

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND EXTENSION
AGG 3811- RURAL SOCIOLOGY

**SYSTEM DYNAMICS AND INDIVIDUAL ACTION - SELECTED THEMES OF
DEVELOPMENT – UNIT 6**

6.1 Sources of Social Change

There are a great number of factors that stimulate change. We limit our discussion to following factors:

- values and beliefs,
- technology,
- population,
- diffusion, and
- the physical environment:

All cultures change overtime. Some cultures however, change much faster than do others. The pace of change is closely related to the total number of cultural traits in a culture at a particular time. The more culture traits there are, the fastest the culture can change, since more possibilities for change exist. The rate of change is further accelerated by the fact each change brings about other changes.

a) **Values and beliefs.** As functionalists have noted, society is a system of interrelated parts. A change in one aspect of society produces change throughout the system. Changes in values and beliefs therefore can have far reaching consequences for society. This is particularly true when new values and beliefs are part of a larger system of ideology. An ideology is a system of beliefs, or ideas that justifies some social, moral, religious. Political, or economic interests held by a social group or society. Ideologies often are spread through social movements. A *social movement* is a long term conscious effort to promote or prevent social change. Social movements usually involve large numbers of people. Examples of these include civil rights movements, peace movement and women's movements.

b) **Technology.** Social change occurs when people find new ways to manipulate their environment. The knowledge and tools that people use to manipulate their environment for practical purposes called technology two ways in which technologies arise are through discovery and invention. *Discovery* occurs when people recognize new uses for existing elements in the World or begin to understand them in new ways.

Invention occurs when people use existing knowledge to create something that did not previously exist. Inventions can take the form of material objects, ideas, or patterns of behavior. Examples of non-material inventions include political movements, religious movements, new hobbies and business organizations.

- c) **Population.** A change in the size of the population may bring about changes in culture. For instance, larger population brings increased demand for housing, energy, schools, stores, transportation, food and so on. Population increases and decreases affect the economy. By increasing the demand for goods and services, a growing population may increase employment and stimulate the economy. On the other hand, a community with a declining population needs fewer goods and services, and employment opportunities may become limited for the people who remain. People also bring about changes by moving from one place to another. Whenever, a family moves from one community to another, it stimulates some changes both in the community it leaves and in the new community it enters. Changes in the age structure of a population also bring about social and cultural changes. When few babies are being born, for example, the need for schools, recreation centers, and other services geared toward children and young adults is reduced. The need for specialized services geared toward the elderly, on the other hand, increases as more people live to old age.

- d) **Diffusion.** People often borrow ideas, acts, behaviours, and material objects from other societies. This process of spreading cultural traits from one society to another is called diffusion. Contact with other cultural groups as well as contact with other cultures also allows change to occur positively or negatively.

- e) **The physical environment.** The environment provides conditions that may encourage or discourage cultural change. People in some societies eat only the foods that they can grow locally. Other societies import much of their food. Many societies also adapt new crops to grow in their area. The introduction of new foods or the scarcity of a familiar food can bring about cultural change. Natural disasters such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes and tidal waves also can produce social and cultural change. Buildings often are destroyed, businesses can be damaged beyond, and industries can find themselves so financially burdened that they cannot recover. After such disasters, people often take precautions for the future. Dams may be built to lessen the effects of floods and droughts. Communities may be rebuilt further from fault lines.

6.2 Responses to development - Agriculture, Environment, Development and Gender: Local and global views.

6.2.1 Agriculture

Zambia has favourable climate, fertile land, vast water resources and the potential to increase its agricultural output. Arable land covers 47 percent of the country's total land but only about 15 percent of this is under cultivation. The agriculture sector is the fourth largest contributor to GDP which in the period 2006-2015 averaged 9.8 percent and the largest contributor to employment. The sector comprising of crop, fisheries and livestock is critical for achieving diversification, economic growth and poverty reduction in Zambia.

