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Chairman's Statement
The 2001 Annual Report marks the end of yet another challenging year in the life of the Forum. The first phase of the Poverty Reduction Forum project cycle expired in December 2000. Consequently, a new project document was prepared during the course of the year. As part of the process of preparing the project document for the second phase, the Management Committee reviewed the Forum's vision and priorities to reflect the emerging challenges.

The Zimbabwe Human Development Report is a major activity of the Poverty Reduction Forum. Through regular production of the ZHDR, the Forum fulfils its mandate of providing up to date information on poverty and human development. The ZHDR is an important tool for policy advocacy. The Forum has produced annual Human Development Reports since 1996. However, one of the key features of the Forum's new focus is the decision to produce the Zimbabwe Human Development Reports biennially. This decision was based on the need to ensure adequate dissemination of the reports as well as the need for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the reports.

The new project document has gone through several stages of review pending approval. The delays in the approval of the project document had a negative impact on the Forum's activities during the year, resulting in the Forum's failure to implement a number of planned activities such as the preparation of the Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2001 on the theme HIV/AIDS. Notwithstanding these constraints, the Forum Secretariat secured funding from MS Zimbabwe and UNICEF Zimbabwe. This funding enabled the Forum to hold public seminars, review workshops and a training workshop for civil
society organisations. I am very grateful to MS Zimbabwe and UNICEF for their continued support and confidence in the Forum.

During the year we organised the Second SAPRI National Forum, marking the climax of the Forum's advocacy on macro-economic policies. The National Forum was a culmination of four years of extensive outreach and participatory research on the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the poor. The success of the SAPRI initiative is clear testimony of the growing recognition of the Forum and its key role in policy advocacy. The experience gained through SAPRI will no doubt provide a basis for future civil society advocacy initiatives.

The Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity for introspection as we look at the past year and the challenges ahead. As we look ahead, the need for the Forum to strengthen and forge new partnerships with like-minded organisations is becoming imperative. Through partnerships, the Forum can increase its effectiveness. It is my sincere hope that we will continue to strengthen existing partnerships and where necessary identify new partners.

I would to thank the Management Committee for their dedication; the Forum Secretariat for their tireless effort; and our funding partners for their unfailing support. In particular, I acknowledge the continued support from UNDP, civil society organisations and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. My gratitude goes to all the Forum members across Zimbabwe who have actively participated in Forum activities throughout the year.

Donald Chimanikire
Chairman, PRF
Background
The Poverty Reduction Forum is a civil society grouping of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society groups, academics, the private sector, donors, and government. Its mission is to influence the formulation of pro-poor policies through engaging in dialogue with policymakers and carrying out research and advocacy work.

Objectives
In order to fulfil its mission, the Forum is guided by the following objectives:

- To strengthen partnerships between government, NGOs, civil society, donors, research institutes and the private sector in programme development and implementation;
- To expand public dialogue to include the views of communities on the poverty and development through provincial and district level forums;
- To facilitate research on poverty and its reduction in order to influence the formulation of pro-poor policies;
- To coordinate activities in poverty reduction through the exchange of ideas, experiences and networking between relevant organisations and government in order to encourage open dialogue;
- To produce national Human Development Reports whose objectives are to monitor human development and serve as advocacy tools; and
- To distribute information, documentation and research on poverty reduction, wealth creation and social development aimed at supporting lobbying and advocacy initiatives;

The Forum undertook a number of initiatives in the broad areas of policy advocacy, research and information dissemination. This report summarises some of the key activities undertaken by the Forum during 2001, and the progress to date.

Zimbabwe Human Development Report
Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2000 (Governance)
At the last AGM we reported that preparations for the 2000 Zimbabwe Human Development Report, the third to be produced, were at an advanced stage. The report, which explores the links between governance and human development, was officially launched on 19 October 2001 by the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Mr. July Moyo. In his keynote address Minister Moyo pointed out that the Zimbabwe Human Development Reports are important tools for guiding policymaking. The Human Development Index, according to Minister Moyo, has been used for targeting social protection programmes such as the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM).

