

**Assessing Zambia's Progress in Achieving the  
Gender-Related Millennium Development Goals**



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## **Table of Contents**

<b><i>I.</i></b>	<b><i>Introduction</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>II.</i></b>	<b><i>Country Overview</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>III.</i></b>	<b><i>Gender-Related MDG Targeting</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Zambian Government</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Local Zambian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)</b>	<b>4</b>
3.2.1	National Women's Lobby Group (NWLG)	5
3.2.2	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)	5
<b>3.3</b>	<b>International Donor Organizations</b>	<b>5</b>
3.3.1	The UN System	5
3.3.2	UNDP Zambia	5
3.3.3	ILO	6
3.3.4	UNIFEM	6
3.3.5	UNICEF	6
3.3.6	UNHCR	6
3.3.7	UNPFA	7
3.3.8	Bilateral Donor Agencies	7
<b>3.4</b>	<b>International NGOs</b>	<b>8</b>
3.4.1	OXFAM	8
3.4.2	International Maize and Wheat Research Centre (CIMMYT)	8
3.4.3	AWOMI: African Woman's Millennium Initiative	8
<b><i>IV.</i></b>	<b><i>Current Progress in Achieving Gender-Related MDGs</i></b>	<b>8</b>
<b><i>V.</i></b>	<b><i>Expected Progress in Achieving Gender-Related MDGs by 2015</i></b>	<b>10</b>
<b><i>VI.</i></b>	<b><i>References</i></b>	<b>12</b>
<b><i>VII.</i></b>	<b><i>Appendix</i></b>	<b>15</b>

## I. Introduction

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The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted in 2000 as eight broad areas to galvanize the countries and institutions of the world to meet the needs of the world's poorest.<sup>1</sup> While MDG3 clearly focuses on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, it is the position of this paper that all eight of the MDGs are gender-related; that is, they have implications for gender relations and the power dynamics that exist between women and men worldwide. As UNIFEM (2008) explains,

Women's empowerment is not a stand-alone goal. It is the driver of efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, reduce child and maternal mortality, and fight against major diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria. Women's empowerment is also a driver of sound environmental management and is, finally, essential for ensuring that development aid reaches the poorest through making women a part of national poverty reduction planning and resource allocation. (p. 117)

This report will focus on Zambian efforts to target the gender-related MDGs, as well as current and potential future success in achieving them. While focusing on MDG3 as the engine of equal development throughout, I argue that all of the MDGs are gender related. As such, in the Zambian context, efforts and progress in *each* of the MDGs will be examined if gender aspects and implications are directly discernible and efforts are being made to meet the goals within a clearly gendered rubric.

## II. Country Overview

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A former British colony with an estimated population of almost 12 million people, Zambia is currently ranked 163 out of 179 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index. According to the UNDP (2008), Zambian life expectancy at birth is 41.2 years, 68% of adults are considered literate, 42% of people do not have access to an improved water source, and 20% of children under the age of five are underweight. Zambia is ranked 91 out of 108 countries in the Gender Empowerment Measure, which measures the level of participation by women in economic and political life. While Zambian women are expected to live slightly longer than Zambian men, they are 16% less likely than men to be literate, and are likely to earn only 55% of what men do, on average (UNDP, 2008). Economically, the UNDP (2008) estimates that 70% of the labor force is employed in agriculture, which is a relatively small-scale and underdeveloped sector as a result of the focus on the migrant labor economy around copper mining. Migrant labor practices have left women largely responsible for agricultural production for household consumption and limited exchange, and have led in part to women being over-represented among the impoverished (Byrne, 1994). This is particularly evident when noting that the proportion of female-headed households that face extreme poverty (58%) is far higher than male-headed ones (43%) (CJJDP, 2005). Having said that, the CIA World Factbook (2000) puts unemployment in Zambia at 50%, with obvious implications for difficulties achieving MDG1. An estimated 68% of the population lives below the nationally defined poverty line (UNDP), again presenting phenomenal challenges for achieving MDG1 by 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> A detailed list of the MDGs and their relation to gender issues is included in Appendix 1.

