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ILO Holds Virtual Global Summit on COVID-19

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STORIES



Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

VISION OF COUNTRY OFFICE-LUSAKA

A United team that delivers sustainable decent work results through strategic partnerships and increasing development cooperation portfolio



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HOW TO PREVENT COVID



Wear a mask



Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer



Avoid physical contact and keep a social distance

▶ Foreword



The pandemic has devastated the world of work, causing massive human suffering and laying bare the extreme vulnerability of many millions of workers and enterprises. The latest ILO estimates are that the large-scale workplace closures around the world in response to COVID-19 have led to a reduction in hours worked of 10.7 per cent worldwide in the second quarter of this year. That translates into the loss of 305 million jobs – calculated on the basis of a 48-hour working week. Its future trajectory remains uncertain.

To mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the labour market, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Office for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique has been holding meetings with tripartite partners in the three locations.

During the deliberations, governments, employers and workers have presented and listened to innovative ideas, discussed lessons learned and come up with concrete plans to work together to implement a recovery that is job-rich, inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

In addition, the ILO recently held successful five regional virtual events in Africa, America, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Europe and Central Asia that addressed the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how to build a better future of work.

The discussions, along with the voices of members of the public relaying their experience and hopes for the future, were held ahead of three global events taking place between 7–9 July, that brought together around 80 Heads of State, Heads of Government, Heads of Workers' and Employers' organizations, the UN Secretary-General and heads of other international organizations.

All these brought their messages to the ILO about the challenges of the pandemic and what we must do about it. The Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work: Building a better future of work is a major virtual event to address the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work. The Global Summit builds on the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work as a framework for building back better in the post-pandemic recovery.

We must all step up to the challenge of building a better future of work.

I wish you good health; stay safe by following health measures.

George Okutho
Director ILO Country Office for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique



▶ ILO Holds Global Summit on COVID-19

By Allan Mulenga

On 1 and 2 July, 2020 the International Labour Organization (ILO) held five regional virtual events in Africa, America, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Europe and Central Asia that addressed the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how to build a better future of work.

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All these brought their messages to the ILO about the challenges of the pandemic and what we must do about it.

The **Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work: Building a better future of work** is a major virtual event to address the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work.

For Country Office - Lusaka, the Global Summit will help both the informal and formal workers mitigate the effect of COVID-19 in the three locations.

Also, the Global Summit will build on the ILO

Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work as a framework for building back better in the post-pandemic recovery.

The Global Summit provided a high-profile platform for government, employer and worker representatives to address the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first day of the Global Events week of the Summit focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work in five global regions and addressed the immediate crisis response and how to build a better future of work post-pandemic.

It also featured interviews with ILO Regional Directors, where ILO Regional Director for Africa, Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon provided the regional perspective during the regional event.

Addresses from Heads of State and government and prominent global employer and trade union leaders were delivered on 8 July on Global Leaders Day. On the same day, United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres also gave an address.

On July, 9 -ILO Constituents' Day- Labour ministers, workers' and employers' leaders from ILO member States reflected on the previous days' events and discuss the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work in the context of the pandemic.

The ILO Director-General Mr. Guy Ryder provided a global overview before each of the ILO's Regional Directors report on the situation in their respective regions. The event concluded with a conversation with the ILO Director-General on how to build back better.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ryder has described the just-ended Global Summit as a huge success.

"Firstly, we had those five Regional Events, and you know the regions really stepped up with those events and made them a great success. And then in the last few days we've had three Global days the regional reporting back, the leader's day when 80 global leaders', Heads of State, Heads of Government, Heads of Workers' and Employers' organizations, leaders of international organizations, brought their messages to the ILO about the challenges of the pandemic and what we must do about it," he stated. "And then we finished, as I think was appropriate, with a tripartite constituent's day which brought together what we think and what they think the ILO must be doing to overcome the pandemic. You know this is going to serve us very, very, well in the future because you've all contributed through the summit to increasing the connectivity of the ILO."



Mr. Guy Ryder during the opening session of the Global Summit.



Part of the participants of the virtual press briefing held in Lilongwe to mark this year's World Day Against Child Labour.

▶ Malawi Commemorates World Day Against Child Labour

By Dylan Van Tromp

On June 12 every year, people across the globe from all walks of life commemorate World Day Against Child Labour.

As part of this year's commemorations of World Day Against Child Labour in Lilongwe, the Government of Malawi launched the country's second National Action Plan on Child Labour (NAP-II, 2020 – 2025) and the National Child Labour Mainstreaming Guide, with the support of the ILO's Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa (ACCELAfrica) project.

The event was graced by Malawi's then Minister of Labour, Skills and Innovation, Honourable Lilian Patel, Member of Parliament.

The Minister was flanked by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Innovation, Dr. Esmie Kainja.

In light of COVID-19 social distancing requirements, the event was arranged for the participation of only 40 participants taking part in person face-to-face with safety measures in place at the venue, while additional participants took part virtually via an online meeting room.

Giving keynote remarks at the event the International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Office Director for Zambia, Malawi

and Mozambique George Okutho stated that as Malawi joined the world in commemorating this year's World Day Against Child Labour, it was important to focus on the impact of COVID-19 on efforts to accelerate the elimination of child labour.