The launch was attended by representatives from government, civil society, the donor community, UN agencies and the media. Some of the key recommendations from the Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2000 are summarised in the box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlights from the Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2000</th>
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<td>The ZHDR 2000 makes a number of recommendations. These include the need:</td>
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<td>• To improve the macro-economic environment in order to facilitate growth and development;</td>
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<td>• For civil society groups such as organised labour and business to be consulted more effectively in the design of future economic programmes;</td>
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<td>• For Parliament to play a more pivotal role to ensure effective checks and balances;</td>
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<td>• To empower communities to identify their problems and seek their own solutions;</td>
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<td>• To institutionalise bottom-up participatory processes at all levels of decision-making;</td>
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<td>• To strengthen the financial base of local government structures, central government through giving them &quot;a fair and predictable share of national income&quot;; and</td>
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<td>• To build institutional capacity which is central to public sector performance.</td>
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(For more detail see ZHDR 2000)

**National Human Development Report Retreat June 2001**

In June the Poverty Reduction Forum Secretariat attended the National Human Development Report Retreat held in Beirut, Lebanon. The Retreat was attended by 75
participants from 40 countries drawn from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe.

The retreat provided an opportunity for experience sharing on Human Development concepts and processes. Challenges and best practices in preparing National Human Development Reports were discussed during the three-day workshop. Some of the recommendations made at the NHDR Retreat were adopted by the Management Committee resulting in the decision to produce the Zimbabwe Human Development Report biennially in order to allow sufficient time for dissemination, follow-up and monitoring of the HDR impact. These changes were incorporated in the new PRF project document (2001-2003) submitted to UNDP.

**Advocacy for pro-poor Macro-economic policies**

During the reporting period the Forum undertook a number of initiatives in the area of pro-poor macro-economic policies. Of significance is the advocacy on the impact of structural adjustment programmes under the auspices of SAPRI. SAPRI is a tripartite exercise involving the World Bank, civil society and governments, aimed at jointly reviewing the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the poor. In Africa, Ghana, Mali, Uganda and Zimbabwe were selected to participate in SAPRI. The participatory nature of SAPRI distinguishes it from earlier attempts aimed at understanding the impact of structural adjustment programmes.

**Uganda SAPRI National Forum, February 2001**

The Poverty Reduction Forum was invited to participate in the Uganda SAPRI Second National Forum held in February 2001. The Forum was organised by the Uganda National NGO Forum, the lead organisation for Uganda SAPRI. The second Forum was a culmination of three years of outreach and field research on the impact of structural adjustment in Uganda.

**Zimbabwe SAPRI Pre-Forum, 3 April 2001, Harare**
A number of activities were organised by the Secretariat in preparation for the Second National Forum. One such activity was the pre-Forum held in April 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to allow civil society members to discuss the draft reports of the SAPRI research exercise before presenting them to the World Bank and the second National Forum. The meeting also helped the PRF to put in place plans and logistical arrangements for the second National Forum. The four thematic areas of the SAPRI project namely the agricultural markets; financial sector, labour markets and trade were discussed.

**Zimbabwe SAPRI Second National Forum, 9-10 April 2001**

In line with the Poverty Forum's objective of promoting dialogue on macro-economic policies, the SAPRI Second National Forum was held on 9 and 10 April 2001. The Second Forum was a culmination of extensive consultation and outreach, which started in 1997 involving a wide range of civic organisations and grassroots communities. The Second Forum provided a platform for civil society, the World Bank and government to dialogue on the findings of the SAPRI research. The objectives of the Second Forum were to:

- Share experiences from SAPRI global and regional experiences;
- Seek ways of incorporating civil society organisations in policy making; and
- Discuss the results of the SAPRI participatory research.

Over 300 delegates attended the Forum from 47 SAPRI districts as well as representatives from the donor community, the World Bank, academics, the media, the government and the SAPRI Global Secretariat. While the attendance at the Forum was remarkable, the lack of private sector participation as well as lack of broad representation of government was notable, given their pivotal role in the dialogue process.