Zambia is considered one of the countries worst affected by HIV and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Prevalence rates are currently estimated at about 16% for 15-49 year-olds, with about one million people infected with HIV (SAfAIDS, 2006). The epidemic is particularly feminized in Zambia, with women 1.4 times more likely to be HIV-positive than men. In the 14-24 year age group, infection rates for women are four times higher than those for men (SAfAIDS, 2006).

While assessing education, health, and decision-making issues from a gender perspective, the World Bank notes, “HIV/AIDS is perhaps one of the worst outcomes of power relations that favor men.” (2004) The Strategic Country Gender Assessment for Zambia (World Bank, 2004) noted that as men and women play different economic roles in the country, gender takes on a particular economic perspective. Women are primarily engaged in agriculture, micro-enterprise, and household tasks while men dominate the mining sector and small-medium enterprise (SME). The report also found that there is a legal foundation for gender inequality in Zambia, with the Constitution ostensibly protecting the equal rights of men and women but also allowing for the application of customary laws and cultural norms which are heavily biased toward patriarchy. Finally, the World Bank (2004) noted that the gender disparities in education—particularly higher education—have implications for poverty, maternal health, infant mortality, and at-risk factors for HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

As such, while this report focuses on MDG3 as the key gender-related Millennium Development Goal, it can be seen that MDG2 is also key for improved gender equity across the development spectrum and as such will be discussed where gender-related efforts and progress are being made. The mutual overlap and potential for positive knock-on effects between the MDGs should not be underestimated, and neither should the fact that each has inherent gender implications.

### **III. Gender-Related MDG Targeting<sup>2</sup>**

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#### ***3.1 Zambian Government***

While historically supporting gender equality, the Zambian government has repeatedly come under fire for paying ‘lip service’ to the concept (BBC, 2001). The government has also been criticized for failing to outline an explicit national gender policy for many years (CSPR, 2005a), despite the inclusion in the Fourth National Development Plan (1989-1993) of a chapter on Women in Development. A national gender policy was eventually adopted in 2000 and has been integrated into the Fifth National Development Plan (2006-2010) This policy includes increasing the provision of quality health care for women and children, encouraging men’s involvement in caring for the chronically ill, disaggregating data by sex, and promoting awareness of the gendered harm caused by some cultural practices (CGD, 2009).

There is the perception that a deeper structural and societal problem exists which undervalues women in Zambia, impacting familial and societal priorities concerning access to education, health care, employment, political participation, and decision-making at all levels. As such, one of the Zambian government’s stated priorities is address gender inequalities by targeting

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<sup>2</sup> A brief overview of the importance and meaning of gender equality can be found in Appendix 2.

increased political participation and access to primary education for women and girls. Current president Levy Mwanawasa has made an effort to include more women in cabinet positions (Dale, 2003), but have never comprised even close to 50% of appointed body.

The 1997 (Southern African Development Community (SADC) Gender Declaration required a minimum 30% representation for women in decision-making positions, which Zambia has still not reached (currently 14% in lower house and 16% in ministerial positions; UNIFEM, 2008). In addition to attempting to increase political participation of women in Zambia, the government is also reaffirming its commitment to eradicating gender-based violence through the enactment of legislation (Times of Zambia, 2009). If successful, both policies will have positive implications for achieving MDG3 by 2015.