Mr. Okutho added that the pandemic has greatly contributed to economic, social and labour market shocks thus having a huge impact on people's lives and livelihoods in Africa and around the world.

"Unfortunately, children are often the first to suffer. The COVID-19 crisis may push millions of vulnerable children into child labour. In line with the national target set out in the National Action Plan being launched today, the ILO stands ready to support Malawi to reach the global target of eliminating child labour in all its forms by 2025, as called for by Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals", he said.

Mr. Okutho hailed the Government of Malawi (GoM) being recognized on March 25, as a Pathfinder Country under the Alliance 8.7 initiative, stating that as an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country, Malawi is expected to lead from the front and significantly accelerate national efforts towards achieving SDG Target 8.7 through concrete actions and real results.

Mr. Okutho further praised the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for funding the project in Malawi.

Meanwhile Mr. Minoru Ogasawara, Chief Technical Advisor of the ACCEL Africa project, outlined the overall objectives of the ACCEL Africa project and highlighted some of the key interventions being undertaken by the project at the regional level.

Mr. Ogasawara joined Mr. Okutho in thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for the generous support that is making the project possible.

And the Senior Project Officer of the ACCEL Africa project, Mr. Dylan Van Tromp, who is based at the ILO Malawi Project Office in Lilongwe, explained that the Malawi component of the ACCEL Africa project aims to accelerate the elimination of child labour at the country-level by supporting the improvement and enforcement of policy, legal and institutional frameworks that address child labour, and by institutionalising innovative and evidence-based solutions that address the root causes of child labour in supply chains, with an initial focus in Malawi on tea supply chains.

Meanwhile, Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU) President Mr. Luther Mambala said that COVID-19 had worsened and threatened to erode years of achievement and gains in the fight against child labour as more and more workers have lost employment and incomes.

Mr. Mambala stated children have become more vulnerable to child labour as their parents fail to earn a decent living because of the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

“MCTU calls on the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Innovation to: Urgently and immediately undertake needs assessment to ascertain the real impact of COVID-19 on child labour to inform design of relevant

programmes that speak to the needs of the children; increase the allocation of resources to education and improve the quality of education with specific attention to motivation of teachers through decent working conditions and infrastructure that takes into consideration the prevailing conditions of COVID-19; allocate adequate resources for child protection systems; seriously and immediately consider social

protection measures to cushion the vulnerability of parents with specific attention to vulnerable sectors including the informal, domestic, and agriculture sectors”, said Mr. Mambala.

And employers Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM) Executive Director Mr. George Khaki thanked the social partners and other stakeholders for contributing to the fight against child labour. “As ECAM, we know that this crisis can push thousands of vulnerable children into child labour in Malawi. These children are now at even greater risk of facing circumstances that are more difficult to deal with if trends happening elsewhere in the world where many children are becoming orphaned due to deaths of their parents and have to help their families to supplement incomes,” said Mr. Khaki.

Meanwhile, Ms. Patel stated that: “the closure of schools coupled with loss of jobs and other means of livelihood for the adult breadwinners is putting children at a greater risk of falling into child labour. They are obliged to engage in economic activities to fill the gap of dwindling family incomes, and have to carry out numerous household chores while adults go out to search for food and other basic household needs. Girls face a greater risk of child marriage and other risks the longer they remain out of school”.



Former Malawi's Minister of Labour, Skills and Innovation Ms. Lilian Patel (far right) during the launch of National Action Plan on Child Labour.

Saved from the Shackles of Child Labour

By Tithokoze Khonyongwa

Iveta Cosmas, 29, is a resident of Kawale, one of the high-density townships in Lilongwe, Malawi. Originally from Ntcheu, Iveta lost her father at the age of 10. Growing up as the child of a single parent was quite challenging.

Her mother, who used to work in other people's fields to make ends meet, hardly supported Iveta's education at primary school.

For this reason, Iveta dropped out of school in Standard 3. She became a mother at the age of 15.

While considering how to beat the abject poverty that she was subjected to as a child, Iveta heaved a sigh of relief when a stranger from Kawale in Lilongwe came to her village looking to hire a domestic worker.

She unreservedly jumped on the opportunity. That is how she found herself working as a domestic worker in Lilongwe at the age of 15.

Although, she was determined and dedicated to work, life as a domestic worker was not easy. Iveta used to work very long

hours every day for very low wages.

“I used to wake up as early as 4am to boil water for bathing and prepare meals for a family of 11 people. The work was too much and too hard. I hardly rested. I kept working throughout the day and slept late every day,” she recalled.

Iveta's rounds of work knew no weekends. She never had the privilege of a weekly day off to attend church on Sundays.

Her boss considered rest breaks and holidays to be a privilege and not a right. Iveta was saddened that her low wages could not adequately support her family back home in Ntcheu, as she had anticipated when she accepted her job as a domestic worker.

“My mother was still living in poverty despite me working very hard as a domestic worker. But I had no choice. My standard of living never got any better. At the end of each month, I only received MWK 3,000 [equivalent to around USD \$4], which was only enough to buy my toiletries and a few clothes”, she recalled.