Key presenters at the Forum included Rogier van den Brink, the World Bank Acting Country Representative; Steve Hellinger from the SAPRIN Global Secretariat; Mrs Mandinyenya, a representative from the Ministry of Finance; and Godfrey Kanyenze, Chairperson of the SAPRI Civil Society Steering Committee. The SAPRI research team
presented the research findings while World Bank and government officials also presented their views on the impact of SAPs.

The Forum provided an opportunity for open dialogue between civil society, the World Bank and the government. Although no real consensus was reached, the Forum set in motion a process of dialogue, which should be nurtured.

Forum participants agreed that as a way forward the dialogue process should be maintained and participation in such dialogue extended to include the private sector. The need to create an enabling environment for more civil society participation was highlighted. In order to raise awareness about SAPRI, it was recommended that popular versions of the research findings should be produced and disseminated widely.

**SAPRI Global Forum, 30-31 July 2001**

In April the SAPRI Global Secretariat organised a preparatory meeting, attended by members of the SAPRI Executive Committee and representative of SAPRI countries. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the status of SAPRI and to prepare the synthesis report on SAPRI research to be presented at the Second SAPRI Global Forum.

The meeting also discussed plans for the second phase of SAPRI. These include:

- Development and promotion of alternative economic policies;
- Alliance building in order to sustain dialogue on macro-economic policies; and
- Expansion of the network of civil society organisations involved in SAPRI work.

The Second SAPRI Global Forum was held on 30 and 31 July 2001. Participants at the Forum were drawn from all the SAPRI countries as well as countries involved in the Citizen's Assessment of Structural Adjustment (CASA). The Second Forum discussed the significance of SAPRI for the three stakeholders namely civil society, the World
Bank and governments. The SAPRI research findings were discussed and debated during the two day Forum.

At the end of the two-day Forum it was evident that there was no consensus on the impact of structural adjustment on the poor. Although civil society presented findings which pointed to the negative impact of SAPs on the poor and vulnerable groups, the World Bank staff contended that the implementation of the programmes was not consistent, hence the negative impact. The structural adjustment model, according to the World Bank, can work for the poor if the implementation and sequencing is done properly. Clearly, civil society needs to continue lobbying and advocating for macro-economic policies to be pro-poor. The SAPRI research findings should form the basis for the development of alternative economic policies.

**UN Thematic Group on the Economy and Poverty Reduction**

The Poverty Reduction Forum was invited to participate in the expanded UN Thematic group on the Economy and Poverty Reduction. At the first meeting held in April the Forum Management was briefed on the purpose of the UN thematic groups. The meeting was also briefed about the UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the plans to draft the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Expanded Thematic Group on Poverty agreed on the following:

- The need to institutionalise regular meetings for basic information sharing and dialogue between government, donors and stakeholders. Specific suggestions for meetings included debriefing by UN agencies on pertinent issues and missions; and
- The need for workshops and seminars on topical issues. A secretariat comprising Godfrey Kanyenze (ZCTU), Sam Moyo (SARIPS), Rogier van den Brink (WB) and Muriel Mafico (PRF) was tasked to prepare a list of possible seminar topics.
The Poverty Reduction Forum was tasked to assist in the formulation of poverty reduction strategies such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

World Bank Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) Consultations
The SAPRI Technical Committee participated in consultations on the World Bank Country Assistance Strategy. The consultations, which were held in April 2001, focused on the socio-economic and political challenges, which Zimbabwe is facing, and the way forward. The consultations also provided an opportunity for civil society to review the World Bank programmes and their relevance in dealing with the current challenges.

UN Thematic group seminar on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), August 2001
In line with the objective of information sharing between the UN and civil society, the expanded thematic group on poverty organised a seminar on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and their role in human development. The seminar was addressed by Mr. Rogier van den Brink, the Acting World Bank Country Representative; and Mr. G Johnson, IMF Senior Resident Representative. Participants at the seminar were drawn from the PRF Management Committee, NGOs, UN agencies, academic institutions and the labour movement.