The Women in Development Department (WIDD) was created in 1986 within the National Commission for Development Planning to help plan, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation by ministries and other bodies of plans and project related to WID. The department also conducts research on women in development and public awareness creation (Byrne, 1994). This WIDD was upgraded in 1996 to the Gender in Development Division (GIDD) within the Cabinet Office, which facilitated the development of the afore-mentioned national gender policy and was a direct outcome of the 1995 Beijing Conference (CSPR, 2005a). The GIDD has focused on addressing gender-based violence through victim support units and by implementing legislation to increase punishment for offenders (CGD, 2009). There is also an important push for increased education and protection as far as HIV/AIDS and its impact on women and girls in Zambia. The Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS Program which was launched in 2004 focuses on preventing infection among women and girls, improving girls' education, prevention violence against women and girls, improving the inheritance rights of women and girls, and increasing women's and girls' access to HIV/AIDS care and treatment (CGD, 2009). While many of these goals will take many years to bear fruit, the government's gender-responsive awareness programs concerning HIV/AIDS and domestic violence have led to increased understanding of both. The reporting of domestic violence cases has increased, but the lack of monitoring and evaluation capacity in the health sector means that it is difficult to measure the outcomes of such programs and gender mainstreaming overall (CGD, 2009).

However, the Zambian government's lack of funding, capacity, monitoring and evaluation systems, dedicated staffing, provision of gender-disaggregated data, and extended delay in developing a coherent national gender policy has brought it under fire from a number of civil society and NGO groups (CSPR, 2005a). A case in point is the lack of staffing for GIDD, which only has nine gender economics, divided equally between the social, economic, and information management spheres (CGD, 2009). As such, the Zambian government is heavily criticized for not matching its gender-mainstreaming rhetoric with actions that facilitate effective actions on the ground.

### **3.2 Local Zambian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

Before discussing the activities of NGOs and CSOs in Zambia, it is worth noting that there is currently an NGO bill before the Zambian parliament which NGOs and CSOs claim will

regulate their operations in the country (Kachingwe, 2009). As such, this section will discuss the main targets of NGO and CSO activities in Zambia as far as the gendered MDGs are concerned. However, it should be noted that progress may be limited by current government attempts to restrict and regulate the sector. Despite this, Mayer et. al. have pointed out that “the women’s movement in Zambia is quite active and has worked diligently in dealing with a government that has not always been responsive to women’s needs.” (2006, p. 256)

### **3.2.1 National Women’s Lobby Group (NWLG)**

The National Women’s Lobby Group (NWLG) is an NGO that was formed in 1991 to increase participation of women in politics and education and to advance women in general. The group encourages women to stand for election and trains them. They also call for women to have the same access to land as men, to obtain land title deeds, to obtain loans from lending institutions on their own merit, and for equality in employment and housing. Similarly, NWLG has lobbied for equal gender access to all educational subjects and for men to have the right to paternity leave (Byrne, 1994). These targeted efforts are directly focused on achieving MDG3, as well as MDG2, and indirectly on MDG1.

### **3.2.2 Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)**

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is a civil society network of over 140 organizations that was established in 2001 to participate in the design, formulation, implementation and monitoring of Zambia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and focus on achieving MDG1 in Zambia. Within the CSPR, there are a number of civil society thematic focus groups, one of which works specifically on gender issues. The network is currently calling for a quota system for political representation, gender-disaggregated budget data, gendered affirmative action employment policies in the public and private sectors, gender-responsive HIV/AIDS interventions, aggressive gender-balanced education policies, and gender-sensitive media policies, agricultural services, and credit provision (CSPR, 2005b).

## **3.3 International Donor Organizations**

### **3.3.1 The UN System**

While various UN agencies have been involved in gender-related activities in Zambia for many years, the Government of Zambia specifically invited the UN to provide lead support to gender initiatives in 2006. This initiative involves providing technical and financial support as well as coordinating assistance from the international development community. It also involves coordinating the UN system activities with the efforts of the six main bilateral donors and UN system agencies active in gender initiatives: DANIDA, NORAD, Irish Aid, DfID, USAID, CIDA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, and UNHCR (UN System in Zambia, 2008).