As the years rolled by, life did not get any better for Iveta. She could not see a future,

other than a life of poverty. She lacked education, money, and hope.

At that time, an International Labour Organization (ILO) project aimed at withdrawing children from child labour came to her area. The ILO project was empowering young people with income-

“Employers and parents must never exploit children, especially now that so many children are not attending school due to the school closures because of COVID-19. Children should be spared from all forms of abuse and exploitation, especially now that we are facing the challenges posed by the novel Coronavirus. Children are the hope of our nation”
- Iveta Cosmas (former child domestic worker)

Continues to page 4

generating skills such as carpentry, tailoring, and bricklaying.

Luckily for Iveta, her boss allowed her to take part in the training, which ran for six months.

During this time, Iveta requested that her boss hold and save her all of salary payments for her so that she could buy a second-hand sewing machine upon her graduation from the ILO programme. Her idea worked.

Since that moment, Iveta has been using her own sewing machine to earn a better living and is now building a modern house for herself in her home village in Ntcheu.

"This improvement in my standard of living and quality of life was unthinkable and seemed unachievable when I was a domestic worker. Now, I earn twice as much in one single day than I used to earn in a whole month in my old job as a domestic worker," she said.

Looking to the future, Iveta dreams of owning her own fashion and design shop which she would use to create decent jobs for other youth. Iveta is also considering further her education.

"I'm planning to continue with school. I've discovered that one can go further in life if one has a good combination of skills and formal education," she reflected.

Recognizing the exploitation she suffered as a child domestic worker, the right of children to be protected from child labour, and the new need for special attention to child labour during the COVID-19 pandemic, Iveta challenges all parents and employers to safeguard the fundamental rights of children.



Iveta Cosmas using the sewing machine that she purchased with saved-up funds that improved her livelihood.

"Employers and parents must never exploit children, especially now that so many children are not attending school due to the school closures because of COVID-19. Children should be spared from all forms of abuse and exploitation, especially now that we are facing the challenges posed by the novel Coronavirus. Children are the hope of our nation," she said.

World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated on 12 June every year. In 2020, the global slogan was 'COVID-19: Protect children from child labour, now more than ever'.

On 12 June 2020, the ILO launched the

Malawi country component of the 'Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa' (ACCEL) project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The project aims to accelerate the elimination of child labour in Malawi by supporting improvement and enforcement of policy, legal and institutional frameworks that address child labour; supporting institutionalization of evidence-based and innovative solutions that address the root causes of child labour in supply chains. In Malawi, this aspect of the project's work is focusing on the tea sector.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Education, as well as an end in itself, is also a means to getting a decent job, especially for young people, while lifelong learning is needed to keep up with the changing skills needed for the labour market.

- 4.4** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.
- 4.5** Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education.
- 4.b** By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training.
- 4.c** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers.



► ILO aids Women Groups in Face Masks Production to Cushion the Impact of COVID-19 in Mozambique

By Egidio Simbine

The Swedish funded project, also known as Moztrabalha, is supporting the National Committee of Working Women (COMUTRA) in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19.

So far, the project has donated 2,000 face masks made by a women's association part of the COMUTRA and 2,000 flyers to spread the message among the workers against the COVID-19. The handover ceremony took place on 15th June, 2020 at the headquarters of the Employers Organization OTM-CS in Maputo.

The face masks were produced by one of the COMUTRA's member associations, called COPODEMO (Cooperativa Educacional de Moçambique-Educational Cooperative of Mozambique).

Composed of more than 200 members, the association has a small confectionery factory where they make uniforms and other products that are sold as part of income generating activities of the cooperative.

Speaking at the event, Maria Paula Vera Cruz COPODEMO's president and campaigner for the approval of the ILO Conventions 156 & 189 in Mozambique highlighted that the association had been negatively hit by the impact of the pandemic, stating that the closure of schools has greatly reduced the income streams for the association.

She added that: "due to the movement restrictions imposed by the Government in the context of the implementation of the State of Emergency, the association lost many customers, reducing its sales to less than 10 percent of its capacity. This is because with the closure of the schools, many parents are no longer buying the uniforms that are our bestseller products. So the association was starting to suffer the impacts of the public health crisis, so we were already considering dismissing most of our associates who have been working together for more than five years".

Meanwhile, Clara Mungwambe COMUTRA (Employers Union Women's Branch) representative hailed the ILO, stating that the donation would go a long way in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 in the informal economy.

She stated that: "In these moments of crisis, it is very important to know that we can count on our partners as always and the ILO and protect the lives of many workers. For the switch, these 2000 face masks have an invaluable value, since part of our members (mainly those in the informal economy) are exposed to the risk of being contaminated by the Covid-19. So these face masks will contribute to protect the workers in their posts of work."

And ILO Chief Technical Advisor Edmundo de Werna Magalhaes said the world of work has been hardly hit by the pandemic hence the need for ILO to support its social

partners to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

"The world of work is suffering the most from this pandemic. For the ILO and Moztrabalha in particular, it is very important to support and work directly with the social partners in order to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 but above all, protect the existing job posts. By supporting the production of these masks, we are at the same time contributing to protect the workers who use the masks, and also contributing to generate income for those who produce these masks," said Werna.

