

**PRSP POVERTY MONITORING NO. 1**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**SPONSORED BY**

**THE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) is Zambia's national plan for reducing poverty which has reached very high and unacceptable levels. It was drawn up by the combined efforts of all key stakeholders in the country's development efforts. These stakeholders included the government which led the process, collaborating partners and civil society which included non-governmental organizations (NGOs), churches, the academia, professional associations and the poor themselves together with their leaders. The purpose of these wide consultations was to create a sense of ownership of the document, and more importantly of its contents, namely the poverty reduction strategies which are aimed at revamping and improving the performance of the following sectors: macro-economics, agriculture, tourism, industry, mining, education, health, HIV/AIDS, gender, energy, environment, transport and communications, water and sanitation, roads infrastructure and governance.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) were envisaged to be part and parcel of the PRSP. This was "in order to ensure that the implementation of the PRSP is on course and the desired results are achieved (PRSP, p. 136). The PRSP also worked out an appropriate mix of both intermediate and final indicators that were to be used in monitoring its interventions. However, the monitoring team did not go out with a list of already worked out indicators and set them up before the research participants. Rather, using qualitative participatory research/monitoring tools and techniques the various study communities brought out in their own words their own concerns which often were identical to the PRSP objectives and desired results; the communities made appropriate additions and emphasis to these objectives. For the qualitative participatory research tools which were used in the monitoring exercise bring out community perceptions as well as issues that are specific to the different contexts.

In October, 2002, the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), the umbrella organization of civil society organizations which focus on poverty eradication, took this challenge of monitoring PRSP interventions seriously and together with government, through the Zambia Social Investment Fund (ZAMSIF), sponsored a qualitative participatory District Poverty Assessment whose overall objective was to generate baseline data which would be used as benchmark for subsequent monitoring and evaluation exercises of the PRSP interventions.

In May 2003 the CSPR commissioned a follow-up qualitative participatory study aimed at identifying and monitoring changes and developments which may have taken place since the October Baseline Study and which may be attributable to PRSP interventions.

## 1.2 Study Objectives

As already stated in Section 1.1 above, the overall purpose of PRSP monitoring "is to ensure that the implementation of the PRSP is on course and the desired results are achieved (PRSP, p. 136). The objective of the May 2003 monitoring exercise was precisely to perform this function by assessing the developments that have taken place since the October 2002 Baseline Study. It must here be mentioned that it is often difficult to disaggregate impacts that are specifically due to PRSP interventions from those that are wrought by other programmes and projects. The present study did not try to discriminate between impacts by their source.

Specific objectives were:

- To monitor the impacts of the PRSP interventions on people's lives;
- To generate and assess levels of community participation and perceptions of the poverty situation in relation to the PRSP since the last (2002) Baseline Poverty Assessment;
- To come up with information and data for updating the PRSP.
- To come up with community-bred recommendations on how best to fill the gaps and inadequacies of the interventions.

### 1.3 PRSP-Monitoring – I Study Methods

The monitoring methods used in this monitoring process was participatory. It used Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques, listed in the table below. Different techniques were used to capture specific issues from specific respondent groups, which included men, women, youth groups and traditional authorities and leaders at community level and government official and politicians at district level. The table below shows the tools used together with the people they were used with and the issues they explored.

**Table 2: PRA techniques used in the PRSP monitoring, the issues they explored and the informants**

<b>PRA technique</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Poverty Issues</b>
1. Semi-Structured Interviews (SSIs)	Health personnel, Teachers, Traditional leaders, Heads of government departments, ward councilors	General poverty issues according to specific PRSP sectors
2. Social maps	Men, women and youth groups	Child headed households, female headed households, number of widows, households headed by the aged
3. Ranking and scoring	Men, women and youth groups	Crops grown, prevalent diseases
4. Gender Analysis matrix	Men, women and youth groups	Crops grown, access to land, control of productive natural resources, control of household incomes, access to credit facilities and agricultural extension services
5. Seasonality analysis	Men, women and youth group	Diseases, food security
6. Wealth ranking	Men, women and youth groups	Perceptions of poverty and categorizing poverty levels in respective communities
7. Trend analysis	Men, women and youth groups	Income levels, crop yields, rainfall, agricultural input provision, food security
8. Flow charts	Men and women	Poor farming, water and sanitation
9. Sequence ranking	Men and women	Disease treatment

