



THE EUROPEAN UNION-FUNDED MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL INITIATIVE (MDGi) IN ZAMBIA

REFURBISHED MUCHINSHI HEALTH CENTRE HANDED OVER TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH

On 13 November 2018, the Ministry of Health in Zambia led a high-level delegation from the European Union and the United Nations to take official receipt of the newly refurbished health centre at Muchinshi in Chingola District, including a new mothers' shelter and a maternity block. This is part of the 49.5 Million Euro (582 million Kwacha), European-Union funded Millennium Development Goal initiative (MDGi).

The refurbishment of the Muchinshi Rural Health Centre, construction of the new maternity wing, and equipping of the facility started on 7 September 2016 and ended on 28 February 2018 at a cost of k 3,638,012 (USD 437,844). In a speech read during the handover ceremony by Dr. Andrew Silumesii, Director of Public Health, on behalf of the Minister of Health, Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, MP, he said: "Prior to the European Union funded MDGi interventions, pre-natal and post-natal mothers at Muchinshi Rural Health Centre used to share two beds while the labour ward only had one bed. This refurbishment has enabled the facility to offer quality care with standards enhanced as the environment is now supportive of quality service provision. Mothers are now delivering in an adequate and clean environment with a competent and caring health professional team in attendance."

Speaking at the launch, the European Union Team Leader, Head of Social Sector and Governance, Ms. Elisabeth Loacker, said: "I am pleased to hand-over on behalf of the European Union the maternity wing and waiting house and all equipment procured with funding from the European Union's MDGi programme. I am sure that with you, they are in good hands and that it will assist the Zambian government to accelerate the reduction of maternal and child mortality. We are also counting on the government to maintain this facility and its equipment in the excellent state it has today."

The UNICEF Zambia Deputy Representative, Mr. Shadrack Omol, further commended the government for its leadership and commitment to the partnership: "This upgraded health centre will provide new maternity and child health facilities with 24-hour care to more than 15,000 people in this catchment area including over 3,700 women of child bearing age. Just looking at the facility being inaugurated today, I believe we can be proud of what the partnership between the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the European Union and the United Nations has achieved."

MDGi's support to Muchinshi Health Centre includes: a pre-natal ward with a six-bed capacity; four-bed capacity in the labour ward; four-bed capacity in the postnatal ward; a constructed parent lodging facility complete with modern ablution as well as a cooking shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene related infrastructure including a chlorine production facility, toilet renovations, an incinerator and a placenta pit. The centre will cater for an expected 600 deliveries annually.

The facility was furnished with equipment to contribute towards the accelerated reduction of maternal and newborn mortality. This included hospital furniture - twelve hospital beds, eight delivery beds, one stretcher, one drug trolley, one-wheel chair and one drip stand. Medical equipment for labour and delivery services included one suction machine, one sterilizer, and one oxygen concentrator including a full range of midwifery instrument sets. Drugs and iv fluids have been also provided. The full set of equipment has rendered the new maternity wing a state-of-the art facility with the capacity to provide all seven 'signal' functions required of a basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmoNC) centre.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUCHINSHI HANDOVER



Ribbon cutting at the handover ceremony

Photo Credit: UNICEF/Zambia/2018/Mulikita



A happy mother at the newly refurbished Muchinshi Rural Health Centre receives a gift from the visiting delegation shortly after delivering her baby.

Photo Credit: UNICEF/Zambia/2018/Mulikita

The European Union supported Millennium Development Goal initiative (MDGi) aims to accelerate the reduction of maternal, neonatal and child mortality in Zambia. The programme is backed by an investment of Euro 49.5 million (582 million kwacha). It is implemented by the Ministry of Health with technical support from UNICEF and the United Nations Population Agency (UNFPA). The programme covers Ndola, Luanshya, Kitwe, Mufulira, Chingola and Masaiti districts on the Copperbelt Province, while in Lusaka Province it includes Lusaka, Kafue, Chilanga, Chongwe, and Rufunsa districts.

ZAMBIA

Millennium Development Goal Initiative
Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal, Neonatal and Child Mortality



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ZAMBIA

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

MDGi AIMS TO ACHIEVE FIVE EXPECTED RESULTS BETWEEN 2013 AND 2019

- ① A package of highly effective nutrition services, aligned to the national strategy, is available and used by the most vulnerable populations in all targeted districts;
- ② Increased availability of a continuum of maternal, neonatal and child health services of good quality;
- ③ Increased knowledge, demand for services, and cultural and geographical access to maternal, neonatal and child health care and services;
- ④ Improved coverage and accessibility of adolescent and youth friendly services in the targeted districts;
- ⑤ The capacity for planning, implementation and coordination of the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders at national, provincial and district level is improved.



Leonard Ndhlovu, Peer Educator at Nangongwe Clinic, Kafue

> 'BIG BUYER' TURNED PEER EDUCATOR

Peer educator Leonard 'Fireman' Ndhlovu is using his past troubles with alcohol abuse to help counsel adolescents, following a dramatic change in his lifestyle.

Leonard volunteers at Nangongwe Health Centre, where he says his advice on the dangers of teenage pregnancy, abuse and bad company are backed up by his own testimony because young people in the community know how much he has changed.