Meanwhile, Egidio Simbine, National Project Coordinator says Moztrabalha is working in collaboration with its Social partners in a set of actions aimed at supporting various associations in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 while protecting jobs and providing income.

"This initiative is part of the extension of the gender strategy of the Moztrabalha project adapted to COVID-19. Under this adapted strategy, Moztrabalha is working with the social partners in a set of actions aimed at supporting various associations and women businesses and entrepreneurship by reorienting them to make products that can be used to protect or mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 while protecting jobs and providing income for their workers in these difficult times" explained Simbine.



COPODEMO members and ILO staff during the presentation of face masks.

Rural Roads Accessibility and Jobs Mozambique (RAJ-MOZ): Spells out Mitigation Strategy amid COVID-19 Crisis

By David Marcos

The Japanese Supplementary Budget funded project “Rural Roads Accessibility and Jobs Mozambique” (RAJ-MOZ) has entered in its third month of implementation.

The most remarkable external event during the past two months of implementation has been the global emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has come to affect Mozambique as well.

After the first cases were confirmed, the President declared the State of Emergency on March 30, which is still into effect. This decree has placed Mozambique in Phase 3 of a 4 Phase lockdown plan, which entails closed national borders with the exception of cargo transport, closure of schools, restrictions on business activities, prohibition of public events, and limited – but not yet totally constrained – internal movements.

This quick action has slowed down the penetration of the disease in Mozambique but in recent weeks the pandemic has made inroads in all regions and the economic effects are already evident.

At the same time, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has taken measures to protect its staff and stakeholders, in line with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) guidelines in the country and ILO's Director General Circular (shared with the ILO's partners) on COVID-19.

These measures imply, among other things the implementation of home office working modality for all field and Headquarters, the restriction of field missions and a hire freeze for all staff positions.

Further to the pandemic, Manica and Sofala provinces continue enduring low intensity guerrilla activity in their main roads. The attacks are executed by a splinter cell of the opposition party that does not accept the recent peace agreement.

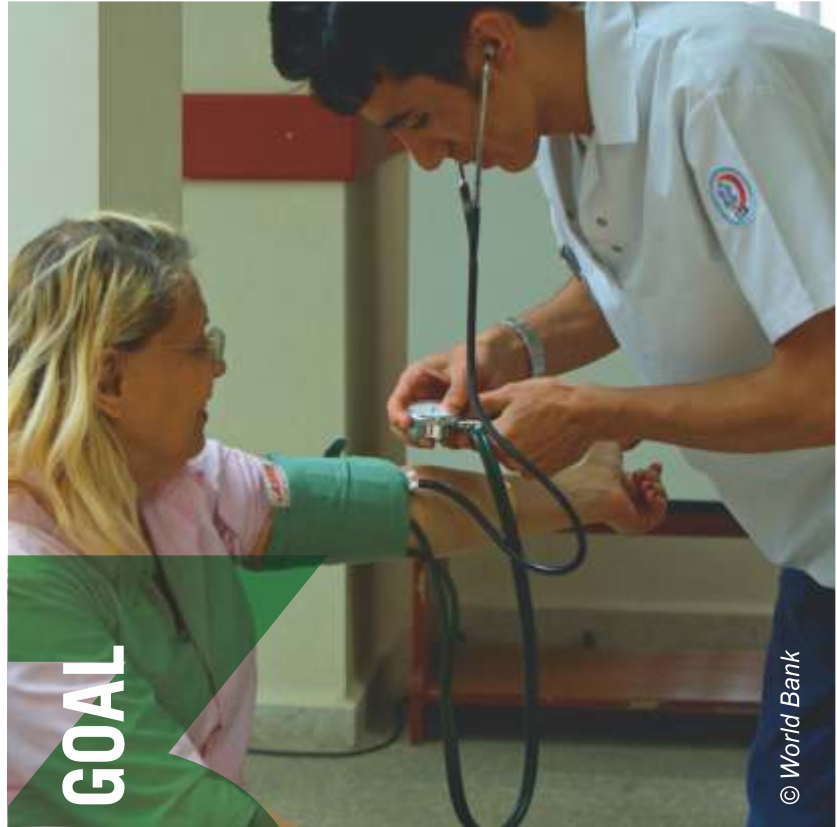
The attacks are of low intensity, but they have caused deaths and they impose restrictions in terms of mobility (traffic is being restricted to day hours). So far, this issue has not placed restrictions on the project, but we continue monitoring its development.

EFFECTS ON RAJ-MOZ

These measures have placed restrictions in the implementation of RAJ-MOZ. The moving towards home office caused some delays in project activation, which has been finalized recently.

The impossibility of organizing gatherings prevented a public launching of the project

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



while the ban on missions has caused some delays in finding office space, activating the project steering committee and procurement of some initial elements, among other activities.

The most severe effect on RAJ-MOZ has been caused by the hire freeze, due to the impact of COVID-19 that has had on this project being in its initial phase had no staff of its own.