### **3.3.2 UNDP Zambia**

The UNDP is considered the lead UN agency working on gender-related issues in Zambia, focusing on campaigning and mobilizing for the MDGs through advocacy in cooperation with

other UN agencies. The highlight of their annual program centers on the annual MDGs Race which involves promotional activities (including a mini-marathon), an ‘information market’ to bring together the general public and all stakeholders that work on the MDGs, and various activities to promote knowledge and understanding of the MDGs. General advocacy activities by UNDP Zambia involve the production and distribution of basic information on the MDGs via publications and radio and TV programs. The focus of the UNDP Zambia MDG initiative is on MDG1 from a policy perspective, with very strong gender program awareness. This involves building the capacity of government, tertiary education institutions, and civil society organizations to engage in pro-poor policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (UNDP Zambia, 2009). From the perspective of MDG3, UNDP Zambia aims to support the Zambian Government’s Gender in Development Division (GIDD) to “raise the profile of gender in national policy dialogue.” (UN System in Zambia, 2008)

### **3.3.3 ILO**

The International Labor Organization focuses on developing the capacity of women entrepreneurs, both in individual and association-based formats in Zambia. The Organization runs a series of training workshops which focus on building entrepreneurship and general business skills for women, particularly those with limited education backgrounds and physical disabilities (UN System in Zambia, 2008). In addition, the ILO fulfills important monitoring functions, conducting gender audits of the Zambian government, civil society, and UN agencies, helping to keep all involved focused on their commitment to meeting MDG3.

### **3.3.4 UNIFEM**

The UNIFEM focus in Zambia as far as gender-related MDG work is concerned, has been on “equitable distribution of resources by engendering national budgets and the aid effectiveness agenda” as well as reducing violence against women (UN System in Zambia, 2008). These efforts link directly to MDG3, as well as MDG1.

### **3.3.5 UNICEF**

The United Nations International Children’s Education Fund in Zambia focuses on supporting the gender-based violence program by creating and supplying training centers for women and children. These skills-development centers provide safe environments for women and children as well as helping to increase awareness of gender-based violence and provide the medical, legal, and psychosocial frameworks to combat it. (UN System in Zambia, 2008)

### **3.3.6 UNHCR**

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees aims to entrench gender equality in all of its activities and operations in Zambia, thereby gender mainstreaming on a practical basis and providing an invaluable demonstration effect. In particular, UNHCR commits to ensuring that women hold 50% of leadership positions in refugee locations, and that refugee women participate in the management and distribution of resources in urban and camp settings (UN System in Zambia, 2008). These efforts not only directly impact MDG3 and its achievement, but will also have lasting impacts on social and gender dynamics of populations transitioning from refugee situations back into ‘regular society.’

### **3.3.7 UNPFA**

The UN Population Fund aims to mainstream gender in areas such as reproductive health and disease prevention. As such, UNPFA assists with capacity building for GIDD and parliamentarians, lobbying for equal rights of men and women, and supporting gender-based violence prevention programs. (UN System in Zambia, 2008)

### **3.3.8 Bilateral Donor Agencies**

While there are a number of bilateral donor agencies in Zambia, only a few of the main agencies will be dealt with here. These have been chosen as a result of their size, historical involvement with Zambia, and focus on gender-related development initiatives in the country.

In general, with the advent of the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) in Zambia and the related national development plans, bilateral donor agencies have been focused on mutual collaboration in support of national initiatives rather than pursuing separate and potentially conflicting interests. However, different donor agencies do place emphasis in particular funding areas. Historically, bilateral donor agencies including NORAD, FINNIDA, GTZ, DANIDA, and SIDA, have put a lot of funding and development efforts into equitable gender access to education, targeting improvements in MDG2 and MDG3 (Byrne, 1994).

DfID has focused gender-related development efforts firmly in terms of MDG3 and is currently funding a girls' empowerment and leadership project (DfID, 2009). Interestingly, for every project DfID funds globally there are two cross-cutting objectives that are always considered: gender equality and HIV/AIDS. This shows the primacy placed on gender equality issues throughout DfID's development activities and reflects the agency's recognition of the links between gender equality and poverty reduction (MDG1 and MDG3).