A variety of eighteen (18) different crops are grown. In 2014, the SADC region's total commercial consumption of maize, wheat and sorghum was 39 million tonnes against regional production of 34 million tonnes. There still is potential to increase the current levels of export by 300 percent (7NDP, 2017-2021). Though there is also the potential to developing 2.75 million hectares of land under irrigation, less than 200,000 hectares are actually irrigated. It is reported that only 17,800 hectares of new land were during the period 2011-2016, brought under irrigation. Of which 6,800 hectares of land were through the public investments and 11,000 hectares were through private sector. For increased crop diversification, production and productivity, irrigation development therefore remains a key intervention in agriculture.

Zambia's agriculture comprises of the commercial, emergent and small scale farmers. Family agriculture or small scale farming which relies largely on erratic rainfall, low use input, simple technology and short supply of labour is the backbone of the rural agricultural economy. In the 2015/16 farming season as a result of erratic rainfall for instance, maize production decreased by 21.9 percent to 2,618,221 metric tonnes (MT) from 3,350,671 MT in 2013/14. Barley and rice also declined by 75.0 percent and 48.6 percent respectively. Other major crops that recorded significant declines included Burley tobacco, sorghum, Virginia tobacco, groundnuts, sweet potatoes and cotton.

During the period under review, output for 13 of the 18 major crops declined. This was largely attributed to erratic rainfall which negatively affected the yield rates. For instance, Zambia's economy during period 2000 to 2005 grew at an annual average of about 5.8 percent while the 2006 to 2015 period saw an upward and sustained growth averaging 6.9 percent. However, to exploit this opportunity, Zambia needs to increase the current production and productivity levels.

The fisheries sub-sector in Zambia is one of the promising development areas. In 2011, fish imports were valued at US\$ 32,118,412 which increased by 253 percent to US\$113,434,446 in 2015 (7NDP, 2017-2021). It contributes around 3.2 percent to national GDP. However, the sector remains underdeveloped and due to inadequate legislation, control and surveillance many natural water bodies have been overfished. This has been exacerbated by climate induced effects that have reduced the yields of capture fisheries and have made Zambia continue being a net importer of fish. Between 2011 and 2015, the value of fish exports was reported to have decreased from US\$1,081,964 to US\$503,649.

Thus, the depletion of fish stocks has continued to affect the livelihoods of the surrounding populations who depend on the fishing value chain. As the country's population continues to grow, the country's fish requirements are expected to also increase to about 214,625 MT from the current 135,000 MT giving a deficit of 201, 125 to attain the recommended level of fish intake of 12 Kg per person per annum. This scenario demands increased investment in fish farming technologies, sustainable management of capture fisheries and strengthening fisheries training and research.

As agriculture sector retains its central role in rural livelihoods and employment over the coming decades. The Government has adopted a diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector. Six strategies and related programmes have been outlined in the 7NDP and include:

- 1) **Improved production and productivity** undertaken along the entire product value chain from farm to agro-processing and manufacturing at the sector and enterprise levels.
- 2) **Improve access to finance for production and exports** affordable finance for farmers, agri-business MSMEs and exporters of high value agricultural products. Other interventions will include access to finance for auxiliary services to production and exports
- 3) **Enhance agriculture value chains by** investment in production, agro-processing and marketing, including export market and distribution mechanisms. With emphasis on promotion of citizen participation in agri-business and linking local to regional and international value chains.
- 4) **Strategy 4: Promote diversification within the agriculture sector**
Focus will be placed on agricultural diversification in crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry
products based on comparative and competitive advantage of each product and agro-ecological zones.

5) Enhance investment in agricultural infrastructure.

The aim is to enable the sector produce, process and market its various products competitively in the domestic, regional and international markets. Key among such infrastructure will be warehousing, storage, breeding centres and irrigation, among others.

6) Promote small-scale agriculture

Through creation of jobs, enhanced living conditions of rural communities, implementation of some key actions to improve the income, rights and status of family farmers and family farm workers. Key actions included are risk reduction through improved farming systems, a better market environment, secure land rights and adequate provision of public goods and social protection among others.

