



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ZAMBIA AND COMESA

October – December, 2018

EDITORIAL

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During the last quarter of 2018 the European Union invested in the dialogue with Zambian stakeholders on human rights, leveraging the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the outreach on the new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs and in further enhancing the partnerships with COMESA and Zambia. Of great relevance was the launching of the new Trade Facilitation Regional Programme by the COMESA Secretariat and the European Union.

In the last quarter of the year the rehabilitation of the Great East Road (more than 250 km), part of the strategic NACALA regional corridor, was operationally completed and the quality of the works is appreciated by all motorists travelling along the road. Moreover great progress was registered under the Health System Strengthening programme with regards both to the Medical Stores Facilities and the new premises of the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and its National Quality Control Laboratory. These important infrastructures are well on track to be delivered by the end of 2019 at the very latest, thus boosting the quality of health related services in Zambia. The new Public Finance Management Programme and the new Water Management and Irrigation project, co-financed by the Government of Germany and delegated to GIZ, were launched. Moreover, in close collaboration with civil society organisations, we launched a number of new projects aimed at increasing citizens' engagement in democracy, reintegrating of inmates from correctional facilities, and providing support to refugees.

I wish you all an interesting reading including the voices from the field.

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EU ZAMBIA PARTNERSHIP

Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On 10 December H.E. Alessandro Mariani, Ambassador of the European Union was present alongside the Guest of Honour, Vice President Inonge Wina, the Minister of Justice Hon Given Lubinda, the Chair of the Human Rights Commission, the UN Resident Coordinator, a Senior Representative from the Comunita' di Sant'Egidio as well as Ambassadors of EU Member States. Ambassador Mariani seized the opportunity to welcome the fact that Zambia has respected a de-facto moratorium on death penalty for more than 20 years and to commend the President for having commuted many death penalties into life imprisonment.



The Ambassador added *"now we look forward to Zambia's vote in favour of the resolution calling for a moratorium at the UNGA on 17 December, thus joining the very large alliance of countries in the world in favour of the moratorium"*. He also stated that *"The EU and Zambia are working together with the aim of launching very soon a sensitization campaign towards the abolition of the death penalty in Zambia and that the Human Rights Commission will be in the lead"*.

Signing of the Public Finance Management and Water Management and Irrigation Agreements

On 5 December, the European Union and German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) signed two Contribution Agreements to strengthen Zambia's capacities in public finance management, water management and irrigation. Under both agreements the EU will provide grant financing for a total amount of EUR 20 million (approx. ZMW 270 million), supplemented by Germany with an additional grant of EUR 3.5 million (approx. ZMW 50 million).



The Programme on Effectiveness and Transparency in the Management of Public Resources (EFFECT) will enhance planning, budgeting and budget implementation capacities of the Government of Zambia and will support the Zambia Revenue Authority in its efforts to enhance the revenue base and modernize revenue collection. The Agricultural smallholder irrigation and water management programme will support the establishment of water-efficient irrigation systems to help small scale farmers in the Lower Kafue sub-catchment to increase their productivity and income.

Media Breakfast

A Media Breakfast was held on 3 December in Lusaka to present to media representatives the Communication from the European Union on a new Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, whose aim is to deepen economic relations and boost investments and jobs.

H.E. Alessandro Mariani, Ambassador of the European Union, explained that this alliance will create up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next 5 years.



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30 million people and companies will benefit from access to electricity thanks to the EU's leveraged investments in renewable energy and generation capacity. The meeting was attended by more than 45 journalists and teams from the Ministry of Finance, Lusaka, Zambia and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) respectively.

European Union invests in Muchinshi Rural Health Centre to improve access to and quality of health



Under the Millennium Development Goal Initiative (MDGi), the European Union has invested more than ZMW 3.6 million in the Muchinshi Rural Health Centre to improve access to and quality of health care in Chingola district. On 13 November, Elisabeth Locker from the EU attended the handover to the Ministry of Health of the maternity wing, the mothers' safe house and medical equipment - including an incubator. These new state-of-the art maternity ward services will ensure that mothers are now able to deliver in an adequate and clean environment cared by a competent health professional team. The construction of a mothers'

safe house is particularly important in rural areas as women can now stay at the clinic before the arrival of their baby.