The delay in incorporating the staff due to safety concerns has had a knock down effect on the implementation of other activities, such as finalizing the implementation agreement or initiating procurement. It is also uncertain when the Japanese NGO identified to supply DO-NOU training could deliver their services, given the fact they are based in Kenya and there are international travel restrictions in place right now.

MITIGATION MEASURES

ILO's team in charge of the project has taken a series of measures to reduce as

much as possible the impact of the above on the project. Namely:

- An updated work plan with several scenarios was drafted and submitted during the first weeks of the pandemic. A more recent update to the project's work plan;
- ILO's DEVINVEST department has issued a guideline to implement labour-based projects in safe conditions;
- RAJ-MOZ adapted these guidelines and produced a Covid-19 plan that has been attached to the project document;
- An external collaborator has been hired through the MozTrabalha Project to provide support to Labour Based activities and is also contributing to the implementation of RAJ-MOZ while the project team is being recruited;
- An exception to the hire freeze has been requested and granted to incorporate the National Project Officer;
- Online meetings have replaced physical meetings with partners on the ground.

▶ TRANSFORM Workshop attracts Participants across Africa

By Marialaura Ena

About 30 representatives of the TRANSFORM community gathered for the strategic review of progress made following recommendations of the 2019 formative evaluation, the strategic review workshop jointly supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, focused on prioritisation of the mainstreams of work for 2020-2021, development of related work plans, as well as consolidation of TRANSFORM monitoring and evaluation framework.

Participants included TRANSFORM master trainers, advisory group members drawn from UNICEF, FES and SASPEN, WFP and Irish Aid, relevant Social Protection stakeholders such as; local representatives of DFID and the World Bank, as well as ILO staff members of the TRANSFORM coordination hub across Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

The workshop was an interactive process characterised by exchange of innovative ideas about the future of the initiative amongst participants, who also review key steps of the TRANSFORM journey, started in 2015 and still ongoing.

The proudest achievements identified in the evaluation included the capacity building of over 1,192 practitioners across the African continent, the endorsement of

the African Union, the accreditation of over 40 Master Trainers – both English and Portuguese-speaking – as well as a recognised impact on the mind-set of government officials and other practitioners on the value of investing in social protection.

Arguably, the most important outcome of the workshop was the collaborative identification of the key programming priorities for the TRANSFORM initiative for the years 2020 and 2021 -the current programming cycle supported by Irish Aid at regional level. These included:

- ◆ The expansion of TRANSFORM coverage across Africa, including other linguistic regions such as French and Arabic-speaking countries. This objective would entail a decisive outreach to governments and donors in terms of advocacy as well as communication, the establishment of new partnerships and the training of trainers in those countries.
- ◆ The review and improvement of TRANSFORM materials to maintain their quality and enhance their relevance to current social protection trends. This will entail content improvement across various modules but also enhanced mainstreaming of gender and inclusion across the core curriculum.

- ◆ The development of a specific Communication and Advocacy strategy and tools. While TRANSFORM has achieved significant visibility amongst social protection stakeholders - both within and beyond Africa – a more strategic approach is needed to achieve extension of coverage and sustainability.

- ◆ The development of a comprehensive Sustainability roadmap, encompassing both the institutional and financial aspect. Discussions focused on the future set-up of a coordinating unit, the potential for integration within regional and national training institutes as well as cost-sharing mechanisms to be implemented at national and regional levels together with a decisive resource mobilisation effort supported by all TRANSFORM stakeholders.

The workshop succeeded in renewing enthusiasm amongst its core members. It highlighted challenges ahead in terms of resources constraints but also confirmed the team spirit behind this pioneering inter-agency initiative. It served as a powerful reminder that TRANSFORM was borne out of the sheer determination of experts and agencies active in social protection to push forward the achievement of the Leave No One Behind Agenda across Africa.



Part of the participants of the workshop.

Malawi Innovates to Boost its Social Protection Measures to Cushion Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19

By Andre Felipe Bongestabs

As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Malawi, the government is finalizing preparations to roll out an emergency social protection programme to tackle the economic impacts of the pandemic in urban areas. The new programme, COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI), will deliver monthly cash transfers to 185,000 vulnerable and income-insecure households in Malawi's four large urban centres.

Given the challenges imposed by the novel coronavirus, CUCI is exploring alternative ways of operating to ensure social distancing and other health preventive measures are followed. The ILO, together with other UN agencies, is supporting government in the design and implementation of the programme.

One of the first challenges was the lack of data about the population in urban areas.

This made establishing the number of people requiring assistance difficult, but it also made using existing methods of identifying vulnerable households impossible, since they are based in extensive surveys.

The ILO and WFP supported government in defining the target beneficiaries, and in the design of the selection mechanism that identified which neighbourhoods need support the most. This is done using a mix of data analysis, consultations with local councils and the use of high-resolution satellite data to create a map of the cities "hotspots" for families living in poverty and depending on work in the informal sector.

Within the hotspots identified, all households will be registered to benefit from CUCI for four months. To ensure the safety of communities and government workers, the ILO provided Occupational Safety and Health guidelines for the registration process.