NORAD is currently (2007-2010) supporting a NGO coordinating program to empower women by promoting gender equity and equality in Zambia. This program funds a number of NGOs and focuses on training of NGO staff and community leaders concerning gender budgeting, project management and leadership training, and gender sensitivity (NORAD, 2006).

As with DfID, USAID also views gender a cross-cutting issue to be considered in program design and implementation. However, rather than designing gender-focused programs, the USAID's approach involves designing programs that take the participation of men and women into account (USAID, 2009). In Zambia, this translates into gender sensitivity in food security, education, and health programs, showing that USAID focuses on MDGs 1, 2, and 6.

Space limitations mean that bilateral donor agencies' work in Zambia was covered only briefly, but it can be seen that efforts targeting the gender-related MDGs focus on gender equity (MDG3), poverty reduction (MDG1), education access (MDG2), and health programs (MDG6).



### **3.4 International NGOs**

#### **3.4.1 OXFAM**

Oxfam supports small-scale income generating projects and skills training for women in Zambia, as well as trying to improve the food production capacity of women (Byrne, 1994). The organization is also attempting to increase women's access to small loans while providing financial and leadership training to individuals and women's groups (Byrne, 1994). While these efforts target improvements in MDG3, Oxfam also focuses on HIV/AIDS in Zambia, engaging in educational programs, as well as treatment and care services to those affected, albeit not in a specifically gender-segregated way (OXFAM, 2009).

#### **3.4.2 International Maize and Wheat Research Centre (CIMMYT)**

CIMMYT<sup>3</sup> is an international NGO spearheading conservation agriculture globally and in Southern Africa. Conservation agriculture is a high-yield way of farming which focuses on minimal mechanical disturbance of the soil, permanent soil cover, crop rotation, traditional crops, low-cost tools, and minimal to no herbicides. About 180,000 smallholder farmers in Zambia (and 325,000 hectares of land) are currently engaged in conservation agriculture, with another 60,000 families targeted to adopt the methodology 2011 (Bafana, 2009). As the agricultural method eliminates the need for power-intensive soil tillage and reduces crop production labor requirements, more women, children, and the elderly are able to be involved. In a country ravaged by HIV, AIDS, and poverty, this can have extensive positive effects on agricultural production, food security, gender dynamics, the agricultural involvement and self-sufficiency of women, and progress in attaining MDG1 and MDG3.

#### **3.4.3 AWOMI: African Woman's Millennium Initiative**

The African Woman's Millennium Initiative (AWOMI) focuses their attentions and efforts on the Women's Empowerment Fund, gender-based accountability tracking, and the Young Women's Leadership initiative. The group is firmly focused on MDG3 to galvanize efforts to improve impoverished women's equal access to opportunities and resources. The group does this mainly by training, advocacy, and pressuring international, financial, and trade institutions to meet their stated poverty elimination commitments (AWOMI, 2009). One of the key countries of operation is Zambia, where key advocacy operations include gender-equitable HIV/AIDS prevention (MDG6) and poverty alleviation (MDG1).

## **IV. Current Progress in Achieving Gender-Related MDGs**

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As of 2008—the mid-way point in the MDGs—Zambia was on target for achieving the MDG goals in terms of hunger, universal primary education, and maternal health (UN System in Zambia, 2008). Areas of particular improvement to date include reductions in poverty levels since 2000, decreased child mortality and incidence of malaria, and improvements in provision of water and sanitation. There has also been an impressive reduction in the maternal mortality rate from 729 per 100,000 live births (2001) to 449 per 100,000 live births (2007),

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<sup>3</sup> The organization's Spanish acronym.

according to the UN System in Zambia (2008). In the arena of political participation, Zambia has also made some strident improvements. UNIFEM (2008) notes that in 1997, women occupied only 9.7% of seats in the Zambian lower house of parliament. However, by 2008, 14% of the lower house and 17% of ministerial positions in the country were held by women (UNIFEM, 2008, p. 141). While these figures are not close to the 30% Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) targets for representation, they do represent a positive increase for Zambia.

