and promotion of devolution as a critical approach to sustainable development and improving living standards of all people in Zimbabwe.



Fostering Synergy and Collaboration with UN-Government Development Programmes

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

In line with the United Nations' commitment to support the development goals of the Government of Zimbabwe and support accelerated progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Mr. Edward Kallon, the UN Resident Coordinator for Zimbabwe, is conducting an official visit to Mashonaland West Province from October 12-15, 2023. The purpose of this visit is to identify areas for synergy and collaboration between the Government's Devolution Development Fund and the UN-supported development programmes, in alignment with the 2021-2025 National Development Strategy-I, Vision 2030 to become upper middle-income society, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the beginning of his visit, Mr. Kallon paid a courtesy call to Honourable Marian Chombo, Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution of Mashonaland West.

This visit aims to foster synergy between the UN-supported development programs, the Government's Devolution Development Fund, and national mega-development projects under the NDS-I. The Ministry of Information, Media, and Broadcasting Services, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Mashonaland West Provincial Authorities have extended their support and facilitated the organization of this visit.

One of the key areas Mr. Kallon observed first-hand is the food and nutrition security research center supported by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) in Kariba. These initiatives are implemented in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe at both the national and local level.

The objective of the visit was to strengthen collaboration between the UN and the Government of Zimbabwe, specifically in the areas of development, food security, research, and sustainability.

Receiving Mr. Kallon in Chinhoyi this morning, Honourable Marian Chombo emphasized the tremendous potential of Mashonaland West Province. The province boasts significant natural resources, such as gold, platinum, chrome, and lithium, as well as a thriving agricultural sector. Chombo highlighted Mashonaland West's status as the highest wheat producer in the country, with the largest grain silos in Africa. The province is also blessed with beautiful water bodies, including the iconic Lake Kariba.

The Honourable Minister further emphasized their commitment to community development through devolution projects and a bottom-up approach. She expressed gratitude for the collaboration with UN entities and expressed eagerness for further UN support to complement the government's efforts. Chombo also celebrated the success of enrolling more girls and women in Chinhoyi University of Technology, signaling progress in promoting gender equality and education.

The visit by the UN Resident Coordinator provides an important platform for dialogue, collaboration, and partnership building. It underscores the United Nations System in Zimbabwe commitment to sustainable and inclusive development in Zimbabwe. This visit also serves as an opportunity to assess the progress made in the implementation of various development programmes and identify areas where further support is needed.

The United Nations remains committed to working closely with the Government of Zimbabwe and other stakeholders to address challenges and seize opportunities in Mashonaland West Province, thereby contributing to the overall development agenda of Zimbabwe and supporting the country's efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen goals.

Mobilization of South-South and Triangular Cooperation Resources to Drive SDGs

By Sirak Gebrehiwot, UNRCO

Addressing delegates at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held on 9-10 October in Victoria Falls, Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe underlined the importance of mobilizing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) resources. The UN Resident Coordinator was opening a high-level panel discussion aimed to explore strategies to address population and development challenges through increased collaboration and innovative financing mechanisms.

Commending the Government of Zimbabwe for hosting and UNFPA for convening the initiative, Mr. Kallon emphasized the relevance of global instruments such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the resolution from the recent SDGs summit on financing for development.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation have played a pivotal role in addressing population and development challenges faced by countries in the south, including Zimbabwe. Mr. Kallon stressed that these cooperative partnerships foster mutual learning, strengthen capacities, and promote inclusive and equitable development.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a comprehensive framework for mobilizing both domestic and international resources to support sustainable development.

It underlines the importance of cooperation among developing countries, including SSTC, to leverage resources and enhance development outcomes. By aligning their efforts with global development agendas, delegates and their respective countries can make significant progress.

Mr. Kallon further highlighted the recent SDGs summit, which underscores the need for innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mobilizing resources through SSTC can help address the financing gap widened by the triple planetary crisis of COVID-19, climate change, and conflict, while ensuring the achievement of the SDGs.

The panel discussion aimed to explore successful practices, lessons learned, and potential areas for collaboration in mobilizing SSTC resources effectively. It also served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and networking among stakeholders involved in SSTC. Delegates had the opportunity to showcase success stories and best practices from other countries, providing inspiration and practical insights.

During the discussion, Mr. Kallon provided key perspectives on marshaling SSTC resources for development. He emphasized the immense potential of South-South and

Triangular Cooperation, enabling developing countries to share knowledge, experiences, and resources to collectively address common challenges. Strengthening international cooperation, solidarity, and partnerships anchored on multilateralism and the UN Charter is crucial to fully capitalize on the potential of SSTC. Collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector is essential in mobilizing resources and fostering an enabling environment for sustainable development financing.

Furthermore, Mr. Kallon highlighted the importance of adopting a financing-for-development approach, which not only focuses on identifying and securing resources but also ensures their effective and efficient utilization. Promoting innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, public-private partnerships, and impact investments, can unlock new sources of funding.

The UN Resident Coordinator highlighted the significance of domestic resource mobilization in tackling population and sustainable development challenges. Countries must be

combating illicit financial flows, rooting out corruption, and developing sustainable economic policies. Strengthening domestic revenue generation allows countries to have greater ownership and control over their development agendas.

Mr. Kallon expressed hope that the International Conference, particularly the panel discussion on mobilizing SSTC resources, would foster meaningful dialogue, foster new partnerships, and contribute to a sustainable future for people and the planet. By harnessing the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and shifting the focus towards financing for development, countries can mobilize the resources necessary to achieve transformative change outlined in the International Conference on Population and Development.