Zambia's specific programmes to improving agriculture using each one of the above discussed strategies are outlined as follows:

Strategy 1: Improve production and productivity (source 7th NDP)

- Productivity-enhancing technology development;
- Farm block development;
- Irrigation development;
- Agriculture input supply management;
- Aquaculture development;
- Research and development promotion (crops, livestock and fisheries);
- Early warning systems development; and
- Farm power and mechanisation enhancement.

Strategy 2: Improve access to finance for production and exports

- Agricultural finance product development;
- Export financing and insurance promotion;
- Product standardisation and quality assurance enhancement; and
- Business development services provision.

Strategy 3: Enhance agriculture value chains

- Agro- and forestry-based processing and manufacturing promotion;
- Product standardisation and quality assurance enhancement;
- Agri-business development services provision; and
- Value chain linkages promotion.

Strategy 4: Promote diversification within the agriculture sector

- Crop, forestry fisheries and livestock product diversification; and
- Agriculture cooperatives and farmer group development.

Strategy 5: Enhance investment in agricultural infrastructure

- Livestock and fisheries breeding and service centres development;
- Storage facilities development;
- Fisheries support infrastructure development;
- Rural roads development;
- ICT development;
- Agricultural training institutions development; and
- Research and extension infrastructure development.

6.2.2 Environmental Issues

Zambia's biodiversity which includes land, water, forests, wildlife soils and air, faces a number of challenges and threats. Wildlife faces the challenge of illegal wildlife trade and poaching. The forests face a challenge of deforestation as a result of land use such as agriculture and human settlements. Forests are also threatened by charcoal burning (by rural people) which is a source of energy for the poor people in urban areas who cannot afford electricity. Zambia is also highly endowed with abundant water resources from rivers, lakes and wetlands. Biodiversity in freshwater bodies face threats such as pollution, poor fishing methods and overfishing. Due to unsustainable farmer agricultural practices, the challenges of chemical runoff into watersheds has been reported

Over two decades, Zambia has been experiencing most serious climatic hazards as drought, seasonal floods including flush floods, extreme temperatures and dry spells. These, due to their increased frequency, intensity and magnitude have adversely impacted on food and water security, water quality and sustainable livelihoods of rural communities

The current environmental issues can be summarised to include:

- air pollution and resulting acid rain in the mineral extraction and refining region;
- chemical runoff into watersheds;
- poaching seriously threatens rhinoceros, elephant, antelope, and large cat populations;
- deforestation;

- soil erosion;
- desertification;
- lack of adequate water treatment presents human health risks

The poor rainfall patterns have for example, resulted in the fall in the country's hydro-power generation in the recent period by about 600 MW. The lower supply of electricity has hampered growth prospects of Zambia's productive sectors of the economy, including agriculture, manufacturing, mining and services.

Other adverse effects have led to increased costs of treating climate-related diseases such as malaria and the loss of natural environments, damage to infrastructure and disruption of biodiversity. It is estimated that the impact of climate change will cost Zambia approximately 0.4 percent of annual economic growth. It is further estimated that without action, rainfall variability alone could lead to losses of 0.9 percent of GDP growth over the next decade, thereby keeping a significant section of Zambia's population below the poverty line (7NDP, 2017-2021).

Thus, for any development project to be sustainable, the environment and issues surrounding the environment must be addressed.

Zambia's response to climate change has been to establish the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA, 2007), to assist the country prepare itself towards adapting and mitigating anticipated problems related to Climate Change. NAPA identifies adaptation interventions against climate change impacts in the agricultural and food, energy and water, natural resources and wildlife sectors to ensure that people's livelihoods are safeguarded. The programme complements government efforts of addressing issues affecting vulnerable Zambians emanating from climate change and has also prioritized the identified most urgent needs for adaptation. One success result of NAPA is the installation of automated water gauging stations in most parts of the country for measurement purposes of water levels, water quality, conductivity and flows.

