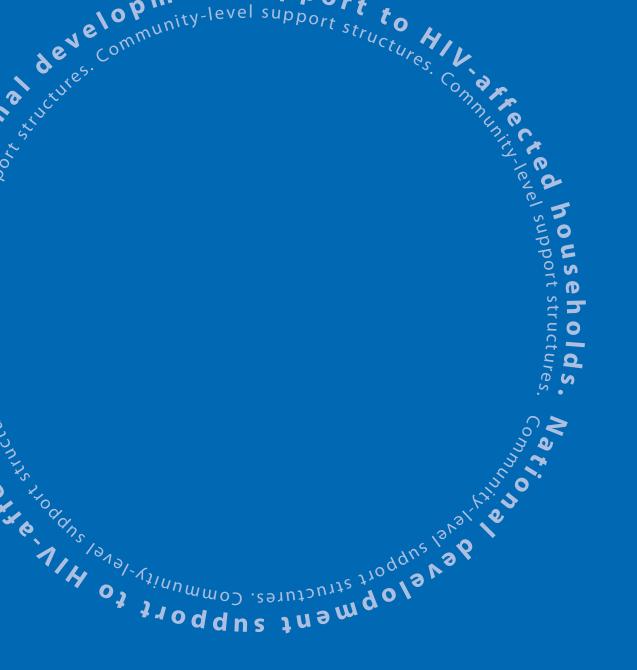
2007 ZAMBIA Human Development Report

Enhancing household capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS



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Message from the Government



and AIDS is one of the major development challenges facing Zambia. The epidemic has affected every fabric of human existence. It has become the major cause of illness and death among the young and middle aged Zambians, who are the most productive age group. Consequently, it has deprived households and

society of a critical human resource base. Further, it is reversing the social and economic gains the country is striving to attain. It has also continued to diminish the chances of alleviating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child and maternal mortality and ensuring environmental sustainability. In effect, HIV and AIDS is among the factors limiting the achievement of the MDGs.

In view of the foregoing, the Zambian Government has declared HIV and AIDS as a national disaster and emergency requiring concerted efforts for all relevant stakeholders. While there have been major advancement in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care in Zambia, efforts to significantly scale up responses to HIV and AIDS have been inadequate.

In view of the above, it is clear that HIV and AIDS is a huge challenge to development and therefore, there should be no business as usual. In trying to respond to this challenge, I urge all our cooperating partners to consider coming up with strategies that will help to prevent new infections; designing programmes that address specific problems brought about by HIV and AIDS such as taking care of children orphaned by the disease; and mitigating the effects of HIV and AIDS on poverty.

Furthermore, a more systematic approach is needed to build local capacity to manage a comprehensive response to the epidemic. To this end, the focus of the Report on enhancing household capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS is very appropriate and timely. Therefore, I would like to encourage all our development partners to read this Report and consider how they can adopt some of the ideas in the Report.

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Ng'andu P. Magande, M.P. Minister of Finance and National Planning

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