



Sustainability watch

A Southern Civil Society Network

MDGS e-Monitor Newsletter

An electronic Lobbying & Advocacy Newsletter for Zimbabwe CSOs working on MDGs

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ABOUT MDGs e-Monitor
The MDGs e-Monitor is devoted to critical analysis and discussion of the Millennium Development Goals, with particular emphasis on Goals 1, 7 and 8. It also links the reader to other useful electronic and print resources by CSOs and Media locally, regionally and internationally so as to stimulate debate on developmental issues.

**REPRODUCTION OF
ARTICLES**

WELCOME!!

Welcome to the second edition of the electronic SusWatch Newsletter! SusWatch News is a monthly newsletter devoted to the critical analysis and discussion of the Millennium Development Goals, with particular emphasis on Goals 1, 7 and 8.

But this does not mean the door will be shut to other pertinent issues such as health, education, gender, education and other issues with a bearing on the achievement of the MDGs. To this end, the MDGs e-Monitor Newsletter welcomes the exchange of ideas and experiences from all disciplines and viewpoints and from different stakeholders ranging from civil society, policymakers, UN agencies and grassroots communities.

It also aims at complementing government's efforts towards meeting the MDGs by commenting on various policy issues that are likely to impact on MDGs attainment.

Stakeholders wishing to take part in this dialogue are invited to comment on articles published in the newsletter and contribute articles for possible publication. They can do so by contacting the publishers at info@zeroregional.com

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE



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Why Localise the MDGs, What's the Big Deal

While MDGs have become the common development framework at the global level, they are in themselves the subject of debate, when it comes to their implementation at national and local levels. Some countries see them as a framework for action, others see them as a set of generic objectives to guide development cooperation, and others see them as a global consensus without national or practical relevance.

It must be understood that the targets to achieve the MDGs are global targets, based on aggregate trends of all developing countries. Therefore, even if the global targets are achieved, inequalities between countries and among people would still persist. Localization is therefore a path to taking MDGs to the people engaging citizens and local authorities or administrations in customizing national development goals to fit local realities.

At national and local levels, achieving these global targets needs political commitment and ownership, which can be mobilised only if these targets are concretized in a local context. Thus, even though the MDGs are global, they can most effectively be achieved through action at the local level and support from the national level, states the UNDP.

The global targets require local action. Through localizing the MDGs, and measuring MDG targets at the local level, it is possible to provide a true assessment of development realities. Simply put, localizing the MDGs highlights the local dimension in development efforts. Localization facilitates planning, more focused action, promoting local ownership for planned activities, and mobilizing support of local actors including the beneficiary communities for the implementation of these activities.

Localizing MDGs will also bring out the rural and urban differences in the performance of each goal. The difference if any, will have significant implications on policy making as urban dimensions of poverty have hitherto escaped the notice of the policy maker. In the absence of strategic policy measures for managing the urban change, the demographic makeover that ensures the change will bring with it a serious urbanization of poverty. Since the vulnerability factors that cause urban poverty are different from those that cause rural poverty, they demand distinctly different measures in remedying them. Hence differentiating the urban and rural performance in achieving the MDGs is critical for developing effective responses for narrowing these gaps of performance.

Research shows that recent experience shows that national level development documents such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) focus on national action plans but do not elaborate on how local governments should implement pro-poor service delivery to achieve these plans and goals (e.g. by addressing health, education, rural and urban development). It is important to develop a framework for development that is realistic and that develops activities, which align MDGs and the local dimension with national long-term planning and PRSP processes.

As for Zimbabwe, the homegrown strategies should try to take on-board local dimensions and efforts. Launching by explaining MDGs at Provincial and District levels will make the grassroots level activities by communities more meaningful and clarify the linkage between policy level processes and community level processes. Communities need to know that whatever development initiative, they are carrying out no matter how small, is contributing to the attainment of MDGs at National levels. With communities that are already in line with the MDGs it is important that the MDGs framework assists the communities rather than add extra burdens.