Besides the above research activities, the Monitoring Team also monitored receipt and use of any funds like those from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, which may have been released for specific development/poverty reduction purposes. The issues the Team explored in this connection were:

- whether or not and how much was allocated and disbursed (input);
- the use the money was put to, i.e., any visible/tangible product that be credited to the use of the money (output); and
- impacts these funds and related activities have had on the quality of people's lives (outcomes). This was done with the understanding that impacts of quality of life do often take time to be felt and/or seen and that there may be several other factors and/or programmes that may have been partly responsible for these impacts.

The table below shows the issues that were monitored, the monitoring tools that were used, the sources of information and the expected outcomes.

**Table 2: Issues that were monitored**

ISSUES	INFORMATION SOURCES	MONITORING TOOLS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
4.1 HIPC/PRSP funds received	DA, Heads of Depts, civic leaders, community members, civic society organizations (CSOs), Churches, SSIs	SSI, FGD records triangulations	
4.2 Outputs from above inputs	Same as above		Whether intended activities have taken place
4.3 Outcomes from above inputs	Same as above		Quality of product of activities transparency & accountability on use of funds

The study being reported in this document was carried out in five poorest provinces of Zambia; these were (alphabetically) Eastern, Luapula, Northwestern, Southern and Western provinces. The fieldwork was carried out in the same districts in each of these provinces and the same three study communities in each district which were visited and studied during the October, 2002 Baseline Study was carried out. The two exceptions were two study communities, one is Samfya and the other in Senanga districts which could not be reached because of too much water in the river and lake to reach them. Table 3 below shows the study provinces, districts and communities.

**Table 3: Poverty Monitoring Study Provinces, Districts and Communities**

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	STUDY SITES
Eastern	Petauke	Nyanje Chikuse Petauke township
Luapula	Samfya	Mpanta Mwafuli Miponda
Nothwestern	Mwinilunga	Kanongesha Kabanda Kanongesha

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	STUDY SITES
Southern	Kalomo	Mawaya (township) Nkandanzovu Siampondo
Western	Senanga	Siite Namalangu Nambwae
Total -5	Total -5	Total -15

## 1.4 The Monitoring Team

The May 2003 PRSP Monitoring exercise was conducted by a team of 21 field researchers, six women and 15 men, all drawn from civil society organizations. These divided themselves into five sub-teams consisting of between three to five members. At least two members of each sub-team had participated in the October 2002 Baseline Study.

The team started with some orientation during which, among other things, it went through the issues which were to be explored and monitored and the methods and tools that were going to be used during fieldwork. Their names are indicated in each District report which they wrote after fieldwork.

## 1.5 Study Experiences and Limitations

The study teams experienced a number of limitations which included the following:

- Inadequate access to transport greatly limited the movements of the study teams, as getting lifts from other departments and well-wishers did not always work well. Often the teams lost considerable amounts of time waiting for transport which came late. However, the study teams, especially the Kalomo one, greatly benefited by being given a lift and/or being escorted by the Zambia Police Service to one of the study sites for the team saw the police in action addressing one of PRSP's objectives, namely the promotion of tourism.
- Poor communications denied the Monitoring Teams the ability to inform communities on time about their going to visit the latter.
- Research fatigue on the part of some of the study communities. Thus one District Report says: "Respondents were also holding information indicating that they were tired of releasing information and the developments take so long to be seen".
- Too much rain the previous rain season prohibited two district teams to reach one site (each) which had been studied during the October Baseline Survey as the sites were still flooded and hence unreachable.
- People were still too busy harvesting their crops, and
- Lack of uniformity and perhaps full understanding of the whole purpose of the monitoring exercise on the part of some of the teams. The monitoring aspect, i.e., the idea of identifying changes and developments since the October 2002 Baseline Survey did not come out very clearly in some of the District Reports.