Site Tour of Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority

On 9 November, the Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, and the Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation, Mr. Gianluca Azzoni, went on a joint site tour to take stock of progress in the construction of the new premises of the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority - ZAMRA and National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory. Since the start of the project in May 2017, good progress has been achieved on site and the path seems now well set for finalizing the works in early 2019.



Once fully operational, the new facilities will allow for both chemical and microbiological testing of medicines, medical devices, herbal products and cosmetics to take place in the most appropriate conditions. Addressing the participants of the site tour, Mr. Azzoni highlighted that the new laboratory "will enable ZAMRA to assess the quality of medicines and to better identify and investigate sub-standard products, providing confidence to health workers and to the people of Zambia that the products available in hospitals and pharmacies are of a high quality standard". It will also allow regrouping of all ZAMRA staff under one roof, therefore improving communication and efficiency. This support to ZAMRA is part of the EU-funded Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP – EUR 18 million), a flagship initiative which aims to enhance the availability and rational use of quality essential medicines



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in Zambia.

Site visit to Medical stores

Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, and the Ambassador of the European Union, H.E. Alessandro Mariani, went on a site tour at Medical Stores Limited (MSL) on 12 October to take stock of the construction progress for the upgrade and expansion of the MSL central warehouse in Lusaka. Since the signature of the grant between MSL and the EU in December 2017, tremendous progress has been achieved and the path seems now well set for handing over the new warehouse in early 2019.



Once operational, these top-notch facilities, which will meet international quality standards, should almost quadruple the storage capacity of medicines at the MSL central store and significantly improve the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the pharmaceutical supply management system. Speaking after the site tour, Ambassador Mariani emphasized "We trust that the good pace of work will be maintained and that all the constructions will be ready and operational on time to serve the health needs of the people of Zambia". He also insisted on the importance of a timely installation of the needed equipment and to match this significant physical investment at MSL with effective policy and institutional reforms, good governance in the management of drugs, adequate maintenance and funding strategies. This support to MSL is part of the EU-funded Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP – EUR18 million).

Launch of the National Legal Aid Policy in Lusaka

On 9 November, the Ambassador of the European Union, H.E. Alessandro Mariani, attended the launch of the National Legal Aid Policy in Lusaka. The approval of the

National Legal Aid Policy on 1 October by Cabinet has been one of the major milestones of the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Enhanced Justice Delivery (PLEED), an EU-funded project implemented by GIZ and co-funded by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Ambassador Mariani congratulated all the organisations who have been involved in developing and approving the Policy and stated that "with the introduction of this National Legal Aid Policy, the provision of equal access to justice through efficient and effective delivery of legal aid services is more attainable for the most vulnerable".



Ambassador Mariani congratulated all the organisations who have been involved in developing and approving the Policy and stated that "with the introduction of this National Legal Aid Policy, the provision of equal access to justice through efficient and effective delivery of legal aid services is more attainable for the most vulnerable". Present at the event as guest of honour, Minister of Justice, Hon. Given Lubinda, emphasised government's commitment to sustain legal aid services, and called on all distinguished guests present to do the same.

Kachele Trust School breakfast meeting

On 10 October, 16 children aged 9 to 14 years of age from Kachele Trust School in Lusaka visited the EU Delegation over a breakfast meeting. As part of the Child Outreach activities under the Press Club, the children interacted with the Head of the Political, Press and Information Section, Mr Robert De Raeve, and other members of the EU staff, who explained the day-to-day political and development cooperation managed by the European Union in Zambia. Since the occasion was a press conference for the junior journalists, they took turns to ask some questions, mainly about education in Europe, how the EU was established,



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and the EU partnership with Zambia. The EU priorities were thus shared by the staff and the main EU-funded development programmes were presented.



Students showed a great interest in EU matters and were happy to share with us their feedback on previous visits to key institutions. It was an amazing experience for both the EU staff and the junior journalists.