The panel discussion on mobilizing SSTC resources shed light on the importance of collaborative efforts, innovative financing mechanisms, and domestic resource mobilization to drive sustainable development and address population challenges across regions.

Accelerating Progress through Localizing the SDGs



The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Zimbabwe, Mr. Edward Kallon, addressing local authorities at the recently held localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) workshop, underlined the importance of accelerating progress on the SDGs in the country through improved local capacity building.

Mr. Kallon congratulated the Ministries of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, and Local Government and Public Works for organizing a weeklong national capacity-building workshop that ended on 6 October 2023.

The workshop was supported by DSDG/UNDESA, UNECA, UNDP and UN Resident Coordinator's office to enhance integration of the SDGs into local development plans and strategies.

He emphasized how Zimbabwe, like many other countries, recognizes the pivotal role played by sub-national and local governments in implementing the SDGs. These institutions address critical issues such as poverty, food security, education, healthcare, gender equality, and reducing inequalities.

Mr. Kallon highlighted that proper engagement and coordination with

local government are imperative,

as at least one hundred of the 169 SDG targets cannot be achieved without such collaboration.

The concept of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) gained recognition as a powerful accelerator of SDG implementation. VLRs contribute to collecting data, inclusive decision-making processes, strengthening multilevel governance, and informing the elaboration of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). These reviews also help integrate the SDGs into national and local planning, allowing for better responses to specific community needs.

Mr. Kallon acknowledged the challenges Zimbabwe faces, despite the remarkable progress it has made in its development trajectory. Poverty, inequality, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure are just some of the complex issues that need to be addressed. He emphasized the importance of partnerships and collaboration, stating that no nation can achieve the SDGs alone. Zimbabwe acknowledged this and understood the significance of government, civil society, private sector, and international community working hand in hand for the benefit of all Zimbabweans.

The UN Resident Coordinator also stressed the need for data-driven decision-making and evidence-based policies. Although Zimbabwe has made strides in data collection and analysis, he encouraged the government to invest further in these areas to inform policies and interventions accurately.

Climate change and sustainable use of natural resources were other critical aspects highlighted by Mr. Kallon. Zimbabwe understood the impact of climate change, including erratic rainfall patterns, droughts, and extreme weather events. He called for the prioritization of climate resilience and the adoption of sustainable practices to protect natural resources for future generations.

Mr. Kallon highlighted the interconnected nature of the SDGs. He compared solving the SDGs' challenges to solving a Rubik's cube, where considering all sides in relation to each other is crucial.

He expressed concern that current development practices and institutions often favor disparate and competing strategies, hindering progress towards the SDGs.



He emphasized the urgency to reform economic models and policy processes, aligning them with ambitions, and scaling up investments to accelerate SDG progress.

To achieve this, the UN had identified six key transitions with the potential to multiply the impact across all goals. These transitions include food systems; energy access; digital connectivity; transforming education; jobs and social protection; and tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Achieving these transitions would require bridging the data gap, strengthening SDG localization, and leveraging science, technology, and innovation.

Mr. Kallon stressed the importance of equitable and just transitions, emphasizing human rights, gender equality, and the principle of Leaving No One Behind. Each transition must address specific challenges, such as disproportionate food insecurity experienced by women and rural communities or ensuring universal health coverage for all.

Financing played a crucial role, with the need for a significant increase in finance flows for global SDG implementation. Public and private sector investments, debt restructuring, lifting trade barriers, and attracting funding from all sources were all important aspects to consider.

To support Zimbabwe in delivering on these transitions, the UN Country Team in Zimbabwe committed to driving policy and regulatory shifts, developing bankable national projects with public and private sector participation, attracting financing from all sources, and providing capacity-building support to institutions and civil society.

The Joint SDG Fund had already begun providing crucial support at the global level, incubating and capitalizing on new avenues of financing. The recent SDG Summit marked a significant opportunity to put the SDGs back on track, and Mr. Kallon encouraged the audience to incorporate approaches and strategies discussed at the summit.

Mr. Kallon reiterated the UN system's commitment to supporting Zimbabwe and its continuous improvement. He called for unity, collaboration, and shared effort in accelerating progress towards a sustainable future for all Zimbabweans, leaving no one and no place behind.

And so, the journey to localize the SDGs in Zimbabwe began with renewed vigor and determination.

And so, the journey to localize the SDGs in Zimbabwe began with renewed vigor and determination. The people of Zimbabwe, along with their government and international partners, embarked on a path of integrated policy approaches, data-driven decision-making, and equitable transitions.

With everyone working together, Zimbabwe set itself on a course to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and create a brighter future for all its citizens.



UN Zimbabwe Sports Team Clinches Second Place

The United Nations Zimbabwe sports team secured an impressive second-place finish at the UN Southern Africa games in Namibia during the last quarter of 2023.

Their unwavering determination, exceptional abilities, and tireless efforts have consistently propelled them to success in various competitions, highlighting their remarkable talent and upholding the honor of the United Nations community in Zimbabwe. Their accomplishments serve as a source of great pride and inspiration for everyone involved.





25 UN Entities working as one Country Team supporting Zimbabwe to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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ZIMBABWE**



UN Resident Coordinator's Office - Zimbabwe
Block 10. Arundel Office Park. Norfolk Rd. Harare

Zimbabwe.Un.Org | @UNZimbabwe | Facebook/UNZimbabwe