## 1.6 Organization of the Report

The rest of the Report discusses the findings of the monitoring exercise. It tackles one sector at a time, starting with agriculture, then industry, then tourism, mining and so on, following the order the sectors are found in the PRSP. On each sector the Report first gives the PRSP objectives and desired results for the sector, then discusses community concerns on the sector. The latter are often identical with PRSP objectives and desired results although couched in less sophisticated language. The third sub section lists PRSP monitoring indicators. The last sub section identifies changes and developments, if any which have taken place since the October 2002 Baseline Survey. Cross cutting issues of gender, HIV/AIDS, environment and governance are brought when appropriate during the discussion on the various sectors.

## 2. FINDINGS

### 2.1 Agriculture

#### 2.1.1 PRSP Desired Results/Objectives and Indicators

The overall objective of the proposed interventions in the agricultural sector are “to promote a self-sustaining export-led agricultural sector, which ensure increased household income and food security,” (PRSP, p.157). The sector was expected “to generate income and employment through increased agricultural production and productivity, to contribute to production and productivity through land and infrastructure development, to ensure national and household food security.... and to ensure that the existing agricultural resource base is maintained and improved upon,” (Ibid. 157f).

#### 2.1.2 Community Concerns in the Agricultural Sector

The table below shows the concerns expressed by the study communities regarding the agricultural sector.

**Table 4: Major Community Concerns Regarding Agriculture by Study Site**

Concern	Kalomo	Petauke	Mwinilunga	Samfya	Senanga
Food security	x	X	x	x	x
Farm implements	x		x	X	x
Produce markets		X	x	x	x
Extension services	x	X	x		
Farm inputs			x	x	x
Access to credit			x	x	x
Poor roads	x	X		x	
Farm power	x			x	x

Source : Field data.

Food security was a major concern in all the study communities. The PRSP has set out to specifically address it. So are inadequate access to farm implements, farm power, inputs, credit and markets for without these food security cannot be realized. By inputs here was meant cost, timely delivery and/or availability. Poor roads were often associated with and blamed for inadequate access to markets, farm inputs and extension services. The PRSP has specifically identified trunk and feeder roads as being some of the issues it would address. Other concerns include problems of transport in terms of both availability of motor vehicles and cost, floods which hit one of the Senanga study sites and access to land in Senanga which stems from an old

ethnic conflict between the Lozi who settled in the area earlier than the Mbunda and who, therefore, claim better and bigger portions of land than the recent arrivals. In as much as the PRSP proposes to ensure food security and more incomes to the rural people it is bound to address these issues. Indeed the document has specifically mentioned land and transport as issues its interventions will look into.

### 2.1.3 Some PRSP indicators

These include increase in production, smallholder farmers practicing crop rotation, contour ridging, conservation farming, and using green manure and animal draft power.

### 2.1.4 Changes and Developments

Food security which is the main objective of both the communities and the PRSP was said to have improved considerably in at least three study districts, namely, Petauke, Kalomo and Senanga. This was attributed to the timely delivery of farm inputs. This adequately addressed community concerns and fulfilled PRSP indicators. Two study sites in two different districts also talked very positively of crop diversification which had enabled the farmers earn more money than the previous year.

The above developments were in their turn attributed partly to the active roles development agencies like CLUSA, DUNAVANT and PAM were playing in the areas visited.

One negative impact, namely unfair and corrupt practices in distributing farm inputs was reported several times. Here are some verbatim statements of complaining informants:

*...the Agricultural Officer is selective in providing services to beneficiaries. In most cases it is only his friends or close relatives who benefit.* (Nyanje research participant during an FGD.

The Petauke Report goes on to say:

*There was no proper system in place to ensure equitable and transparent distribution of inputs. The community complained that the heads of various government departments benefited more from the input distribution than the communities and targeted social groups,* (p. 5).

The Report goes on to give a very sad example:

*.....the Agricultural supervisor....'grabbed' fertilizer inputs from a child-headed household without proper explanation, (Ibid.).*

People also complained that only individuals with money and not the poor benefited from the input distribution.

Other issues of community concern which are also PRSP objectives were said to have remained as they were in 2002 since they had not been addressed. These include inadequate market arrangements for both farm inputs and produce, inadequate market information and access to credit, farm implements and draft power, poor extension services and poor access roads. The deforestation which was reported in study sites like Nkandanzovu in the October 2002 Baseline Survey had not been abated. Neither has HIV/AIDS which was said to adversely affect the Agricultural Extension Services by taking away qualified manpower had not decreased, if anything it had increased.