UN/Civic Society Consultative Workshop on the Zimbabwe Draft Common Country Assessment (CCA), 22 August 2001
In August the Poverty Reduction Forum's Secretariat participated in the mid-term review of the United Nations Common Country Assessment. The Common Country Assessment assists the United Nations Country Team to appropriately target development assistance in various economic and social sectors, in keeping with the specific mandates of individual agencies. The Poverty Reduction Forum's participation in this important process was clear testimony of the growing recognition of the Forum as a key player in policy dialogue.
NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION (NATIONAL)
In line with the Forum's objective of establishing a sustainable database on poverty and social development for information dissemination, the Forum Secretariat participated in a number of initiatives during the reporting period. These include the following:

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD)
Public debt has become a subject of concern in all developing countries. Zimbabwe is currently in a debt trap with a disproportionate amount of budget allocations going towards interest payments at the expense of the social sectors. It is against this background that Poverty Reduction Forum participated in the ZIMCODD Debt Study Reference Group (DSRG). As a member of the debt Study Reference Group, the Forum Secretariat's role was to provide advice and relevant information pertaining to poverty and gender issues.

Non-State Actors Forum on ACP-EU Agreements
Poverty Reduction Forum is a member of the Non-State Actors Forum Technical Committee. As a technical Committee member, the Forum is responsible for coordinating the thematic committee on poverty and social challenges. The Poverty Reduction Forum (PRF) participated in a number of non-state actors’ meetings aimed at discussing and adopting a civil society agenda, principles, objectives and modalities of engagement in the African Caribbean Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU) co-operation with Zimbabwe in the coming years. Among other things, the ACP-EU agreements include issues of poverty reduction and the inclusion of developing countries into the global economy.

One of the series of meetings to this effect was the presentation of the EU development co-operation policy with special emphasis on the Cotonou Partnership Agreement held on 16 February 2001. The meeting was addressed by the Minister of Finance, Dr Simba Makoni, the Swedish Ambassador to Zimbabwe Mr Hjelmaker and the Head of the European Delegation, Mr Pilegaard.
Development of a Social Protection Strategy for Zimbabwe workshop

The Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare convened a workshop on the National Social protection Strategy. The Poverty Reduction Forum participated at this workshop whose objectives were to:

- Solicit ideas to be incorporated during the finalisation of the National social protection strategy; and
- Establish the way forward for the implementation of the strategy.

Macro-Economic Environment Review Conference for Parliamentarians

The Poverty Reduction Forum continued to strengthen its links with the private sector. During the year under review, the Forum participated in a number of private sector initiatives. One such initiative was the “Macro-economic environment review conference” held in March 2001. This was organised by the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with a network of civic society organisations. The conference was attended by Members of Parliament, the business community, government ministries, the labour movement and academics, and the Poverty Reduction Forum was selected to lead discussions on the topic "The impact of the Macro-economic Environment on Health and Social Services".


The Zimbabwe chapter of OSSREA organised a one-day workshop on Zimbabwe's Development Strategies since independence. The workshop focused on developments in the various sectors of agriculture, health, education gender and vulnerable groups and labour. Given the linkages between macro-economic polices and poverty, poverty the Reduction Forum Secretariat was invited to participate at the workshop and to take part in a panel discussion on "vulnerable groups".

Workshops and Seminars by Forum Secretariat (selected)

Zimbabwe Decentralised Cooperation, Harare
The Wills and Inheritance Laws Project; Bulawayo, Planning Meeting 3-4 May 2001

The Poverty Reduction Forum has actively participated in the Wills and Inheritance Laws Project as this is one way of reducing poverty in families and communities, especially among widows and orphans. The project has held a planning meeting in Bulawayo on the 3 and 4 May 2001, and a PRF representative attended. The project is intended to reduce the incidence of disinheritance of women and children, particularly in rural areas of Zimbabwe where it leads to significant impoverishment. The purpose of the project is to ensure that on death of a person in Zimbabwe, the surviving spouse, dependants and orphans can access and utilize the inheritance laws of the country.