Then the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA)-2011, (formally known as the Zambia Environmental Council), established under the Environmental Management Act of 2011 has among other things:

- the role to advise on policy formulation and make recommendations for the sustainable management of the environment;
- ensure the integration of environmental concerns in overall national planning through co-ordination with appropriate authorities; review Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) reports;
- monitor trends of natural resources, their use and impact on the environment and make necessary recommendations to the appropriate authority; and

publicise information on any aspects of the environment and facilitate public access to information on the environment.

The Agency also:

- publishes all EIAs and SEAs carried out in the country including all policies and laws that concern the environment;
- carries out research and awareness raising on environmental issues, as well as natural resource management such as the impact of deforestation and environmental degradation; and
- is the main authority for implementing environmental safeguards by ensuring development interventions are appropriately followed.

All these roles played by the Agency have a bearing on irrigation development, some of which are of very urgent concern at designing stage of envisaged irrigation development.

Despite, sound policies in place to guide on good practices to protecting, managing and preserving environment, lack of adherence to existing legal frameworks by majority people and weak enforcements by those in authority constitute main challenges with regards to dealing with environmental concerns.

Threatened pollution of water resources including watersheds, wetlands and groundwater; continued land clearing and deforestation, siltation of rivers due to soil erosion continues to adversely affect people's agricultural productivity and health in terms of having access to clean water, and biodiversity including fisheries.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures have been mainstreamed in the 7NDP and are expected to promote social wellbeing, including better health, growth of the economy and at the same time reduce environmental risks, such as shortage of water, air pollution and other effects. The 7NDP will put in place strategies that aid affected communities to adapt to its effects through climate proofing their livelihoods, production and assets. The Plan also wishes to see a country with rich bio-diversity where humans and the natural habitat mutually co-exist.

The long term outcome, is for the country to improve its laws and regulations and institutions to promote and encourage sustainable use of environmental resources and adoption of environmentally-friendly practices to support the wellbeing of the population.

6.2.3 Gender

1) The Concept Gender

Gender refers to the social roles that men and women play and the power relations between them, which usually have a profound effect on the use and management of natural resources.

The concept gender is concerned with the psychological, social and cultural differences between men and women. Psychologically, it refers to one's subjective feeling of femaleness or maleness, irrespective of sex.

The attributes associated with gender include the way we dress, the way we speak and the roles we play. For instance, males are expected to be aggressive, intelligent, risk takers, and strong, while women are expected to have feminine attributes like being physically and emotionally weak, secure, submissive and talkative.

Masculinity and **femininity** are determined by social and cultural perceptions. Thus gender is more of a learnt process often through socialization process of one's culture and society. Later, in life this socialization process is reinforced by teachers, peers, economic and mass media etc. Because gender is socially and culturally determined, it varies from one culture to another. Gender is not universally applicable as sex. For sex tells us what we are biologically. People are either female or male depending on their anatomical makeup/characteristic. Though, gender and sex are interchangeably used the concepts gender and sex role helps to understand the difference between the two. Sex roles refers to biologically determined function which can be played by one sex and cannot change because are fixed by nature. For example, childbearing can only be performed by women. Others are race, ethnicity and colour.

Gender is not based on sex, or the biological differences between men and women. Sex roles differ sharply from gender roles which are learnt behaviours and arise out of division of labour between men and women in society. The functions and duties played by these men and women are what society constructs for them in relation to each other. As such, gender roles are not restricted to sex only but more to the stereotypes illustrated by society. For instance, childrearing is a socially constructed gender role which both men and women may perform inter-changeably. Factors affecting gender roles include age, class, religion, economic, cultural, social, political, history and region of origin. Consequently, these factors too are likely to be affected by development efforts where development is defines as:

“A process that involves the empowerment and capacity building. It is a process of enabling disadvantaged people to analyse the changes they seek in their own lives” (LEONARD: 1989)

These attributes of development can take place either at an individual or community level.