In terms of improved gender equality in education, Zambia has been narrowing the gap between girls and boys since 1990. In 1990, for every 100 literate 15-24 year-old boys, there were only 88 literate girls of the same age range, but this was up to 94 literate girls by 2007 (ADB, 2009). There is almost gender parity in primary education (98.2 girls for every 100 boys), but this drops significantly in secondary education, with 82 girls for every 100 boys in this level of schooling. Having said that, these figures are up from the 61:100 ratio that existed in 1990, indicating that the gap is narrowing (ADB, 2009). While net enrolment in primary education is actually higher for girls in many cases (98% for girls as opposed to 96% for boys in 2006, GOZ, 2008), 91% of boys reach grade 7 as opposed to 79% of girls. This indicates that while overall educational access and initial attendance of girls is improving, a gap still exists in terms of attendance in the long-term. This situation has been partially improved, however, as a result of civil society initiatives which led to changes in Zambian policy to allow the entry of girls into formal education after pregnancy (AU Commission, 2004). Other positive outcomes of increased efforts towards gender equality in education have included the creation of the Programme for the Advancement of Girls' Education (PAGE), moves towards free primary education (which will reduce the need pressure on parents to choose between educating sons or daughter), and an increase in the number of accessible community schools (AU Commission, 2004).

While there have been successes in the areas of hunger, education, maternal health, political representation, there are some challenges concerning HIV/AIDS that are worth mentioning. A June 2009 report by the Center for Global Development noted, "Gender inequalities drive the HIV epidemic, increase the burdens of the disease on women and girls, and hinder the effectiveness of the fight against HIV and AIDS" (CGD, 2009). In particular, the report singles out PEPFAR, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and the World Bank's Africa Multi-Country AIDS Program as examples of initiatives that have yet to systematically address gender inequality. The report also noted that the national gender-based AIDS policy of Zambia is "high-level rhetoric with few objectives or actions and little follow-through." (CGD, 2009). While Zambia is a signatory to the African Union's 2004 Declaration on Gender Unity, which aims to reduce gender-based violence, expand gender parity, guarantee women's right to land, property, and inheritance, build the capacity of women, particularly within the Education For All framework, and ensure full and effective political representation of women at all levels of government (AU, 2004), this may very well be another example of governmental lip-service to gender parity rather than a move towards progress on the ground.

## V. Expected Progress in Achieving Gender-Related MDGs by 2015<sup>4</sup>

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The Government of Zambia's 2008 (mid-term) MDG progress report indicates that it is likely to meet half of the MDGs (1, 2, 3, 6), one of which specifically deals with gender equality. It should be mentioned that the government's focus in terms of MDG3 is on gender equality in primary and secondary schools and as such, it is likely that the country will meet this gender-related goal. However, wider targets within MDG3 concerning improving women's access to and participation in the labor force and political arena are less favorable. There are fewer women in waged labor (down to 34% in 2005 from 29% in 1990) and while more women hold seats in the national parliament than ever before, they still only total 14% of overall seats in 2006 (GOZ, 2008). Similarly, indicators concerning 'Education for All' and universal adult literacy are unmentioned in the mid-term progress report, making it difficult to assess the gendered implications of MDG2 in a comprehensive context.