Another innovation being used are e-payments to avoid the agglomeration of beneficiaries at pay-points. CUCI will be the first programme in Malawi to deliver all payments electronically, using Mobile Money.

The ILO will continue to support the COVID-19 social protection response in Malawi, providing technical and financial support through the UN Joint Programme in Social Protection and the Irish Aid-ILO Partnership on Inclusive Growth, Social Protection and Jobs.

Together with development partners and UN System, the Government of Malawi is in the final stages of preparations to implement the COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI).

1 NO POVERTY



The most important asset for people living in poverty is the potential of their own labour; their capacity to work productively. Decent work for all, including social protection, is therefore the main route out of poverty for individuals, communities and countries.

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as living on less than US\$1.25 a day.
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems.
- 1.4 Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources, including microfinance.
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
- 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.



Zambian Government, Social Protection Partners Launch 'COVID-19' Radio Programmes

By Taonga Mshanga

The United Nations Zambia Office is supporting the Government of Zambia (GRZ) to prioritize, design, and implement multiple concurrent projects to deliver an effective, comprehensive, coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Zambia.

The response encompasses several thematic areas inclusive of health, economic stability as well as social protection related interventions.

As part of the UN response to COVID-19 pandemic, the ILO through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services with Irish Aid financial support, organized national level social protection radio discussions aimed at raising awareness on existing social protection programmes. The radio discussions further facilitated debates and advocacy to enhance formulation of shock responsive social protection systems that cushion negative impacts of shocks as part of a long-term economic recovery pillar and livelihoods promotion plan.

The radio discussions also aimed to creating a platform to foster dialogue and feedback from various partners and the public on the negatives impacts that

various sectors have faced due to the COVID 19 pandemic. These radio discussions were kick-started on Hot FM radio with a topic on Social Protection in the times of COVID-19.

The discussants included; Director Edmond Mwakalombe, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services; Director Tony Domingu, Social Security Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Kelobang Kagisanyo, Technical Advisor, Social Protection Unit, International Labour Organization.

"Social Protection is defined as policies, practices that protect and promote the welfare of people suffering from critical levels of poverty and deprivation. It is aimed at helping people that are vulnerable to risks and shocks," said Mr. Mwakalombe. Furthermore, Mr. Domingu highlighted that the pandemic has taken place at the time when the government is developing mechanisms to promote social protection, including devising ways to identify informal economy workers by setting up a database, through which the most vulnerable, as a consequence of Covid-19, could be identified and ultimately benefit from government interventions.

He further emphasized that the Ministry of Labour and Social Security was in the

process of developing a national strategy for extension of social security coverage to inform coordinated approach to extension of social security to the informal sectors such as the domestic workers, bus drivers, and small-scale farmers etc.

Speaking during a subsequent radio discussion focused on informal workers amid COVID-19, Mr. Humphrey Monde, Director of the Association of Employers of Domestic Workers emphasized that many domestic workers had lost jobs, stating that there was need for the government to come up with measures to cushion the impact of COVID-19.

"We don't have data on our population, it questions our data storage of the numbers in the informal sector," said Mr Muleka Kamanisha, Deputy Director for Research and Economic Affairs, Zambia Congress of Trade Union.

He shared his concern on the lack of information on the informal economy and further highlighted that COVID-19 creates an opportunity to invest in research and develop databases on the informal economy that would guide formulation of appropriate policy responses to the myriad of challenges, such as Covid-19.



Government, Civil Society and Social Partners dialogue during a radio series of 'Social Protection in the Times of COVID-19'.

Zambia Launches COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfers Programme

By Allan Mulenga

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has launched a COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfers (C-ECT) programme to cushion the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable households in the country. The USD \$20 million programme is set to pay K400 per household for a period of six months, reaching over 118,000 households (over 600,000 individuals) in 18 affected target districts.

The response is implemented through the United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection and financially supported by the European Union, Germany through the KfW Development Bank, Sweden, Ireland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Additionally, the C-ECT programme will be jointly implemented by the Government, selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations Agencies among them the International Labour Organization (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Launching the ECT Programme, the Minister of Community Development and Social Services Hon. Kampamba Mulenga-Chewe said the Government would implement emergency support targeted at identified households directly and indirectly affected by COVID-19 to protect livelihoods,

strengthen pandemic control and avert negative coping strategies.

She added that the programme will target beneficiaries who are on the regular Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme and other vulnerable groups most affected by the pandemic.

"Eligible households include those with a severely disabled member, chronically ill member on palliative care, headed by a single woman taking care of three or more children, headed by a child, an elderly member and those in the informal sector. Households adversely impacted and are food insecure," she said.

The emergency support in form of cash transfers and food packs is not a regular social cash programme but a temporal social safety net that has been introduced to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households.

A transfer value of K400 per month shall be given to the targeted households to enable them meet foods and other basic essentials. The COVID-19 emergency cash transfer support will be given for six months as outlined in the Government multi-sectoral emergency response plan.

Speaking at the same occasion, the ILO Country Office Director for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, Mr. George Okutho said COVID-19 has presented a myriad of challenges, including loss of employment and consequently diminished household incomes, adding that some workers, especially in the informal economy, have

resorted to negative coping strategies that have adverse impacts on their lives and well-being.