The project is running from January 2001 to June 2002. Its aim is to encourage Zimbabweans to write valid wills and utilize existing legislation for the benefit, in cases where some one dies without leaving behind a valid will, of the surviving spouse, dependents or orphans. One of the strategies is the use of a national multi-media communication campaign to ensure equity in the distribution of assets to surviving dependents. The project will contribute with the goal of ensuring equity in the distribution of assets to the surviving spouses, dependants and orphans. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Employment creation, and being funded by the Department for International Development Central Africa (Dfid).

International Initiatives
Poverty Eradication conference organised by the Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (CSSTC), Jakarta, Indonesia, April 2001

The Poverty Reduction Forum Secretariat participated in a three-day workshop organised by the Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (CSSTC) based in Jakarta, Indonesia. The purpose of the meeting was to intensify cooperation in the area of poverty by formulating appropriate programmes to be implemented in various developing countries. Participants at the workshop were drawn from 33 Non-Aligned Movement countries. The meeting gave participants an opportunity to exchange views on poverty in the respective countries and the strategies for fighting poverty.

Civil Society Social Development Forum

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), in conjunction with the Zambian Council for Social Development (ZCSD) convened a Civil Society Social Development Forum for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the African Region. The objective of the Forum was to provide a platform for civil society to discuss action-oriented proposals on new mechanisms for promoting social development issues as well as to discuss and monitor progress made on various international and regional commitments on social development.

The Forum, which was held in Lusaka, Zambia, prior to the OAU Council of Ministers Meeting, was intended to influence the policy direction of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). In particular, the Forum sought to, among other things:

- Develop and advocate a set of recommendations for social development policies and priorities within the OAU; and
- Help to strengthen links between civil society organisations in the region and the OAU and among civil society organisations in the region.

Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN)

During the reporting period the Poverty Reduction Forum continued to network and collaborate with regional organisations involved in poverty related advocacy work.
Within Southern Africa national governments, international development agencies and civil society organisations are forging close links in order to fight growing poverty. There is a growing realisation that the fight against poverty will require a regional approach in view of the close links between the various countries illustrated by regional trade and migration. It is against this background that the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa established a Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network with the broad objective of facilitating debate around poverty issues in the region.

Some of SARPN’s specific objectives include:

- Strengthening existing and emerging links between policy actors, practitioners and civil society organisations;
- Facilitating exchange of information between institutions and individuals in Southern Africa on poverty issues and
- Promoting discussion between actors on pro-poor policy options in different countries within the region.

During the year under review, the Poverty Reduction Forum participated in meetings to discuss the role that SARPN can play in the Southern African region. Furthermore, in line the objective of promoting information sharing, the Poverty Reduction Forum receives regular copies of the SARPN newsletter.

Other workshops and seminars on regional issues attended by the Secretariat

- Commonwealth Poverty Dialogue, 29 July to 10 August 2001,
- Poverty Reduction Learning Network (PRLN) Meeting, 5-6 September 2001,
- Leadership Regional Network for Southern Africa (LeaRN) meeting, 28 September 2001, and

Capacity building on Human Rights and Development
During the year under review, the Forum embarked on an ambitious training programme on human rights and development. The training programme is a culmination of collaborative work with UNICEF and the Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa.

In June 2001 a retreat to discuss the draft training manual and information guide was held at Chengeta Lodge, Selous from 13 to 16 June 2001. The retreat was attended by representatives of the Southern Africa Human Rights Trust (SAHRIT), Poverty Reduction Forum (PRF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The specific objectives of the retreat were to:

- Make the training material user-friendly by simplifying it for target beneficiaries;
- Reflect on the training manual structure and user guide; and
- To develop a training and advocacy plan for members of the Poverty Reduction Forum.