The Revised National Gender Policy (RNGP) 2014 continues to address gender issues through ensuring that both men and women fully participate in national development with the ultimate goal to creating “*A nation where there is gender equity and equality for sustainable development*”.

2) Historical World Conferences on Women

Four world conferences on women have been organised by The United Nations. These took place in Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. The last was followed by a series of five-year reviews.

- I. The **World Conference of the International Women’s Year** (Mexico in 1975) had 133 governments participate, while 6,000 NGO representatives attended a parallel forum, the International Women’s Year Tribune. The conference defined a World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women’s Year, which offered a comprehensive set of guidelines for the advancement of women through 1985.
- II. **World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women** in Copenhagen (1980) where 145 Member States gathered for the mid-decade. It aimed to review progress in implementing the goals of the first world conference, focusing on employment, health and education. A Programme of Action called for stronger national measures to ensure women’s ownership and control of property, as well as improvements in protecting women’s rights to inheritance, child custody and nationality.
- III. The **World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women** took place in Nairobi (1985). The conference’s mandate was to establish concrete measures to overcome obstacles to achieving the Decade’s goals. Participants included 1,900 delegates from 157 Member States; a parallel NGO Forum attracted around 12,000 participants. Governments adopted the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which outlined measures for achieving gender equality at the national level and for promoting women’s participation in peace and development efforts.
- IV. **The Beijing declaration and the platform for Action** adopted unanimously by 189 countries, is an agenda for women’s empowerment and considered the key global policy

document on gender equality. It sets strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern:

- women and poverty,
- educating and training of women,
- women and health Violence against women,
- Women and armed conflict,
- Women and economy,
- Women in power and decision making,
- Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women,
- human rights of women,
- Women and the media,
- Women and the environment, and
- the girl-child

The Follow-up to Beijing:

- 2000: The General Assembly decided to hold a 23rd special session to conduct a five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and to consider future actions and initiatives. “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development, and Peace for the Twenty-First Century” took place in New York, and resulted in a political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing commitments.
- 2005: A 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action was conducted as part of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Delegates adopted a declaration emphasizing that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.
- 2010: The 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action took place during the Commission’s 54th session in 2010. Member States adopted a declaration that welcomed the progress made towards achieving gender equality, and pledged to undertake further action to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- 2015: The 20-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action took place

during the Commission's 59th session in 2015. The session also addressed opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda. Member States adopted a political declaration that welcomed the progress made towards achieving gender equality, provided a strong basis for the full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the commitments made in Beijing, and also championed the key role of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

- 2020: The 25-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action will take place during the Commission's 64th session to be held in March 2020.

3) Achievements on Gender Issues

Great achievements have been made to increasing general awareness on gender issues and the need to gender mainstream women issues. **Gender mainstreaming** is defined as "...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels.

- The policy sets priority areas of action at the National, Provincial, District and Community levels in terms of planning, resource allocation and implementation of development programmes to promote gender equity and equality. Among many other things, the policy specifically addresses issues of gender inequality by seeking to improve on the rights of women, men and children to ensure full participation and equal benefit from the national development.
- The term **gender equality** has been defined in a variety of ways in the context of development. This report defines gender equality in terms of equality under the law, equality of opportunity (including equality of rewards for work and equality in access to human capital and other productive resources that enable opportunity), and equality of voice (the ability to influence and contribute to the development process).
- However, the policy does not define gender equality as equality of outcomes for two reasons.
 1. Different cultures and societies can follow different paths in their pursuit of gender equality.
 2. Equality implies that women and men are free to choose different (or similar) roles and different (or similar) outcomes in accordance with their preferences and goals.

Zambia's UNDP-assessed Gender Inequality Index (GII) in 2012 was 0.623, ranking it 136 out of 148 countries. The World Development Forum's 2012 Global Gender Gap report ranked Zambia 114th out of 135 countries, down 8 places compared to 2011.