Mr. Okutho said COVID-19 has exposed the devastating consequences of not having well-designed social protection systems, stating that the pandemic had however presented a golden opportunity to unify and realize the country's potential towards the extension of social protection coverage to all vulnerable households.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the way we live and conduct business. It serves as a reminder to us of the urgency to accelerate progress towards the building of comprehensive social protection systems, and the realization of social justice," said Mr. Okutho.

And WFP Country Representative Jennifer Bitonde pointed out that in order to promote the consumption of nutritious food, her organization in partnership with UNICEF and ILO, as well as NGO partners had developed common messages to be disseminated through text messages prior to and following the cash disbursement.

Meanwhile, UNICEF Country Representative Noala Skinner has hailed the partnership between the Government, the donors and the UN Agencies in enhancing social protection and ensuring a shock-responsive social protection system that can respond, like in these difficult COVID-19 times, to worsening vulnerabilities among Zambians.



Minister of Community Development and Social Services Kampamba Mulenga - Chewe (centre) with UN Agencies representatives during the press briefing on the launch of the COVID-19 ECT programme in Lusaka.

▶ Africa GreenCo and ILO Partner on Skills Development for the Renewable Energy Sector

By Musoli Kashinga

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Africa GreenCo has signed the Memorandum of Understanding to deliver training under the Skills Development for the Renewable Energy Sector (SkiDRES) Pilot Project training activities in August, respectively.

The signing ceremony marks the third MoU signed under the project towards upgrading skills in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sub-sectors.

Access to affordable, dependable and sustainable energy was underlined as one of the main drivers for social and economic development, resulting in better living conditions and access to new employment opportunities and enterprise development. However, only 31 percent of Zambians have access to electricity, of which 67 percent are in the urban areas and 4 percent in the rural areas.

The importance of skills development is key to improve and contribute to the employability of people.

The ILO works within the skills sector linking training to current labour market needs as

well as anticipating and building competencies for the jobs of the future. Africa GreenCo, on the other hand, is developing a for-profit business model to catalyse private sector investment in renewable energy generation projects within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

This involves the establishment of a government co-owned creditworthy intermediary power purchaser and electricity services provider. This is being done to address the creditworthiness of power off-takers.

The purpose of this MoU is for the collaboration between the two parties within the context of the SkiDRES pilot project which aims to contribute to the sub-region having the necessary skilled personnel to benefit from the rapid development of technology in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The pilot phase develops and builds partnerships with the private sector, assesses market needs, develops and tests demand-driven training, and prepares for a

three-year Public-Private Development Partnership.

That will enable the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) to be a hub for sustainable provision of skills training in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies for the region.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with Kafue Gorge Regional Centre (KGRTC) with financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), is implementing a pilot project for skills development for the Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) sub-sectors in Zambia.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



ILO Child Labour Convention Achieves Universal Ratification



By Allan Mulenga

For the first time in the ILO's history, an International Labour Convention has been ratified by all member States.

Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour achieved universal ratification, following ratification by the Kingdom of Tonga.

Ambassador for the Kingdom of Tonga, Titilupe Fanetupouvava'u Tuivakano, formally deposited the ratification instruments with ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder on 4 August, 2020.

The Convention is the most rapidly ratified Convention in the history of the Organization, since its adoption 21 years ago by the International Labour Conference.

"Universal ratification of Convention 182 is an historic first that means that all children now have legal protection against the worst forms of child labour," said Mr. Ryder. "It reflects a global commitment that the worst forms of child labour, such as slavery, sexual exploitation, the use of children in armed conflict or other illicit or hazardous work that compromises children's health, morals or psychological wellbeing, have no

place in our society."

Secretary-General of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Sharan Burrow, welcomed the ratification.

"Universal ratification of Convention 182 is a potent and timely reminder of the importance of ILO standards and the need for multilateral solutions to global problems. Child labour is a grievous violation of fundamental rights, and it is incumbent on the ILO's constituents and the international community to ensure that this Convention is fully implemented, including through due diligence in global supply chains," she said.

"The universal ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour is an historic moment," said Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary-General of the International Organization of Employers (IOE). "Throughout the years, the IOE and its member organizations have supported the implementation of this Convention. Today, the business community is both aware of and acting on the need to do business with respect for children's rights. This is even more urgent in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot allow the fight against the worst

form of child labour to backslide. Together we can work towards the end of child labour in all its forms."

This universal ratification is a further step towards making more concrete the aspirations of Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, when he said: "I dream of a world full of safe children and safe childhoods; ...I dream of a world where every child enjoys the freedom to be a child."

This landmark achievement comes just months before the start of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour in 2021, to be led by the ILO in collaboration with partners. Its aim is to raise awareness of the issue and to help accelerate the pace of progress.

All 187 member States of the International Labour Organization (ILO) have ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182).



Mr. Guy Ryder during the Virtual signing ceremony



Target
8.7

Forced labour and child labour

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

There are 168 million children – over 10 per cent of the global child population – in child labour. The number has fallen since 2000 but remains at unacceptable levels.