Training Workshop on Human Rights and Development 17-21 September 2001, Bulawayo

In September the Poverty Reduction Forum, UNICEF and SAHRIT organised a pilot training programme in Bulawayo. The workshop was attended by participants drawn from civil society organisations based in Bulawayo. Some of the organisations represented at the training workshop included World Vision Zimbabwe, ORAP, Masiye Camp, National Association of Disabled People and MISSEP.

The major objective of the training was to sensitise participants on the importance of civil society in human rights lobbying and advocacy. The specific objectives were to:

- Enable participants to understand what human rights are, their evolution and importance in relation to different sectors and policy environment of Zimbabwe;
- Enable participants to assess the rationale and relevance of human rights lobbying and advocacy in development issues;
- Equip participants with knowledge and skills on human rights and advocacy work in different development policy issues; and
To assist partners to share experiences on human rights and development.

The programme methodology consisted of plenary sessions, case studies, group work and a field trip to Masiye Camp in Matopos.

The Land Question and poverty in Zimbabwe
According to the Zimbabwe Human Development Report 1999 poverty in Zimbabwe is prevalent in rural areas and closely linked to an inequitable land ownership pattern. Poverty is therefore overwhelmingly rural with a particularly severe concentration of poverty in the communal farming areas. There are serious symptoms of poverty among commercial farm workers and their dependents, who suffer from low job and food security, high levels of child malnutrition, poor housing and poor access to water, sanitation, health and educational services.

It is against this background that the Poverty Reduction Forum continued to participate in dialogue on the land question and the implications for the poor and vulnerable.

Workshops and seminar attended

Women and Land Lobby Group stakeholder workshop.
The women and Land Lobby Group organised a two-day workshop in February 2001. The objectives of the workshop were, among others, to:

- Discuss section 23 of the Zimbabwe Constitution and its implications on women's land and property rights;
- Discuss gender gaps in the draft National Land Policy; and
- Discuss urban agriculture and its importance to household food security.

IDS-FES workshop on the Abuja Agreement, September 2001
The signing of the Abuja Agreement between Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom in September 2001 was met with both optimism and scepticism. The Poverty Reduction
Forum participated in a workshop organised by the Institute of Development Studies in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

**Focus on HIV/AIDS and poverty**
At the last AGM held in November 2000, members selected HIV/AIDS as the theme for the 2001 Zimbabwe Human Development Report. This theme was selected in view of the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe as reflected in the alarming number of AIDS-related deaths and the attendant increase in the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The ZHDR will provide an analysis leading to the identification of policy options and strategies for addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

Preparations for the 2001 ZHDR began early in the year. The Secretariat, in liaison with the Management Committee, drafted the terms of reference for the ZHDR editor, whose role is to compile the ZHDR and to provide guidance to the HDR research team. As part of the preparations for 2001 ZHDR, a team of three government officials drawn from the Central Statistical Office and the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare went to South Africa to study the South African experience in poverty data collection during their national census. The lessons learnt will be implemented during the 2002 population census. The Zimbabwe Human Development Report will benefit from CSO's improved capacity through accessing up-to-date dis-aggregated information on poverty. Progress on the preparation of the ZHDR 2001 was slow due to the delays in the finalisation of the project document for the period 2001-2003. This inevitably affected the funding for most of the Forum activities, including the ZHDR 2001.

**African Development Forum 2000, 3-7 December 2000**

As part of the preparations for the ZHDR 2001, in December 2000, the Poverty Reduction Forum Secretariat participated at the African Development Forum 2000 on the theme "AIDS: The Greatest Leadership Challenge". The Forum was organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the Joint
United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

ADF 2000's core elements included the macro-micro level and sectoral impact of HIV/AIDS. Unique features of ADF 2000 were focus group discussions on information and communication technologies (ICTs), gender, youth and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs). Specifically, the Forum dealt with the leadership challenge and the actions required in order to address the HIV/AIDS menace.