EU HoMs visit to Chipata



The Ambassador of the European Union and seven Heads of Mission of the EU Member States visited the Eastern Province and Chipata on 4 and 5 October. They participated in a tree planting action in the framework of the Plant a million trees initiative. H.E. Rupiah Banda was present at the event, as well as several thousands of

children to show their support and commitment to the environment and to the need for reforestation. Each child will be responsible for the care of ten seedlings in the newly established nursery.

Discussions were further held with the PS of Eastern Province, the Mayor of Chipata, and Bishop George Lungu. The EU HoMs visited a Mary's Meal project and a farm highly specialised in the production of macadamia.

Rehabilitation of the Great East Road completed

In December, the European Union financed Contractor handed the last section of the rehabilitated road back to the Government of Zambia.



The European Union has co-financed (with the European Investment Bank and the French Development Agency, AFD) the rehabilitation of the Great East Road between Luangwa Bridge and Mwami Border in Eastern Province.

Physical work began on the rehabilitation of this trunk road in early 2014 and major roadworks activities were completed by the end of 2016. The additional works necessitated by the unexpected pavement defects on one of the road sections, just after Luangwa Bridge, have been also successfully completed. All the road sections between Luangwa Bridge and Nyimba, as well as Sinda and Mwami Border, totalling 254 kilometres, have now been handed back to the Road Development Agency.

The Great East Road (The 'T4') is one of the key international trunk routes connecting Zambia with neighbouring countries and in addition, many small and



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EU - COMESA PARTNERSHIP

European Union support inclusive and sustainable economic growth on the African continent

The 39th COMESA Policy Organs Meetings took place in Lusaka from 23 to 25 November under the theme "Towards Digital Economic Integration". At this occasion, the EU Representative to COMESA, H.E. Alessandro Mariani, highlighted the strong commitment of the European Union to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth on the African continent, as stated in the new "Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs" recently launched by the European Commission.



Regional economic integration is a key pillar of this new strategy, and Ambassador Mariani recognised the key role of COMESA in that respect: "Since its creation in 1994, COMESA has been a driving force of economic integration in Africa. The European Union, being COMESA's biggest trade and development partner, will continue to support its efforts and those of its Member States that are ultimately responsible for the domestication and effective implementation of regional reforms". Ambassador Mariani also mentioned the recent signing of two new EU regional trade programmes with COMESA, the EUR 15million Cross Border Trade initiative and the EUR 48million EUR COMESA Trade Facilitation programme whose implementation will make a difference in the life of people in the COMESA region.

Launch of the Trade Facilitation Regional Programme

The European Union and the Common Market for Eastern

and Southern Africa (COMESA) have officially launched in Lusaka the Trade Facilitation Regional Programme worth EUR 48.3 million (approx. ZMW 655 million) on 20 November. This initiative aims at increasing intra-regional trade flows of goods, persons and services and reducing the costs of imports/exports.

As indicated by the EU Representative to COMESA, H.E. Alessandro Mariani, "this EU-COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme is of utmost importance and will greatly contribute to the implementation of the New Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs".



Recognising COMESA's role as a driving force of regional economic integration, Ambassador Mariani stated that "we will be able to reduce the time and costs of intra-regional trade and contribute to regional economic integration, which will in turn improve the business climate in the region and attract more private investors."



The Secretary General of COMESA, Ms Chileshe Mpundu



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Kapwepwe, acknowledged the importance of this programme for *“deepening regional integration, improving inclusive regional economic growth and enhancing competitiveness of the COMESA region”*.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Support to Implementation of Zambian Elections

On 17 October, Patricia Kapolyo, EU Programme Manager, visited the EU-funded “Support to Implementation of Zambian Elections” (SIZE) project implemented through the British Council Zambia and Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL), which enable women to build their capacity as leaders, as well as increase opportunities for female participation and representation in governance.



Zambian women have fewer decision-making positions compared to men at all levels and are affected most by Zambia's high unemployment and poverty.

