

Understanding poverty, promoting wellbeing and sustainable development in Zimbabwe

by

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Brown Bag Seminar

UNICEF Harare

24th April, 2013

Overview of presentations

- Introduction to the Moving Zimbabwe Forward Evidence Based Policy Dialogue Initiative: Reducing Poverty, promoting Sustainable Development
- Overview of the poverty and wellbeing survey, main findings and recommendations

Focus on women, children and vulnerabilities

- Beyond income: An Analysis of Gendered Wellbeing and Poverty in Zimbabwe
- Vulnerability and coping
- Children, education and poverty

The Moving Zimbabwe Forward Evidence Based Policy Dialogue Initiative

Aims to promote equitable growth, sustainable development and reduce poverty through:

- Promoting policy dialogue
- Disseminating policy-relevant information
- Generating policy-relevant knowledge on poverty and wellbeing in Zimbabwe
 - *Getting empirical evidence for policy and practice*

Activities

- International conferences, multi-stakeholder seminars, Round Tables, In-House seminars, face-to face meetings
- Poverty and wellbeing assessment, commissioned researches, case studies
- Production of books, reports, policy dialogue briefs

Pathways out of Poverty conference paper series, including:

- *‘What strategies are needed to ensure that education can contribute to moving Zimbabwe out of poverty?’* by Fay Chung
- *Children after the Long Socio-economic Crisis in Zimbabwe: Situation Analysis and Policy Issues’* by Lauchlan T. Munro

‘What strategies are needed to ensure that education can contribute to moving Zimbabwe out of poverty?’

by Fay Chung

The paper concludes that:

- Poverty is one of the most urgent and profound problems facing Zimbabwe
- The education system is one of the most important institutions for solving this problem
- The education system must address two problems:
 - the world of work
 - the world of values

Move away from the present *kiya kiya* ideology and rediscover and recreate shared values

Ancient traditional values

During the Liberation War spirit mediums, leaders of traditional religion, set forth two rules for the freedom fighters:

- Not to commit sexual transgressions in war situations
 - As a result rape was not a commonly used weapon of war during the Liberation War
- Not to kill unless your life was threatened.
 - Prisoners of war were not killed, but taken 1000s of km to Maputo or Dar es Salaam and freed

Children after the Long Socio-economic Crisis in Zimbabwe: Situation Analysis and Policy Issues'

by Lauchlan T. Munro

The paper concludes that:

- The key to a better future for Zimbabwe's children lies in focusing resources on **a few high impact interventions**, using the best available evidence, and combining traditional strengths with the latest innovations.
- Breaking the cycle of harm to children, preventing future harms to children and dealing with past traumas will all have to be part of the solution.

Goal of the MZF poverty and wellbeing study

To understand the current nature of poverty to enhance formulation and implementation of effective policies and development programmes

The MZF sample survey provides a snapshot of poverty in Zimbabwe



Multi-dimensional aspects of poverty

The MZF survey covered a wide range of issues including:

- Demographic characteristics
- Dwelling place, access to clean water, energy
- Access to and use of education and health services
- Employment, business enterprises, agricultural activities
- Incomes, HH food and non-food consumption and expenditures
- Food security
- Access to and use of land
- Assets holdings
- Perceptions about poverty status
- Exposure to shocks and coping strategies
- Natural resource use and management
- Access to information

Main findings

- The magnitude of poverty and extreme poverty was high across Zimbabwe, **especially in rural areas.**
- The depth of poverty was also high. Poverty is nearly twice as deep in rural areas.
- Households living in the dry and marginal lands of Agro-Ecological **Regions IV and V** were more likely to live in poverty or extreme poverty.
- Promoting access to **alternative livelihood options** across these different areas is critical.

Poverty traps

1. Low total productivity, where both agricultural and economic production is below optimum.
2. Lack of education and its effects on access to opportunities.
3. Lack of quality employment.
4. Health issues, such as HIV and AIDS, and maternal health, which undermine productivity and capital accumulation.

How to address the poverty traps?

Improving overall productivity with a focus on agricultural production

- Providing farmers with the necessary skills to farm more commercially
- Supporting smallholders with agricultural inputs
- Mechanisation
- Massive investment in irrigation
- Diversification of agricultural production
- Value addition
- Markets
- Farmer producer groups

How to address the poverty traps?

Providing quality employment and education

- Sustained productivity growth is a pre-requisite
- Increased agricultural production will lead to increased economic growth as well as boost rural incomes.
- Increased demand for goods and services, and jobs will follow.
- Quality education is also key to quality employment.

How to address the poverty traps?

Social protection.

- Immediate need because poverty levels are so deep
- Need continue with, and scale-up, innovative social protection (the Harmonised Cash Transfer Programme)
- A package of: cash transfers; food; educational and health assistance.

‘Understanding poverty, promoting wellbeing and sustainable development

A sample survey of 16 districts of Zimbabwe’

edited by J. Manjengwa, S . Feresu and A. Chimhowu

- Provides an academic work on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty in Zimbabwe
 - 9 chapters
- Analyses and interprets the quantitative and qualitative data and presents some solutions (policy points) for addressing poverty that can be useful to policy makers and practitioners