

## CHAPTER THREE

### **THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN THE PRSP**

This PRSP has been prepared after extensive consultations involving cabinet, the legislature, other government bodies, the private sector, academia, NGOs, donors and the provinces.

The first set of activities undertaken in preparing the PRSP was to hold awareness seminars with the first being for senior government officials (heads of departments and above) including provincial administrators. An awareness seminar for government was considered necessary out of experience with previous programs that indicated that even within government, sharing of information and understanding of programs is not always adequate. Awareness seminars were also held for Ministers and senior parliamentarians. A seminar was held for general stakeholders at which agreement was reached on how to advance the preparation of the PRSP.

The stakeholders' seminar agreed to establish eight working groups to work on various issues relating to poverty and the PRSP. Each working group drew members from all interest groups including government, business, academia, church, NGOs, professional associations and donors. Over a period of nearly six months, they devised plans on how to reduce poverty from various sectoral perspectives. In parallel, specialised institutions were requested to make presentations to the working groups on important cross cutting issues such as HIV-AIDS, roads, water, etc. They were also requested to initiate draft papers to be included in the PRSP on those topics and these were shared with other stakeholders at general seminars for all working groups.

This PRSP has also benefited a lot from other related efforts. In particular Zambia produced a National Action Plan for Reducing Poverty in 1999. The plan articulated strategies to reduce poverty by tackling the following issues:

Box 1: National Development Priorities in the Poverty Reduction Action Plan, 2000

<p><b>NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN THE POVERTY REDUCTION ACTION PLAN, 2000 TO 2004</b></p> <p><b>1. EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Problems to Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Build capacity for improved social service delivery</li><li>II. Improve institutional capacity for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation</li><li>III. Improve logistical and information systems to support effective decision-making</li><li>IV. Build district capacity to manage education and health services</li><li>V. Accelerate issuance of title deeds to land and housing</li></ul> <p><b>Primary Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Central Government</li><li>II. Population</li></ul> <p><b>2. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p> <p><b>Problems to Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Construct/rehabilitate rural roads network and develop communication systems in rural areas</li><li>II. Promote rural electrification and use of alternative sources of energy</li><li>III. Promote private sector marketing of inputs</li><li>IV. Provide financial, social and market intermediation in the informal sector</li></ul> <p><b>Primary Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Private sector enterprises</li><li>II. Rural poor small holder farmers</li><li>III. Urban poor</li><li>IV. Population</li></ul> <p><b>3. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Problems to Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Increase access to basic education and improve supply of educational equipment and materials</li><li>II. Increase access to skills development and vocational training</li><li>III. Improve health and nutrition of school pupils</li><li>IV. Provide essential and cost effective primary health care services</li><li>V. Increase access to clean and safe water and sanitation for rural areas</li></ul> <p><b>Primary Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Unemployed Youth</li><li>II. Rural poor small holder farmers</li><li>III. Central Government</li><li>IV. Population</li></ul> <p><b>4. TARGETED GROUP INTERVENTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Problems to Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Provide safety net for unemployed persons including retrenchees</li><li>II. Targeted food security, health and nutrition interventions to areas with high poverty levels</li><li>III. Implement land resettlement initiatives for displaced workers</li><li>IV. Provide infrastructure support for disabled persons</li></ul> <p><b>Primary Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Unemployed Youth</li><li>II. Rural poor small holder farmers</li><li>III. Central Government</li><li>IV. Retrenchees, Children, Disabled and Female and Child headed households</li><li>V. Population</li></ul> <p><b>5. CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES</b></p> <p><b>Problems to Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. HIV/AIDS</li><li>II. Environmental Management</li><li>III. Human Rights</li><li>IV. Promote gender equity and the role of women in economic development</li></ul> <p><b>Primary Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Population</li></ul> <p><b>6. URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Problems to Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Improve and legalise unplanned peri -urban settlements</li><li>II. Rehabilitate urban water supply and management</li><li>III. Increase access to adequate housing in urban areas</li></ul> <p><b>Primary Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Urban population</li></ul>
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The PRSP has drawn a lot from the NPRAP especially in the social sectors and the cross cutting issues. The key addition that has been made is the emphasis on stimulating higher economic growth for the reasons indicated above already. Although growth is mentioned

in the NPRAP also, it is hoped that that the strategies for attaining it are clearer in the PRSP.

Further consultations for the PRSP came from the review of literature on poverty in Zambia. In particular, much research work has been conducted in areas such as children deprivation, female deprivation, HIV-AIDS and its effects, etc. On top of this, a lot of participatory research work in Zambia has been done in consulting communities regarding the meaning of poverty, its causes and what they see to be the appropriate solutions to combat it. The results of the studies have been taken into account.

An additional method of participation has been to engage the rural areas. In each province 10 delegates from districts in that province comprising the administrative district head, a few sector experts like agriculture, health and education, a representative of traditional leaders and NGOs/ church convened at the provincial headquarters in a PRSP consultative conference. In the provincial conferences participants were encouraged to discuss poverty reduction at different levels including its meaning, its causes, what outsiders could do to help reduce it and what the locals could do to reduce it. The participants were then exposed to the ideas that were developed in the Working groups and then finally they had the opportunity to reflect on the priorities they had discussed after considering the submissions from the Lusaka Working Groups.

The government team that prepared this PRSP worked closely with civil society members. Civil society were members of the PRSP working groups and they participated in the provincial consultations. On top of this, they held their own consultative meetings on various themes and their recommendations and concerns on these were presented to government.

### **Provincial Concerns**

Appendix 2 summaries the key concerns that came out of the provinces. Although the explanations for poverty are varied generally there is commonality. The general explanation for rural poverty is closely linked to a liberalised agriculture policy that is considered a failure. Other general concerns almost in all provinces include, poor roads and infrastructure, lack of jobs, poor access to health due to distance to health centres, distant water sources and poor quality teaching although access is usually enough. Area specific complaints included livestock diseases, physical insecurity due to conflict across the borders and individual factors such laziness, early marriages, etc.

In urban provinces, the greatest concern is lack of gainful employment opportunities and poor and expensive health and education facilities despite the proximity of the service stations.

Given the multiplicity of problems, which cannot all be solved at once, this PRSP addresses provincial concerns in the following ways:

- The commitment to provide basic education, health, water and sanitary services as outlined in the sector papers should unwavering in rural areas. Strongest interventions will be in areas where the quality of human life in terms of social services needs most attention. These interventions, if successful guarantee

investments in human capital and although job opportunities may in the short term be limited in those areas, those who succeed as a result of interventions in health and education receive the empowerment of the option of moving to locations in the country where livelihood prospects are better.

- ❑ In any case, they become better equipped to deal with the external environment.
- ❑ A similar commitment to rehabilitation and maintenance of all key infrastructure such as trunk roads, feeder roads will be made.
- ❑ As most poor people are found in rural provinces, the key problem of food security will be addressed strongly using the methods outlined already.
  
- ❑ Beyond this level, the government recognises that general prosperity in the provinces will partly also depend on the part that they can play in attracting and facilitating good investments in areas like tourism and agriculture. Every part of the country is sufficiently endowed to take advantage of this opportunity. The provinces are therefore expected to design how they can fit into the general agriculture and tourist plans.