The GRZ has adopted a number of gender specific policies including:

- (i) The systematic mainstreaming of gender issues in the Sixth National Development Plan;
- (ii) The allocation of 40% of resources under the Citizens Economic Empowerment Fund for women with the balance available to men and women;
- (iii) The reservation of 30% of titled land for allocation to women, with the balance competed for between men and women;
- (iv) The reservation of 25% of school bursaries for girls with the balance competed for between boys and girls; and
- (v) A gender mainstreaming strategy within the Public Services Reform Programme. These percentage provisions by the SADC PROTOCOL requirement needs to be upped to 50% thresholds and the 7NDP is making headways in this direction

The Major challenges to implementing the NGP include:

- low levels of gender knowledge and skills;
- inadequate financial support to national gender structure for coordination, capacity building across sectors;
- weak collaboration and links between the national gender structure and implementing institutions as well as the implementation of programmes introduced in communities; and
- lack of monitoring and evaluation of gender indicators. As a result, gender inequalities still remain very high between males and females with rural areas experiencing more of the brunt.
- As a commitment to promoting gender equality, the Government will maintain and accelerate efforts by facilitating organisational transformation to enhance responsiveness in all dimensions. To achieve this, the Government will enhance capacity for gender mainstreaming and engender policies, plans, programmes, projects, activities and budgets by coordinating and monitoring implementation of the National Gender Policy.
- With regard to women's empowerment, the Government will engender the planning and budgeting processes, especially in the key sectors driving national development. This will ensure equitable distribution of national resources between women and men, girls and boys and have meaningful impact in the medium and long-term on poverty reduction among women and girls. (7NDP 2020 -2030)

4) Gender Analysis in Farming System, Research and Extension

Gender analysis is a framework that provides guidelines for data collection on gender roles and inter –intra household food security. The framework provides tools used to collect data, analyse and apply to design improved technology for agriculture productivity. The reason for using such a framework is to understand gender relations and inter/intra household relations affecting decision making by farmers. As it may be noted the dynamic links among people in societies tend to be based on gender, age, superiority or position within the households.

The main arguments underlying the framework are that:

- 1) There are differences between women and men's roles and patterns of inter and intra household, relations embedded in farming systems and these will affect farming activities when changes are introduced into systems.
- 2) The framework is interactive and collaborative processes which calls for continuous assessment and redesign.
- 3) The premise on which the framework hinges is that productivity and efficiency are enhanced when technological improvements are developed and targeted to the actual users or beneficiaries i.e. those making decisions and are involved in actual tasks and responsibilities of using final products.
- 4) The framework focuses on gender roles, age, seniority position, class ethnicity, inter and intra household relations aspects of Farming.

The conceptual framework model consists of:

- Activity Analysis such as who does what
- Resource Analysis such as who has access and control over resources
- Benefit and Incentive Analysis such as who has access and control over output of production
- Farming System Calendar and Activity Analysis

6.2.4. HIV/AIDS Issues

Zambia has an estimated number of 1.2 million people living with HIV. However, the country has been able to stabilise the epidemic with HIV prevalence decreasing from 15.6 percent in 2002 to 11.6 percent in 2016. Between 2009 and 2016 the rate of new HIV infection dropped by more than 41 percent. Nonetheless, there are still about 46,000 new HIV infections annually that require concerted effort, continued domestic investment and leadership to reduce the new HIV infection and eventually achieve zero new infections. Currently, approximately 800,000 people living with HIV are on life-saving Antiretroviral Therapy.

Zambia is committed to the 2016 High Level Meeting Political Declaration that reaffirms member states' commitment to ending AIDS by 2030 in solidarity with the global community and ensuring country ownership, leadership and accountability. This commitment aims at achieving the 90-90-90 treatment targets by 2020. The 90-90-90 targets refer to 90 percent of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90 percent of people tested positive for HIV get access to treatment services and 90 percent of people on antiretroviral treatment achieve HIV viral load suppression.

Since HIV/AIDS emerged in the mid-nineties, it has established itself as the most important public health problem in Zambia with major impact on national development. As of 2013, the Country recorded 12.5% adult HIV prevalence; 54, 000 new infections; 27, 000 aids related deaths and 55% adults on antiretroviral treatment. The epidemic has devastating effects on agricultural sector development because it causes loss of labour among farmers and staff.