As mentioned above, Zambia is likely to meet MDG targets concerning hunger, universal education, gender equality, and reducing the spread of diseases. All of these have positive implications for the quality of life of women, but in general only MDG2 and MDG3 specifically involve gender disaggregated data so it is difficult to see whether the improvement in and potential meeting of these MDGs is having a concomitant positive impact on gender dynamics throughout society concerning poverty and disease. Concerning the remaining three MDGs<sup>5</sup> Zambia is considered *potentially able* to reduce child and maternal mortality by 2015 (GOZ, 2008). The 2007 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey Results show an improvement in all the major health indicators (UNDP, 2007), with significant improvement in maternal mortality. While only being *potentially able* to achieve MDG5 may not seem promising, particularly as far as gender equality in health care priorities are concerned, Zambia was considered highly unlikely to meet MDG5 until 2007. As such, the fact that the country has the potential to meet its MDG5 targets represents a massive increase in funding and capacity building in the health sector, with drastic improvements in maternal health outcomes. Perhaps the most positive trend to emerge for Zambia's efforts to meet the MDGs lies in MDG2: universal primary education. There are also very positive indications that the target of universal primary education (MDG2) will be met by 2015 (UN System in Zambia, 2008), with relatively equitable gender figures at this level.

The one area in which Zambia is unlikely to achieve its MDG goals is MDG7: environmental sustainability (UN System in Zambia, 2008). While the progress concerning MDG3—the most directly gender-related of the eight goals—is encouraging, failure to make substantial progress to achieving environmental sustainability will adversely affect women in Zambia, potentially more than men. This is because women are responsible for gathering firewood and combustible matter for cooking, they collect water for cooking and washing, and they are increasingly responsible for engaging in small-scale agriculture to provide food for their families. Failure to enhance and enhance environmental sustainability will dramatically

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<sup>4</sup> Details concerning Zambia's anticipated ability to meet the Millennium Development Goals can be found in Appendix 3.

<sup>5</sup> As MDG8 involves global partnerships for development and is not something that the Zambian government can take complete responsibility for, it does not track progress on this goal in its MDG reports.

reduce the quality of women's lives as they must walk further to gather wood and water and face increasing challenges in providing food for their families in the face of deteriorating soils, reduced rainfall, and the ravages of climate change. The data concerning MDG7 is not disaggregated by gender, however, so it is difficult to quantify the gendered impacts of Zambia being unlikely to meet this goal.

Unfortunately, while the outlook for Zambia achieving the gender-related MDGs by 2015 is generally positive (excluding MDG7), there are some trends for gender empowerment overall that are cause for alarm. Examining changes in women's participation of the labor force, it is clear that women made up 44% of the total labor force in 1980 but this actually decreased to 43% by 2005 (ADB, 2009). Similarly, Zambian officials have lamented the increase in female drop-out rates by the fourth grade and failure to adequately improve the number of women in government (Mbikusita-Lewanika, 2003). While the UNDP does not have data available for Zambia's Gender Empowerment Measure, indications are that its Gender-related Development Index (GDI) is increasing (UNDP, 2008). The African Development Bank indicates that both the GEM and GDI are improving, albeit by relatively small amounts in the past decade (2009). The government's mid-term progress report on the MDGs notes a positive outlook for MDG3, but when considered in light of areas not limited to primary education, it can be surmised that progress concerning this goal still has a long way to go. Similarly, while the 2006 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey indicates a slight reduction in poverty levels from 68% in 2004 to 64% in 2006 (UNDP, 2007), this is not disaggregated by gender. As such, while the country can be considered to be on track to meet MDG1 by 2015, changes in gender dynamics and potential improvements concerning the feminization of poverty cannot be monitored. As with all of the MDGs, gender disaggregated data is urgently needed in order to accurately assess on a comprehensive scale, whether the gender-related MDGs will be practically attained (or attainable) by 2015.

Finally, as Robert Johnson (2005) has explained, while certain improvements in the *condition* of women may be achieved in terms of the Millennium Development Goals, targets, and indicators, this does not necessarily mean that the inequitable *position* of women is being addressed. Rather than focusing on narrow targets and limited goals, it is perhaps better to "explicitly address the systemic barriers to gender equity....(in order to) advance the position of girls and women" (Johnson, 2005, p. 64). While Zambia has made great strides in addressing poverty, education issues, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, and disease prevalence, more needs to be done in terms of monitoring the gendered impacts of changes in each area, as well as improving efforts to attain environmental sustainability.

