MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

PAPER PRESENTED AT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION CONSULTATION TO INFORM THE POST- 2015 TB STRATEGY AND ACTION

HELD IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL FROM 29TH APRIL – 1st May, 2013

By

Kennedy Mumba, Acting Chief Social Welfare Officer
OUTLINE

• Introduction
• Eliminating Disease Burden through Social Protection
• Major Social Support Schemes In Zambia
• Partners Supporting Social Protection in Zambia
• Reintegrating Health Care and Social Support Schemes
• Conclusion
Introduction

- Zambia is a landlocked country with a population of 13,046,508 persons.
- There are 23 ministries charged with different responsibilities.
- Primary Health Care and Social Protection are under the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health. This is the ministry which is a key provider and facilitator of social protection to the less privileged and vulnerable groups in society. This is done through the provision of social welfare, community development, and Primary Health Care.
Eliminating Disease Burden through Social Protection

- TB continues to be among the major challenges the country is faced with. According to national demographic data;
- The country’s HIV prevalence rate is at 14.3% whilst total TB annual national notifications (all forms of TB) stands at 48,616 persons.
- 8% are the children below the age of 15 years.
- The country’s TB annual notification rate for 2012 was about 373 people per 100,000 population. This is against 2004 notification rate of about 600 persons per 100,000 population.
• Of the total TB annual notifications, males account for 59% whilst females 41%.
• From the TB notifications, 84% where also tested for HIV, and 65% were found HIV positive.
• These statistics though indicating some measure of progress since 2004, also reflects a high incidences of disease burden requiring urgent remedial measures.
• One measure the Zambian Government has already embarked on is the re-integration of critical service provisions for the people especially for the poor and the vulnerable.
In recognizing the role that health plays in national development, the Government realigned the functions of Mother and Child Health to improve the delivery of primary health care services as well as improving the standard of living of the people especially the poor.

This was done in 2012 through the realignment of the functions of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the Ministry of Health.
Eliminating Disease Burden through Social Protection Cont.

- The realignment was done in order to:
  - holistically deal with health and community issues by using available and existing community structures.
  - Prevent and control the spread of diseases through community based interventions resulting in efficient, comprehensive and effective service delivery.
  - Strengthen existing health systems by dealing with health issues from the lower levels in a coordinated and integrated manner, and to enable the Ministry of Health to focus on training, inspectorate and the provision of health care services at secondary and tertiary levels.
SOCIAL SUPPORT SCHEMES IN ZAMBIA

Zambia has five (5) main support Schemes through which the poor and the vulnerable seek help. These are;

- Social Cash Transfer Scheme – A scheme that provides cash to vulnerable families to enable them meet their basic needs. The scheme is currently being implemented in 13 Districts and it has shown that households spend funds on critical areas such as education for the children (increase by 3%), food- nutrition (56.6% to 35.2%), health (illnesses 45% to 35%), livestock and shelter as well as increased buying power.
• **PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME** – The scheme targets mainly the incapacitated, terminally ill and other vulnerable individuals and families. Clients are provided with rations and other welfare needs. In this scheme, clients are not given cash, instead they are provided with the needed goods (materials) and services.

• **SOCIAL PROTECTION FUND** – This is a newly introduced scheme that seek to help the vulnerable but viable individuals and families with some form of empowerment to engage in income generating activities. Clients under this category are helped once with a view of graduating from government assistance.
• **Women Empowerment Fund** – this scheme encourages women to form clubs and cooperatives through which support is provided to enable them engage in viable activities.

• **Food Security Pack** – this scheme targets vulnerable but viable individuals and families that seek to engage in agricultural activities by giving them support in form of inputs in order to improve household and national food security.
REINTEGRATING HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SUPPORT SCHEMES

• Health provision and social protection from the Zambian perspective are an integral aspect of meeting the health and well-being of the people.

• The direct linkage of health with community and social services invariably brings together a comprehensive and holistic package of not only looking at the health of the people but also their community and social well-being.
• Social support schemes are implemented through government and community established structures at the most lower lever of the Zambian society.

- This implies the presence of at least a government official at the lower sub-centre level who are privileged in knowing the local people on a routine basis including their problems and challenges.

• These are significant steps in improving health care systems for effective and sustained access at established structures at the most lower lever of the Zambian society.
- This implies the presence of at least one government official at the lower sub-centre level who are privileged in knowing the local people on a routine basis including their problems and challenges.

- Government officials work closely with established community structures such as the Community Welfare Assistance Committees composed of members of the local community.

• These are significant steps in improving health care systems for effective and sustained access.
Conclusion

• Individuals, families and communities faced with catastrophic burden of TB and other health challenges are in most cases in dire need of Social protection interventions.

• Social protection and its structures from the Zambian perspective presents a comprehensive model that can significantly help address most challenges faced by individuals and families experiencing burdens brought about by the catastrophic Economic Burden of TB.

• With this model and package universal TB coverage and sustained livelihoods can be achieved.
END OF PRESENTATION

AND

THANK YOU!

ZIKOMO!