Twenty-one million people are in forced labour worldwide, more than 11 million of whom are women and girls. The vast majority of victims are exploited by private individuals or enterprises, generating over US\$150 billion in illegal profits per year.

What needs to be done:

- International labour standards – which provide a strong framework for tackling child and forced labour – need to be implemented at the national level.
- A multifaceted approach to ending child labour is needed, including legislation, access to education for all children, social protection for families and labour market policies.
- The 2014 ILO Protocol on forced labour, which includes provisions for addressing modern forms of slavery, requires ratification at the national level.



Mozambican Government, Social Protection Partners Conduct Joint Field Visit amid COVID-19 Outbreak

By Rubén Vicente Andrés

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) with social protection partners in Mozambique has concluded a joint field visit aimed at monitoring the enrolment process for new beneficiaries under the PASD-Post Emergency (PASD-PE) “pandemics” programme.

On July 29, staff from MGCAS and Ministry of Economy and Finance together with selected partners among them, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the World Bank, Swedish government and DFID, took part in the verification process in line with the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) guidelines for enrolling new beneficiaries into PASD-PE “pandemics” programme.

The team also participated in the designing

and implementation of COVID-19 response plan in terms of Social Protection, in which ILO is actively involved.

PASD-Post Emergency (PASD-PE) “pandemics” is the core of the Social Protection Response Plan to COVID-19 in Mozambique (PASD-PE is an existing social protection program within the National Strategy for Basic Social Protection (ENSSB), managed by INAS) aiming at reaching 289,362 households in Phase 1 (with funding confirmed up to date - 75 million USD) and 813,463 households in Phase 2 (additional 140 million USD needed).

PASD-PE “pandemics” consist on cash transfers to vulnerable households located in urban, peri-urban and bordering areas across the whole Mozambique, with payments on the amount of 1,500 MZM per month, during six months (9,000 MZM in total, approximately 135 USD per household in total). Those payments are to

be done through mobile payment platforms (M-Pesa, M-Mola) to the maximum extent possible.

Importantly, all new beneficiaries will be enrolled, managed and paid using the existing MIS for basic social protection (e-INAS), developed with ILO support since 2014, finalized, launched and rolled out in 2018-2019, resulting in efficiency gains and making possible a quick absorption of new beneficiaries having a functioning MIS already in place.

As a result of ILO's support on policy dialogue, it is important to note that from the households targeted for Phase 1, around 30,000 will be low-income, own account informal workers previously registered at INSS (contributory system), an important step towards improving coordination among contributory and non-contributory sides of the system, enhancing coherence and effectiveness.



A group of potential beneficiaries of PASD-PE “pandemics” programme are awaiting to be enrolled by National Institute of Social Action (INAS).

Mozambique Launches First Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection

By Rubén Vicente Andrés

Under the framework of the ACTION/Portugal project, implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Training Centre (ITC), which provides technical and training support for the strengthening of social protection systems in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and in Timor-Leste, ILO Project Office in Maputo supported the elaboration, edition, publication and launch of Mozambique's first Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection. This is the first time, a lusophone country in Africa has created the conditions for the collection and processing of statistical data throughout the Social Protection system (contributory and non-contributory). These statistical data are essential, not only for analyzing, implementing and adapting measures and instruments in an informed manner, but also for following up and monitoring the Agenda 2030 targets, especially target 1.3 – implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the

poor and the vulnerable. Mozambique's first comprehensive Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection results from ILO support in providing training on Statistics on Social Protection in an harmonized manner during 2018 and 2019, with two editions of the training course on the matter that benefitted a Mozambican delegation composed by six line institutions dealing with Social Protection (both contributory and non-contributory) and statistics. After the first training in late 2018, an Inter-institutional Working Group was created and institutionalized in Mozambique and the team, with ILO support, started compiling and harmonizing statistics on social protection. This joint effort resulted in the publication of the Mozambique's first Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection, launched in April 2020. Considered a model and good practice, the 2nd Bulletin on Social Protection is currently being produced and expected to be published before the end of 2020, and presented to other PALOP countries as an example to inspire on-going efforts in those countries to harmonize statistics on social

protection. This outcome demonstrates that tangible and strategic results can be achieved when capacities and efforts are combined in a concerted manner, articulating and combining training and capacity-building actions with technical support provided by ILO Social Protection team in Maputo for the Inter-institutional Working Group created in Mozambique. This document is the result of hard work by the technicians and statisticians of the various institutions involved, with technical and financial support from the ILO, and provides an opportunity for effectively broadening the scope of the Social Protection system in Mozambique. Conscious of the paramount importance of having robust, reliable and consistent statistical data to guide well-informed decision-making for the consolidation of a Social Protection Floor in Mozambique, the ILO consider the technical and financial support of the ACTION/Portugal Project to be essential for continuing the work of strengthening institutional capacity for processing statistical social protection data in Mozambique.



Training course "Statistics on Social Protection in PALOP countries", organized by ILO-ITC in close collaboration with ILO Office in Maputo and ILO Office in Cabo Verde, under the framework of the ACTION/Portugal project. Praia, Cabo Verde, September 2019.



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