"I liked hanging out in bars and I was well known for buying beer for people. When my friend invited me to the youth friendly corner, I learned a lot about sexual reproductive health so I kept going back. When I eventually stopped drinking, many people lost a 'big buyer' and were surprised by the change in my behaviour. I am now a peer educator and I teach about the dangers of teenage pregnancy because I got someone pregnant when she was in Grade 9 and I learned a lot from that. Apart from health risks, there is also the danger of failing to support your child financially because you are also a child. I also talk about the dangers of alcohol and bad company because those two almost ruined my life. Quitting alcohol has even helped me get back on track with my goals." #MDGi #EUinZambia #ASharedFuture

“ Because the community is working together with the facility, the end result is that we have healthy mothers and babies in the community. ”



Vuka Muleya is a volunteer motorbike ambulance driver for the Kafue Mission Rural Health Centre in southern Zambia. Thanks to his efforts, particularly for pregnant women in the community, the lives of women and children are being saved through improved access to local government health services.



> ADOLESCENT HEALTH: 1ST ANTENATAL CARE (ANC) VISITS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

Both Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces have recorded a steady decline in teenage pregnancies over the life of the MDGi programme, as measured by the proportion of pregnant women under 18 among the overall numbers of women booking their first ANC visit. Between the baseline period (2016), and Quarter 3 2018, Lusaka Province recorded a five-percentage point reduction, from 9 per cent to 4 per cent. Copperbelt Province recorded a two-percentage point reduction from 5 per cent to 3 per cent.

The overall decline since measurement started in 2016 could be attributed to the continued investment in capacity building of health care staff and expansion of district-wide access to such services. Additionally, more adolescents and young people visit the adolescent friendly spaces (AFS) in facilities, even with few incentives. They find these spaces as environments for spending time and sharing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information. In Lusaka, adolescents and young people are attracted to visit the AFS mostly when there are incentives. This is exacerbated by some organizations that provide food and stipends every month.

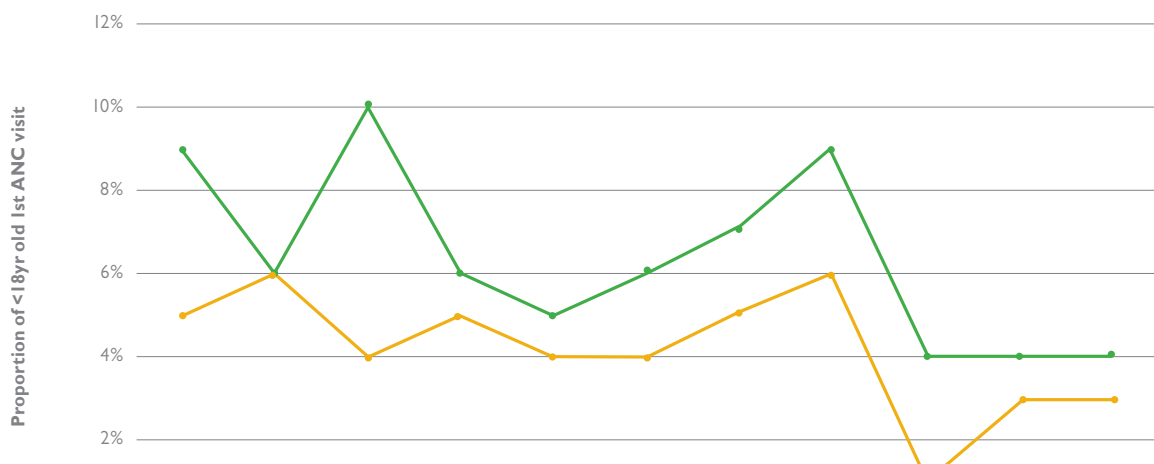


A newborn baby at George Health Centre (Lusaka)



Under-five growth monitoring at Kafue Mission Health Centre

1ST ANC VISITS BY PREGNANT WOMEN LESS THAN 18 YEARS (% OF OVERALL ANC VISITS)



	Q1'2016	Q2'2016	Q3'2016	Q4'2016	Q1'2017	Q2'2017	Q3'2017	Q4'2017	Q1'2018	Q2'2018	Q3'2018
Lusaka	9%	6%	10%	6%	5%	6%	7%	9%	4%	4%	4%
Copperbelt	5%	6%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	6%	1%	3%	3%

It has been observed that persisting child marriage practices especially in more rural communities continue to drive teenage pregnancy rates, as the married girls face expectations from their families and partners to immediately start having children.



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> ABOUT MDGi

The Millennium Development Goal initiative is a programme that is being implemented over a five-year period (2013–2018) and aims to accelerate the reduction of maternal, neonatal and child mortality in Zambia. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Health with the technical support of UNICEF and UNFPA. Its geographic coverage includes Ndola, Luanshya, Kitwe, Mufulira, Chingola and Masaiti districts in Copperbelt Province, and Lusaka, Kafue, Chilanga, Chongwe and Rufunsa districts in Lusaka Province. UNICEF is responsible for managing the funds from the European Union.

> NEXT STEPS

With more than 90 per cent of all MDGi planned programme inputs completed, the focus for the remaining life of the programme is on optimizing end-of-programme results, securing their sustainability, and consolidating a platform for the scale-up of successful interventions beyond the 11 participating districts. The following are therefore the key strategic next steps:

- ① The broader work by UNICEF in support of government efforts to address child marriage will continue, including the enhanced engagement of traditional leaders that was scaled-up in 2018.
- ② Support a smooth transition of programme support from the implementing NGOs to government and community systems to assure the sustainability of interventions. This will be done in part through intensive joint HQ level monitoring to re-enforce the District Health Office (DHO) leadership of key strategies, including quality improvement/assurance, clinical mentorship, and effective monitoring for action. Documentation of best practices to generate guidance for replication/scale-up of interventions for use in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) annual planning and sharing with other districts and partners for scale-up in their supported areas.



Minister of Health, Dr. Chitalu Chilufya MP, and UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Ms. Leila Pakkala, visit George Health Centre in November 2018.

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