No changes had been seen in the way gender relations negatively affect farming. The Petauke October 2002 Baseline Study had given a rather detailed account of how gender relationships and revealed a number disparities between men and women.

With only a few modifications these issues obtain in other study sites, and negatively affect farming like in Petauke. The issues were:

1. women had less access to productive resources like land, credit, inputs and extension services;
2. women were more involved in growing food crops while the men concentrated on cash crops whose cash incomes they controlled;
3. women kept less lucrative types of livestock like goats and chickens while the men reared cattle which fetch more money when sold;
4. the men control financial resources, even those generated with large contributions from the women; and
5. men do most of the decision-making at household and community levels.

The May 2003 Poverty Monitoring exercise did not note any positive changes with regards the issues listed above. It is the author's view that these issues have not at all been specifically addressed in any of the study communities, not even by the District Women's Association (DWA) which is very active especially in the Eastern Province. Secondly, a considerable amount of time is require for change to take place in the above issues which are very deeply embedded in people's culture.

## **2.2 Industry**

The monitoring exercise concentrated on medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs).

### **2.2.1 PRSP Objectives and Expected Results**

The overall PRSP objective is to promote growth of an export-led industry leading to employment creation and poverty reduction. The sector also intends to improve industrial skills and craftsmanship, to improve the application of science, technology and research and development to manufacturing activities and to develop and improve the operations of the (MSMEs) especially rural-based industrial enterprises together with the development of entrepreneurs in business management and technical skills.

### **2.2.2 Community Concerns**

The concerns of the people involved in the sector included the following:

1. Lack of capital to purchase appropriate tools for MSME activities such as carpentry and welding;
2. Bureaucracy in licensing policies,
3. Poor markets for MSME products,
4. Poor road network.
5. Unconducive environment and
6. Low incomes accruing from the sector.



### **2.2.3 PRSP Indicators**

Monitoring indicators spelt out by the PRSP and relevant here are:

- Increased employment in the manufacturing MSME sector,
- Increased number of entrepreneurs receiving training in business management and technical skills, and
- Increased number of rural-based based industries.

### **2.2.4 Changes and Developments since October 2002**

Except for Siampondo study site in Kalomo District where a few more grocery shops have been built and were operative no changes and developments were reported or seen by the Monitoring Team (MT) in the rest of the study sites. The Senanga report notes: “The (MSMEs) strategies look at supporting technical training, business skills, credit facilities..... However, communities feel very little has been done in this sector. None of the above mentioned strategies were having an impact on poverty reduction,” Senanga Report, p.14).

## **2.3 Tourism**

### **2.3.1 PRSP Objectives and Expected Results**

The PRSP envisaged an enhancement of the tourism sector’s contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction by, among other things, development of infrastructure in tourism areas, encouraging community participation in wildlife conservation and promoting investment in the tourism industry by encouraging joint ventures between locals and foreign investors and sensitizing local authorities on the importance of the availability of land for tourism development.

### **2.3.2 Community Concerns**

Issues related to tourism came out in only one of the five study districts. This was in the rural study sites of Kalomo District, namely Nkandanzovu and Siampondo. Major concerns regarding tourism were:

1. Poor road infrastructure connecting the areas with tourism potential to the rest of the country,
2. Presence of armed poachers and bandits, both local Zambians and foreigners, in both sites; these terrorize the local inhabitants and are a threat to would be tourists,
3. Inadequate tourist facilities in terms of lodges and guesthouses both in the areas with tourism potential and in urban Kalomo and Choma the nearest urban centers to the tourist attractions; and
4. Inadequate staffing of the Zambia Wild Life Authority (ZAWA), the agency responsible for wild life.

### **2.3.3 PRSP Indicators**

PRSP interventions are to be monitored by assessing the following:

- Increase in numbers of tourist arrivals,
- Number of access roads upgraded;
- Increases in number of people employed by the tourism sector; and
- Increase in number of people trained in tourism by the private sector.