The Zimbabwe government, through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and UNDP, is currently planning to enhance the localization and simplify the MDGs and related supporting processes and plans are now at an advanced level to kick-start the process.

It is very clear that meaningful localization of MDGs should ensure placing MDGs at the center of national development dialogue. Its outcome should influence the setting of national and local priorities, promotion of enabling policies, provision of adequate resources, and setting goals and targets on the basis of local trends and specific needs. Together they represent key elements of translating the commitment for national action into implementable programmes of national and local action.

CSOs Reviewing the Waste Management Strategy Document

GOAL 7: Environmental Sustainability

by Sherald Zvignadza - Zimbabwe SusWatch National Focal Point

In as much as MDGs are globalised, the Zimbabwean CSOs have taken it upon themselves to assist government to speed up production and publishing of key policy documents that would in their absence affect environmental management by citizens as well as defeating the efforts made by authorities wishing to see sustainable development. Waste Management is one such issue that needs to be understood by all communities in Zimbabwe. Waste Management issues are linked to a number of MDGs and one that is at the heart of most CSOs and citizens is Environmental Sustainability (Goal7)

Currently, CSOs under the Sustainability Watch umbrella are inputting into the Waste Management Strategy Document drafted by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA). This is being done by reviewing and providing recommendations where necessary. This process is being coordinated by ZERO Regional Environment Organisation, the current coordinator of the network. The Coordinator sends its comments to the EMA.

When published, the network wishes to publicise the strategy document through the SusWatch Newsletters, members' websites and flyers. In consultation with the agency, and funds permitting, SusWatch will make efforts to re-package it for easy reading. It will also mobilise media to raise awareness on "Best Practices" as well as monitoring efforts in Waste Management

(localisation).

Civil society organisations, the private sector and the citizenry must contribute their unique strengths for motivation, mobilization, action and evaluation. It is important that people and organisations are responsible for their own development. Therefore, it is crucial that they take the lead in shaping their own destiny.

Environment Africa SusWatch Goal 1 Lead appeared on National Television "THIS MORNING" programme to discuss and raise awareness of Waste management issues as well as the Policy frameworks, such as the Environmental Management Act

What SusWatch is doing dispels the common thinking of antagonism between government and NGOs. This reflects true partnerships, a situation not common in most developing countries.

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ZIMCodd Localises Trade Issues

GOAL 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Global Week of Action 2006, 23rd to 29th April 2006 (Zimbabwe)

In the spirit of localisation, the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCodd) the Sustainability Watch Network goal 8 facilitated localisation activities, which ran from the 23rd to the 29th of April 2006. These activities were in line with Suswatch activities for 2006.

The aim of the week was to challenge the free trade myth, which states that the only way to reduce poverty across the world is through free trade, financial liberalization and privatization. The myth is pushed through the World Trade Organization bilateral arrangements and international financial institutions. The Global Week of Action aimed at showcasing that trade is about more than business and economics - it is about food, water, health, education and livelihoods.

With this in mind, the activities of the week sought to simplify and raise awareness on the Zimbabwean trading implications in the context of the World Trade Organisation and Economic Partnership Agreements. It also aimed at highlighting the link between trade and poverty. ZIMCodd carried out the following activities :

Church Sermon on Trade Justice

An Interdenominational Church Sermon on Trade Justice was conducted on the 26th April 2006. The Church plays a central role in our society, and therefore can contribute in the trade justice campaign by speaking and preaching about

institutions which have institutionalized injustices and the continued alienation of the world's poorest. The preaching is supposed to be localised to fit the Zimbabwean trade situation. The trade regimes in our countries have to be understood in the local context so that the traders at grass roots start to see the reality and the linkages between International, Regional and local trade regimes in order for them to start "voicing" for their own improvements in the system. Bringing churches to the fore of trade development assist local traders in understanding how fair and equal partnerships can be developed for the good of the nation and how it can also help them in understanding trade issue as small traders.

