



EMAIL BULLETIN-MARCH 2007

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our March Email Bulletin. In this issue, we include our programme activities for the first and second quarters.

We have the following news in this issue:

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1. Conditionalities debated at Tikambilane

Conditionalities imposed on poor countries like Zambia by the international financing institutions were discussed at Kepa's Tikambilane forum in February. About 40 representatives of civil society and donor community gathered at Kepa to hear the latest developments in the field of conditionalities.

Mr. Sitali Muyatwa from the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection and Mr. Flint Zulu from Civil Society for Poverty Reduction shared their experiences from a recent conference on conditionalities organised by the Norwegian government in Oslo.

Country manager Dr. Ohene Nyanin presented the views of the World Bank. He agreed that there has been a paradigm shift in the way the conditionalities are used.

"Days of pointing fingers must be over, we have the same serious issues of improving the lives of our people at heart", he said.

Improvements, however, are still needed both within the IFIs and nationally.

"In other countries these issues are debated in the parliament, here only amongst donors", Flint Zulu pointed out. Civil society organisations have also been calling for a more accountable loan contraction procedure.

2. KEPA Zambia Resource Centre Closure on Course

In line with the decision of closing down Kepas' office in Zambia, the Resource Centre will close to its members on 30th March 2007. Management will soon decide where to donate the RC materials. The decision as to which organisation will benefit will take into consideration public access to host organisation, availability of professional staff to manage the collection and how useful the materials will be to its users. The most likely beneficiaries include Zambia Association for Research and Development, National Archives and The University of Zambia Department of Development Studies.

Kepa Zambia wishes to thank all its resource Centre Members, partners, networks and stakeholders for the fruitful co-operation from the time the Resource Centre was opened to the public in 1999. We wish all those who were using the Resource Centre good luck.

3. Training News:

3.1. Green Living Movement Begin Strategic formulation Process:

Green Living Movement (GLM) begun their strategic planning process for the period 2008-2010 during a workshop held at Calabash lodge from 31st January to 02 February 2007.

With help of a consultant, they managed to revise the organization's vision, mission and objectives to suite their new strategic direction. They also drafted the activities required to meet these strategic objectives. The expected outputs were also drawn during the same workshop. The final strategic document is expected to be ready by the end of October 2007 after the final evaluation of the current partnership agreement with Kepa.

3.2. National Agriculture Policy Workshop.

Kepa Zambia will host a National Agriculture Policy Workshop from March 21st to March 23rd 2007 at Kepa Zambia premises.

The main objective of the proposed workshop is to consolidate sustainable agriculture (SA) best practices that have been learnt during all Kepa's AF Days, and beyond, in relation to the National Agriculture Policy (NAP).

The specific objectives will include :

- To consolidate issues affecting the best practices in implementing SA as identified during the previous AF Days' workshops.
- To review the lobby and advocacy entry points for farmers and civil society in advocating for policy change.

- To develop and present a communiqué to government on issues affecting the implementation of sustainable agriculture best practices.
- To explore the future of the "AF Days" in view of Kepa Zambia's closing in 2007

Organisations which will participate in this very important workshop include GLM, DWAs, FOSUP, ECHOFF, MS Zambia, and CHIYUMU. Others include, MACO, ACF/ICRAF, KDF and ZLA.

4. TAN Meeting in Tanzania

Kepas' Training and Advice Network met in Tanzania from 26th February to 4th March 2007. The meeting aimed at reflecting on the teams programmes for the year 2006 and drew concrete plans for the year 2007. Kepa staff involved in training and advice activities from Finland, Mozambique, Tanzania Nicaragua and Zambia participated in the meeting. A two days training about Gender budgeting was also included to the meeting programme.

5. Kepa Staff News

Kepa bade farewell to Mr Seppo Karppinen who has been Kepa Zambias' Resident Representative since 2002. Mr Karppinen took a new job in Helsinki.

At the same time we warmly welcome Mr Ville Kivimaki as the new Resident Representative for Kepa in Zambia. Mr Kivimaki has lived in Zambia since 2001. He Brings to Kepa vast experience from several Finnish consulting firms in Zambia where he was financial adviser and consultant dealing with issues related to rural development, environment, forestry and agriculture.

Mr. John Phiri, Kepa' Accountant, is also moving on to a new job within Lusaka and therefore his last day with Kepa is 9th of March 2007. He has been with Kepa Zambia since April 2006. Staff will definitely miss John.

We are happy to welcome Mr Inambao Mushe who joins Kepa as Trainee Volunteer up to the end of April 2007. Mr. Mushe has just finalised his degree programme at the University of Zambia, majoring in Library and Information Studies and public administration. We wish him a good stay at Kepa.

6. JCTR Needs Basket for February 2007

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

(A) COST OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS FOR A FAMILY OF SIX IN LUSAKA

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	34,900	3 x 25 Kg bags	104,700
Beans	7,500	2 Kgs	15,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	44,300	2 Kgs	88,600
Dry Fish	33,100	1 Kg	33,100
Meat (mixed cut)	15,200	4 Kgs	60,800
Eggs	5,200	2 Units	10,400
Vegetables (greens)	2,500	7.5 Kgs	18,750
Tomato	2,400	4 Kgs	9,600
Onion	2,400	4 Kgs	9,600
Milk (fresh)	8,300	1 x 2 litres	8,300
Cooking oil	14,600	2 x 2 litres	29,200
Bread	2,400	1 loaf/day	72,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	1,800	1 Kg	1,800
Tea (leaves)	9,100	1 x 500 g	9,100
Sub-total			K506,950