Statistics show that HIV/AIDS pandemic prevalence rate is evidently higher among women at 16 percent compared to that for men at 12 percent. Urban areas are typified by higher HIV/AIDS prevalence (20 percent) than rural areas (10 percent). Overall, male HIV/AIDS prevalence is less than that in women. The pandemic, peaks at a younger age of Zambia's population aged between 15 and 45 years being infected with AIDS and is more prevalent amongst women who constitute major providers of agricultural labour than it does amongst men (LCMS; 2010; ZDHS, 2007 Strategic Plan, 2013).

The multi-sectoral approach involving the GRZ in response developing a National AIDS Control Program (NACP), forging broader-based partnership linkages with non-health sectors such as civil society, the private sector, communities and households affected by HIV/AIDS, take active role in providing ARVs, testing facilities and PMTCT including encouraging men to go for male circumcision. Currently, the National AIDS Strategic Framework (NASF) 2011-2015 provides strategic policy and technical orientation for the implementation of the multi-sectoral and decentralised HIV and AIDS response in Zambia.

Through the National AIDS Strategic Framework (2011-2015), the government has adopted combined prevention action points which include:

- Reducing exposure to HIV by discouraging heterosexual sexual intercourse and within a healthcare setting, reducing the likelihood of HIV becoming established in the body after exposure to the virus;
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP);
- Encouraging behaviour change through discussing and educating about high-risk sexual activities and stigma against people living with HIV;

- Threading HIV prevention messages throughout society by keeping girls in school, empowering women and encouraging men to respect women;
- Ensuring money and resources for the HIV response are well utilized through rolling out cost-effective strategies and evaluating progress on HIV/AIDS in Zambia, (GRZ, 2010c).

Again women have been shown to particularly face severe impacts with regard to land. For upon the death of a husband in many cases, women become victims to loss of land rights since they have to relocate to their maternal natal homes where their access, control and ownership of land is also uncertain (Villarreal, 2012; Machina, 2002). As care takers, women spend much of their time looking after the sick and therefore reducing their productivity. As a result, the epidemic exacerbates poverty and lowers the growth of the labour force and productivity.

The Ministry of Agriculture, like all other public and private institutions continues to mainstream HIV/AIDS programmes and sensitizes staff on the HIV/AIDS workplace policies. The challenges to these efforts are discussed below:

The Major challenges to responding to HIV/AIDS issues as viewed by UNICEF are however in the:

- coordination of the multi- sectoral HIV/AIDS response at both the central and decentralised levels;
- existing weakness in infrastructure, service delivery systems, and management; the impacts on prevention effects due to stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS;
- inability to retaining trained human resources at all levels of service delivery especially in rural areas; and
- inadequate fund allocation towards meeting outlined HIV/AIDS combined prevention action points.
- Efforts to enhance partnerships with stakeholders, such as communities, civil society, national and regional governments, political institutions, international organisations, academia, faith-based organisations and the private sector will be critical to achieving the 2020 targets.

The Government's strategy in the Plan period will be to reduce the national HIV prevalence which stood at 11.6 percent in 2016. During the Plan period, the Government will build on efforts to reduce the disease burden, the national HIV prevalence rate and the relatively high HIV prevalence for pregnant women. In the quest to reach a target of zero HIV transmission rate, the management of HIV/AIDS programming requires a strengthened holistic multi-sectoral approach for the nation to avert the scourge in a well-coordinated and sustainable manner. The social determinants of the disease burden have to be examined holistically. Every key stakeholder, including society at large, has a role to play to meet the goal of ensuring healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages through promotion of healthy behaviours and lifestyles.

Emphasis will be to avert and reduce the rate of new infections through promotion of programmes targeting prevention, mitigation, treatment, care and support, such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission in family setups and integration of prevention strategies at all levels of health care services, to reduce the disease burden.

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