Awareness Raising: Public Lecture

A public lecture was held on the 28th April 2006 at the University of Zimbabwe's Department of Politics and Administration. This was an effort to challenge students to be more involved in the development of alternatives to the current trade injustices through writing of scholarly position papers and raising awareness about these issues in their communities, thereby assisting in localising the MDGs so that the processes are seen as supporting our local home grown Zimbabwe Development goals.

Mock Soccer match

A mock soccer match was conducted on the 29th April 2006 and it clearly showed the dominance of the rich and powerful countries. A team comprising of 14 year olds, which represented the developing countries, played against the "big guys" who were representing the developed countries. The officiating officials who represented the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank then supported the team representing the developed countries. The match showcase the uneven playing field in the current international trading system, and the interpretation of the game made the ordinary Zimbabwean understand the need to advocate for trade justice, which takes the concerns of the poor people and poor countries into consideration. This was also done in pursuance of MDG 8' provisions of trade and creation of global and local partnership, specifically Target 12.

The match was carried out to illustrate the uneven trade playground so that either a layman in the street or a cotton farmer in Muzarabani rural area could understand the injustices in trade regimes in the region and at home. It also meant to make the grassroots understand their contributions and/or role they play in the whole trade game. The grassroots should be made to understand that they are an important stakeholder in trade who ought also to negotiate for better prices for their cotton and not to let the policy makers determine the prices.

The important principle of the trade justice campaign was to highlight that if trade is to serve development, trade policy must be geared to development outcomes. In line with the Millennium Development Goal 8 (Developing a Global Partnership for Development) which has among its targets the need to develop an open, rule based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. It is in this regard that the achievement of a global partnership for development will remain elusive as long as the rules that govern international trade are rigged in favour of the rich and powerful nations.

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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Analysis - International Perspective

MDGs Awareness Raising

Ten years after the United Nations launched the 'Decade for the Eradication of Poverty', more than one billion people still live without access to safe drinking water, health care, adequate housing and other essentials of daily life, development experts and independent observers here stated. 'Poverty is like a communicable disease that is continuously spreading throughout the world,' Jesusa Gamboa told participants at a UN meeting called to assess the decade-long progress on poverty reduction. Representing a civil society group from the Philippines, the 17-year-old delegate said that neither she nor her family and friends were initially aware of the campaign.

For more information, see

<http://www.ipsterraviva.net/Europe/article.aspx?id=2976>

How-to Guide: MDG Based National Development Strategies

This 'how-to' guide consolidates the efforts of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) into a step-by-step approach to support MDG-based national development strategies. The guide is in four sections with Part I providing country partners with the 'how to' for strengthening the analytical, managerial and political capacities needed to put governments in the driver's seat. Currently, the UNDP is advancing with the "roll out" of the second part of the guide, with the modules to be used in whatever order best fits a country's needs.

For more information, visit <http://mdg-guide.undp.org/>

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Member Profile

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCodd)

Background of ZIMCodd



ZIMCodd is a not for profit economic justice network established in February 2000. Its headquarters are in Harare with a Southern Region office in Bulawayo. The Coalition is dedicated to facilitating the involvement of citizens, through their agencies and as activists, in making public policy and practice pro-people and sustainable. Citing Zimbabwe's indebtedness, the unfair global trade regime and lack of democratic people centred economic governance as root causes of Zimbabwe and global socio-economic crises, ZIMCodd's program is developing from the utilization of community-based livelihood experiences to inform and challenge stakeholders to (1) educate, organise, dialogue and (2) engage and act on socio-economic governance from a local, regional through to global levels.

Vision of ZIMCodd

Zimcodd is committed to a people based movement for sustainable economic and social justice in Zimbabwe.

Mission of ZIMCodd

ZIMCodd is committed to a people based movement for sustainable economic and social justice in Zimbabwe.

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Each month, the MDGs e-Monitor will profile a different organisation within the Sustainability Watch Network (SusWatch).

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We value your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please send these to Zimbabwe SusWatch at: info@zeroregional.com or shepard@zeroregional.com.