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	53,800	2 x 90 Kg bags	107,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,200	10 tablets	12,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,500	4 x 400 g	10,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	5,600	1 x 500 ml	5,600
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
Sub-total			K1,036,700
Total for Basic Needs Basket			K1,543,650

Totals from previous months	Feb 05	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07
Amount	1,413,150	1,408,050	1,408,700	1,421,850	1,379,650	1,376,300	1,421,650	1,450,250	1,422,950	1,436,400	1,442,350	1,541,050

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K250,000 – K270,000	Chilenje-Town	K4,800
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K300,000 – K410,000	Chelston-Town	K5,400
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K70,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K4,200
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Petrol (per litre)	K5,943
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K5,183
Malaria Slide	K500	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,124
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000		

“Mvula na kukwela kwa mafuta kwalenga kukwela kwa zinthu” – Charcoal Trader in Matero

(D) SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF WAGES--"TAKE HOME PAY"

	Teacher	Nurse	Guard with Security Firm	Secretary in Civil Service	Average Monthly Income in Urban Low-Cost Area - CSO	Pieceworker on a Farm
Pay Slip	K672,000 to K1,193,000	K748,000 to K2,105,000	K250,000 to K750,000	K653,000 to K1,190,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 24th to 25th February 2007 by the Social Conditions Research Project of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Average prices were calculated on the basis of prices gathered from retail outlets at Northmead, Town Centre (Shoprite), City Market, Chawama, Chainta, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The February Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$363 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4255 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of February.

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07. JCTR PRESS RELEASE FOR MARCH 2007

HOUSEHOLDS AS "EPICENTRE" OF HIGH COST OF LIVING: WOMEN'S CRITICAL ROLE INCREASINGLY BECOMING VISIBLE, SAYS THE JCTR

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) is calling for a thorough understanding of implications of overall economic performance, in particular high cost of living on households. This understanding must extend to bringing into attention the critical role that women play in ensuring household survival.

In the last two years, the JCTR has been conducting face to face interviews in the first week of each month with select households in high-density areas of Lusaka. This effort by the JCTR was designed to enhance understanding of living conditions of the people by establishing a link between the *Basic Needs Basket* in quantitative figures and the actual qualitative living situations of the people. The

Basic Needs Basket is a monthly survey of cost of living for a family of six carried out by the JCTR in Lusaka, Livingston, Kabwe, Ndola, Luanshya and Kitwe.

Some of the findings arising out of these interviews include the fact that nearly every household looked at is caring for either a dependant or a grown-up person who is not working, with most of the households being interviewed having six or more people as members. This revelation, says the JCTR, is not at all strange to the Zambian context of low levels of employment and inadequate social protection.

Now during the rainy season, cases of diarrhoea are the most common illness in the high-density areas, affecting mainly children, including other family members. For example, during the interviews done in January, five of the seven families reported cases of diarrhoea. The families attributed frequency of diarrhoea cases to poor water and sanitation situations. One of the key areas of intervention that is required from government, other than ensuring that the incidence of diarrhoea is reduced, is to examine thoroughly the "health seeking behaviour" of households. Are households trusting health centres to effectively deliver their health needs (health personnel, diagnosis, drugs availability, etc)? Our interviews so far have revealed a serious loss of trust in that regard.

Another finding from the JCTR is a strong confirmation of the *systemic* problem of households being unable to put aside money for savings. Any surplus that occurs beyond the cost of basic needs is either used to meet requests of extended families or used for some repayment of loans. Although it is encouraging that households are providing some form of social protection, it is also important to recognise that the inability to invest into a business, by first of all building up savings, is detrimental to the Zambian economy.

The difficulty to invest is obviously clear when the *Basic Needs Basket* is brought into focus. For the month of February, the cost of basic food was K506,950. This cost does not include other items such as energy, wash and bath soap, etc. When these other items like water and housing are added, we have a basket of needs costing K1,543,650 in February. And this figure does not include transport, health, education, etc. Even more importantly, the estimates of the Basket are on a family of six but we have seen through our face to face interviews with households that they usually have more members.

A more serious observation that can be made as we celebrate International Women's day -- which falls on 08 March -- is that *while there is a lot of macro-level theoretical articulation of issues by men, there is significant practical articulation of issues by women at a household level.* For example, the JCTR through these household interviews has learnt with great admiration the ability of women more than men to hold families together and to initiate survival strategies in times of job losses, illness or other socioeconomic difficulties that households face.

Therefore, as the International Women's day is being celebrated, it is important to pay more attention to understanding micro-level, household dynamics in all dimensions. That way the nation will come up with interventions that will create positive changes in people's lives.

[For more information, contact the Social Conditions Research Project of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, P. O. Box 37774, Lusaka, Zambia; tel: 260-1-290410; fax: 260-1-290759; e-mail: socialjctr@jesuits.org.zm]
www.jctr.org.zm

8. On the Notice Board

KEPA guest house rates are currently as follows

	Single/Night	Double/Night
Consultants/Non-Partners	US \$ 17.00	US \$ 24.00
Local Partners	US \$ 12.00	US \$ 18.00
Students/ETVO	US \$ 10.00	US \$ 14.00

Students should always present a card indicating that they are students from a certain university or school. A discount of 20% will be given to guests who will stay longer than 30 days in the guest house. For further information and inquiries contact Sabina Luputa on sabina.luputa@kepa.fi

Airpro - Gold Wireless Equipment and 20 M Mast on Sale

Are you planning to improve your Internet connection speed? KEPA Zambia is selling a second hand Airpro-Gold wireless equipment and the 20 M mast for the antenna at a reduced price. Please contact Sabina at KEPA: Tel, 261118/9 email sabina.luputa@kepa.fi