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**VII. Appendix**

**Appendix 1: Gender-Relevant Analysis and MDGs Overview**

As can be seen from the table below, each of the Millennium Development Goals are related to gender issues. From the feminization of poverty and HIV infections to unequal access to education, health services, and decision-making positions, gender inequality is directly connected to each of the MDGs. Having said that, only MDG3 clearly specifies redressing the gender imbalance and the empowerment of women as its main goal.

	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Gender Links and Implications</b>
<b>MDG1</b>	Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger	The feminization of poverty means that women are often more adversely affected by poverty and hunger than men. Unequal education, employment, decision-making powers, health care priorities, etc. worsen this feminization of poverty in many cases.
<b>MDG2</b>	Achieve Universal Primary Education	Boys tend to be prioritized by families and societies in terms of access to education (BBC, 2009), further widening the gender divide
<b>MDG3</b>	Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women	While every MDG has direct implications for redressing gender inequalities, MDG3 explicitly focuses on empowering women in educational, political, and economic spheres.
<b>MDG4</b>	Reduce Child Mortality	In resource poor regions, parents are often forced to choose between sons and daughters in terms of providing vaccinations and nutrition. Reducing malnutrition, increasing access to affordable vaccinations, as well as improved neonatal and maternal care will reduce child mortality rates affecting families and communities.
<b>MDG5</b>	Improve Maternal Health	MDG5 targets an increase in reproductive health access and reduction in maternal mortality, with clear gender implications.
<b>MDG6</b>	Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases	SAfAIDS estimates that 61% of people infected with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa are women—a feminization of the disease.
<b>MDG7</b>	Ensure Environmental Sustainability	Lack of access to clean water, climate change, and biodiversity loss adversely affect women, (BBC, 2001) who are usually tasked with collecting water and firewood and growing food for consumption
<b>MDG8</b>	Develop a Global Partnership for Development	As this involves expanding access to technology and affordable drugs, dealing with the needs of LDCs and their debt, men and women should be involved at the decision-making level as they will be directly impacted in terms of practical outcomes (or lack thereof)



## **Appendix 2: Gender Inequality Issues**

**Gender inequality** exists where women and men:




- Are not treated equally in laws and policies.
- Do not share equally in power and influence.
- Do not have an equal possibility to develop their full potential.
- Do not have equal access to services, financial resources, information, and technologies.
- Do not have equal opportunities, rights, and obligations in the public and private spheres—including those that are related to work and to other ways of generating income.


































**Gender equality** does not mean that women and men are the same. Rather, it means that no one's rights, responsibilities, and opportunities depend on his or her sex. Efforts to reduce gender inequality in national HIV/AIDS responses should be based on a commitment to realizing human rights, including nondiscrimination and freedom from violence.

(Source: Center for Global Development, *Moving Beyond Gender*, CGD Washington D.C., 2009, p. 11.)

**Appendix 3: Zambia’s Projected MDG Progress**

**KEY**

Will target be met?	Likely 	Potentially 	Unlikely 
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GOALS AND TARGETS   	Will target be met?		
	2007	2005	2003
<b>MDG 1: Extreme poverty</b> Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty.			
<b>MDG 1: Hunger</b> Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.			
<b>MDG 2: Universal Primary Education</b> Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able complete a full course of primary schooling.			
<b>MDG 3: Gender equality</b> Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015.			
<b>MDG 4: Child mortality</b> Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.			
<b>MDG 5: Maternal mortality</b> Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.			
<b>MDG 6: HIV/AIDS</b> Target 7: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.			
<b>MDG 6: Malaria &amp; other major diseases</b> Target 8: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.			
<b>MDG 7: Environmental sustainability</b> Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.			
<b>MDG 7: Water &amp; sanitation</b> Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.			

(Source: Government of the Republic of Zambia, *Zambia Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report 2008*. Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Lusaka, 2008, p. v)