The global HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes one of the most formidable challenges to human development and security. HIV/AIDS is eroding social and economic progress throughout the world. It is against this background that the United Nations convened a Special Session of the General Assembly focusing on HIV/AIDS in June 2001. The Poverty Reduction Forum secretariat participated in the preparatory consultative meeting organised by the National AIDS Council in collaboration with UNAIDS in May 2001. The meeting focused on a number of issues relating to HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe. In particular, attention was centred on strategies for an effective national response to HIV/AIDS. The role of the youth, people living with HIV/AIDS and leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS was also discussed.

National Budget Initiative
The Forum has been participating in advocacy initiatives on the national budget since 1997. In order to be more effective, the Forum has increasingly participated in various national budget coalitions. To this end, the Forum participated in a private sector budget coalition led by the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) in 2001. The coalition comprises several civic organisations such as the Employer Confederation of Zimbabwe (EMCOZ), the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI), the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), and the Zimbabwe Farmer's Union (ZFU).
The objectives of the coalition include lobbying and advocating for greater civil society involvement in the budget process, and establishing modalities of monitoring the implementation of the national budget.

Pre-budget Seminar for Parliamentarians, August 2001

The Zimbabwe Parliament, in conjunction with UNDP, organised a pre-budget seminar for Members of Parliament and representatives of government and civil society. The pre-budget workshop sought to, among other things:

- Review the extent to which the current budget had succeeded in achieving national objectives and priorities; and
- Provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas with officials from the Ministry of Finance.

The Poverty Reduction Forum secretariat was privileged to attend this workshop and to participate in a panel discussion on "Objectives of the 2002 National Budget sectoral priorities".

Newsletters and reports

As part of the Forum's information dissemination strategy, various newsletters and reports were produced during 2001. These included the children's rights newsletter, "Focus on Children", which it produced in partnership with UNICEF. Given the increasing demand for the newsletters, there is need to increase the print run from the current 1 000 copies. Furthermore, there is need to explore the possibility of producing newsletters and reports in vernacular in order to reach a wider audience.

Other newsletters and reports produced in 2001 were:

- Focus on Children Newsletter on the theme "NGOs and Children's rights", February 2001;
- Workshop Report on the Enhanced Social Protection Programme (ESSP), March 2001;
- Workshop Report on the SAPRI Zimbabwe Second National Forum, April 2001; and
Resource mobilisation
At the AGM last year it was noted that the Forum faces a number of challenges in consolidating gains made during the last four years. Of major concern was the issue of financial sustainability. During the reporting period, the Forum was active in resource mobilisation. A number of project proposals were developed resulting in a number of partners indicating interest in funding Forum activities. However, due to the current socio-economic and political challenges in Zimbabwe, our resource mobilisation efforts were negatively affected.

The Forum received funding from MS Zimbabwe, UNICEF-Zimbabwe, and the SAPRI Global Secretariat. UNDP, the Rockefeller Foundation and UNESCO expressed firm interest in funding Forum advocacy and research activities.

PRF Secretariat
Towards the end of 2001 the PRF Secretariat lost two members of staff. In September, the Researcher/Documentalist resigned followed by the Coordinator in October 2001. The Forum's capacity will therefore be temporarily affected until new members of staff are recruited. Contingency arrangements will be put in place to ensure minimal disruption to on-going activities.

Poverty Reduction Forum Management Committee 2001

Chairman: Dr D P Chimanikire, Institute of Development Studies

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<td>Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare</td>
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<td>Dr J W G Kaliyati</td>
<td>Institute of Development Studies</td>
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<td>Dr G Kanyenze</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions</td>
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Dr N Madzingira  Institute of Development Studies
Dr J Chipika  United Nations Development Programme
Mr. T Nyanhete  National Associated Disabled Persons
Mr. J Gokova  Ecumenical Support Services
Mr. D Chiwi  Youth with a Vision
Mr. N Chabaya  Informal Traders Association
Mrs. J Kaulem  Africa Community Communications
Mr. S Tshuma  National Association of Freelance Journalists

Poverty Reduction Forum Secretariat
Muriel Mafico, Coordinator
Charles Mutasa, Researcher/Documentalist
Stabile Masawi, Programme Assistant