



LOCALISING THE SDGS

POLICY REPORT BY ZAMBIA

Additional inputs and insights from
Zambia in relation to the SDGs
localised in the region



SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

YOUTH PARLIAMENT TAKEAWAYS:

- Clean Water and Sanitation has a huge impact on the attainment of SDG 4: Quality Education. Most youth from marginalized communities lag behind in their studies because of the lack of proper sanitation.
- Most schools have very few access points to water and even so, running water is not always guaranteed in the school.
- Lack of a proper water supply and sanitation in schools poses as a ticking time bomb because waterborne diseases can be easily spread.
- There used to be a time when keep surroundings clean was embedded in the school curriculum and activities – this helped with sensitizing learners and changing their mindsets.

COMMUNITY ENTRY DIALOGUE TAKEAWAYS:

- Informal housing settlements have caused a huge stress on the current water delivery systems in the country. There is no proper guidance on how and where housing should be constructed. Most community members become homeless because it's the only type of housing they can afford.
- There is no proper waste management in the communities despite community members paying a small fee for waste collection. Designated dumping sites also keep getting filled up with no sustainable solution from the council.
- There is discord between community leaders and assigned local government leaders in ensuring proper sanitation and water in communities. Leaders like market chairpersons and church leaders can only do so much.
- Places like markets, schools and churches should always have access points for water and sanitation as they are usually built centrally.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There needs to be more efforts made in reinforcing the housing act and breaking it down to grassroots level.
- There should be a standard procedure for housing and sanitation that should be reinforced at local government level through the wards.
- The monthly clean up days that were introduced by governments should be reinforced and made into a special week where ALL community members are encouraged to do their part. Items such as bins, sanitizers, taps, buckets should also be made readily available and accounted for.
- There should be a list of WASH requirements for every school to follow if they are to remain open. Failure to meet this must render that school incapable of operation. Random school checks through the DEBS must also be implemented.

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



YOUTH PARLIAMENT TAKEAWAYS:

- Sexual reproductive health rights/health need to be discussed and included in schools.
- Boys must also be included in the empowerment process so that they can better appreciate the call for equality.
- Affirmative action usually only benefits the more intelligent girls in the community. It must also include action for young women that will encourage them to be more assertive and empowered.
- A call for safe spaces in communities: There needs to be an establishment of a youth hub in most communities that act as safe spaces for young women.

COMMUNITY ENTRY DIALOGUE TAKEAWAYS:

- Men should be treated as allies in the fight for equality. Most men remain hostile because they do not understand the benefits of ensuring the empowerment or protection of women. They perceive this as a bid to turn the women against them. They feel left out of the process.
- Lobola (or “bride price”) has been found to be a major source of GBV in communities as men feel they “OWN” their wives after the dowry have been paid. Additionally, it is seen as a means to an end for most vulnerable and low-income families.
- Lack of employment and poverty put women in situations that encourage gender discrimination and violence.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The men and boys have been left behind in the fight for equality – Programming in communities that pioneer gender mainstreaming need to be introduced.
- Programs targeting marriage counsellors for both men and women need to be introduced in these communities as they are seen as a voice of reason and integral part of relationships.
- Each ward must have a designated safe space. This safe space should be able to carry out the following:
 1. Provide SRH Services
 2. A channel to report issues of GBV
 3. Carry out programs that empower women and elevate their economic status e.g., village banking, capacity building, provision of seed capital. This can be done by deliberately ensuring that part of the Community Development Fund is channeled towards this.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



YOUTH PARLIAMENT TAKEAWAYS:

- Climate action is not something young people in the community are actively concerned about because it's something that has never been fully explained.
- Young people have such powerful voices and can accelerate the attainment of this goal.
- Partner visits in schools really puts this issue and its solutions into perspective: E.g. Plant A Million Zambia carry out an incredible job and educate learners on the benefit of trees, their financial use and sustainability. They further involve the learners in the picking, planting and nurturing process. This approach allows learners to take ownership.

COMMUNITY ENTRY DIALOGUE TAKEAWAYS:

- Most community members thought climate action was a western concept and had nothing to do with them.
- Most people in marginalized communities do not have alternative sources of energy. They cut down trees because they feel it's the only way.
- Not enough is said about the real effects of climate change. The term is also never explained in full. More sensitization needs to be carried out in communities to help community members take ownership.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Tree planting days in communities must be introduced. Additionally, Charcoal sellers must be made to take ownership of these days and be sensitized about the dangers.
- Introduction of recycling stations in each ward: This would encourage community members to collect and manage waste. An example was given of the plastic project in Garden Compound that can be upscaled to most marginalized communities.
- Clubs in school can be established that tackle climate change (and even SDGs as a whole). This would help introduce the concept aside from their normal school curriculum which would take longer to actualize.



SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

YOUTH PARLIAMENT TAKEAWAYS:

- Not enough information is given to young people on stress management and mental health in marginalized communities.
- Drug abuse is a prevailing issue in marginalized communities. A negative stereotype has been perpetuated which has made interventions for addicts very hard to attain.

COMMUNITY ENTRY DIALOGUE TAKEAWAYS:

- While there has been a huge focus on diseases such as HIV/AIDS, waterborne diseases and other health issues, there's not enough being said about mental health and drug abuse.
- The introduction of Tu jilijili (small, plastic packets of spirits) on the market has escalated alcohol abuse in the compounds. More people are dying from mental health and drug abuse than from treatable diseases.
- Health centers in communities lack personnel and medicine.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- National mental health and drug abuse strategies need to be decentralized.
- Mental health spaces can be established through youth corners or at every hospital.
- Mental health campaigns must be implemented in communities.
- Rehabilitation services for addicts should also be decentralized.



SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS:

YOUTH PARLIAMENT TAKEAWAYS:

- Corruption makes it very hard for young people from marginalized communities to access opportunities. This leaves them stuck in a vicious cycle that leads to depression, poverty and attaining wealth in illegal ways.
- There's discord between the police service and members of the community because of the stereotype and conduct of officers.

COMMUNITY ENTRY DIALOGUE TAKEAWAYS:

- Community members never feel like they are ever sensitized or consulted in matters of justice or rule of law.
- Corruption is a disease that perpetuates poverty in communities. Most systems are not decentralized and are from "top-down" rather than from "ground-up". This makes access to opportunities very difficult.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Decentralization of opportunities is needed. The government needs to ensure that each community is given a chance, e.g. every opportunity can be run through wards and those wards select individuals. This ensures representation from all places and not just the elite.
- Most of the work involved in achieving this goal really depends on the structures and reporting lines that have already been established. While the government chants about "zero tolerance to corruption", most systems remain centralized and are not accessible to people from marginalized communities. Therefore, major policy changes that ensure decentralization and the involvement of local government are needed.



For more information and updates, visit:
sdgs.crossingborders.dk