Maria Mwale Bundabunda, Ward Councillor in Rufunsa district (Lusaka Province) is a beneficiary of the project. She is a trained teacher who worked for an NGO before she went into politics. She was voted in as a Ward Councillor in 2016 and is currently the only female Councillor in her district. Asked about when she decided to join politics in 2014, Maria said “I had no resources and little knowledge of politics, but I knew the need of the communities on the ground and my heart told me to do it”. With no experience in politics, it was Maria's grandmother who introduced her to ZNWL where she was given skills

and resources to campaign for the position of Councillor. Once in office, she received on the job training in budgeting and planning as well as the provision of a mentor

Energy Regulation Board (ERB) approves draft regulatory framework for electricity mini-grids

“The future it is not about bringing a single light bulb to a home in rural area, this only sheds a light on poverty.” Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella.

Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella is the former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All. He was also the CEO of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

On 30 October 2018 the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) approved the draft regulatory framework for electricity mini-grids (licencing procedures; tariff guidelines; technical standards). Mini-grids are village- or district-level isolated electricity networks with various scales of demand, including for productive uses of energy.

Supported by the EU-funded project "Increased Access to Electricity and Renewable Energy Production" (IAEREP), the mini-grid regulatory framework aims at expediting rural electrification for community and private sector development through an accelerated licensing and permitting process for mini-grids developers as well as flexible tariff setting for end consumers.



With this approval from the regulator, Zambia has now a



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unique opportunity to test the new regulations through demonstration projects to be co-financed under another component of the IAEREP project. Demonstration projects shall attract more private capital in rural electrification through the provision of EUR 25 million investment grant that could partially reduce the development cost of projects. Under the demonstration component, a number of business models, including - but not limited to - Public-Private-Partnerships with the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) – will be encouraged to provide lessons for further improvement of the regulatory framework.

Today only 1 Zambian out of 20 in rural areas is connected to the grid and a further 7% enjoys electricity through off grid devices and solutions. Lack of access to electricity services has an adverse impact on productivity and on delivery of social and non-social services. The 7th National Development Plan has set the target of doubling the percentage of rural population having access to off-grid electricity solutions by 2021.

Timed and Targeted Counseling helps to save the life of Brenda and her Twins



The European Union funded Realigning Agriculture Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Nutrition (RAGWANUT) Action is co implemented by World Vision and Jesus Care

Ministries. Timed and Targeted Counseling (TTC) is an individual-level behaviour change communication method aimed at pregnant women and caregivers of children under two around the full range of life-saving interventions for Maternal Child Health and Nutrition. Brenda Siamatika aged 38 of Sikaputa village in Sinazongwe district is one of the beneficiaries. In 2017 Brenda was pregnant with twins. Having a poor obstetric history she was keen to do the best to save this special pregnancy. She was therefore enrolled in the TTC program in the first trimester of her 2017 pregnancy.

Through the TTC program Brenda and her family received individualized counseling and support at household level. Thanks to the knowledge acquired, Brenda was able to identify 'the danger sign' of bleeding which occurred in the eighth month of her pregnancy. With support from TTC, Brenda and the unborn babies' lives were saved. Brenda was quickly referred and facilitated to the health facility and later evacuated to the nearest hospital where a caesarian delivery was conducted and the twins were born. The mother and the twins are healthy.

Savings group gives hope to children in Sinazongwe



The RAGWA NUT Action has been implementing the Village Savings and Lending Association (VSLA) also referred to as Savings for transformation since October 2016. So far the 121 Village saving agents trained have been able to form 259 Savings groups with a cumulative total savings of ZMW



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813,500 (USD 74,000). Out of these Savings groups 9 are specifically for adolescents. Alex a 17 year old boy of Muzambalika Village is one of the members of the adolescent Saving Groups in Sinazongwe district. He joined the Savings group in July 2018. He has so far bought 30 shares with a value of ZMW 300. He has also been able to get a loan of ZMW 150. With the loan acquired he was able to pay ZMK50 school fees and invest the rest of his money in a Kapenta (Dry Sardines) and tomato business. Before joining the Savings Group, Alex was sent away from school due to failure by his guardians to pay school fees. This affected his performance in school and he was very sad.

Prisca a 16 year old grade eight pupil had dropped out from school because she is an orphan and could not afford to pay school fees and buy school requirements. A loan from the savings group has enabled him to go back to school and pay school fees.