### **2.3.4 Changes and Developments since October 2002**

The biggest positive development since the 2002 Baseline Study has been the crack down on the armed bandits in Nkandanzovu. This was done by a combined force of Kalomo police, the Zambian army, ZAWA staff and (assisted by) the local community who provided the army and police with the required information. The authorities have confiscated 38 illegally possessed guns and have destroyed the trenches and tunnels in which the illegal hunters and bandits used to hide themselves, their guns and the game meat which was their main economic activity.

The above mentioned achievement is obviously not a direct result of the PRSP but an indirect one in that the crackdown was sparked off by the verbal report of the October 2002 DPPA made by the study team to the district authorities.

On the other hand, the security situation in Siampondo, the second study site which also has some tourist potential has deteriorated. October 2002 DPPA reported that the people of Siampondo felt neglected and sidelined by the rest of the nation. By May 2003 armed bandits of disgruntled youths had formed and had started to terrorize the local communities as well as any would be tourist. The Monitoring Team had the rare opportunity of witness the police fighting and apprehending the bandits and confiscating some of the property they had stolen. The police had accompanied, or rather given ride to, the MT which had been warned of the existence of these armed youths and the dangers they posed.

It is hoped that now that they are aware and have actually come into contact with the armed bandits in both sites which have tourist potential, all concerned will continue to make a concerted effort to completely get rid of this menace and threat to tourism in the two, and indeed in other, areas.

No developments have taken place with regards to other issues that relate to tourism and which are planned for in the PRSP. These include:

- Upgrading access roads,
- Training people in tourism by the private sector,
- Increased employment provided by the tourism sector and
- Creation of tourism facilities in the form of lodges and guesthouses.

## **2.4 Mining**

Once again, among the five districts visited only Kalomo was involved in some mining activities. This was done at Mapatizya, some 35 kilometres from Siampondo study site. The mining activities were employing as many as 2,000 people at the mining site and in Kalomo town. Where the precious minerals are cleaned and polished.

#### **2.4.1 PRSP Objectives and Desired Results**

The overall objective of the PRSP is to “promote investments in the mining industry and ensure the development of a self-sustaining mineral-based industry, (PRSP, p. 188). The document has a especial comment on small-scale mining when it adds: “to revitalize and ensure the realization of the potential of the small-scale mining sub-sector,” (ibid.).

#### **2.4.2 Community Concerns**

The major concern expressed in the October 2002 Baseline Study was the involvement of illegal miners most of whom are of foreign origin. These did not pay any tax to government. They only extracted the nation’s wealth in exchange for the HIV virus which was beginning to spread out in and near the mining areas. In summary, the concerns are that the nation does not benefit much from this otherwise very lucrative economic activity

#### **2.4.3 Monitoring Indicators**

**PRSP** monitoring indicators which refer to small-scale mining are:

- Number of small-scale mining licenses issued,
- Number of gemstone licenses issued,
- Number of artisan mining rights issued,
- Number of prospecting permits issued,
- Persons employed in small-scale mining operations and
- Export earnings from gemstones.

#### **2.4.4 Changes and Developments since 2002**

Although very clearly and articulately stated in the PRSP, the issue of licensing gemstone miners has not been addressed. As a consequence of this the majority of small-scale miners, mostly foreigners, are still operating illegally; they are not paying any tax and the country is still not fully benefiting from its own resources as others extract it away.

On the other hand, the jobs and incomes that the properly registered PGM mine operates are still being held and enjoyed respectively by the inhabitants of Mawaya, the urban Kalomo study site as indeed the other Kalomo urban residents. These people are employed to clean and polish the small precious stones.

### **2.5 Education**

#### **2.5.1 PRSP Objectives and Desired Results**

“The provision of relevant, equitable, efficient and quality education for all” is the ultimate aim of the PRSP as far as the education sector is concerned. The nation, through the PRSP, intends to increase access to Upper Basic education, improve its quality and relevance, increase access, quality and relevance of skills and reduce disparities in education, including those based on gender.

### 2.5.2 Community Concerns in Education

Community concerns regarding the education sector, some of which are identical to the issues the PRSP planned to address are spelt out in table form below.

**Table 5: Community Concerns in the Education Sector by Study Site**

	CONCERN	KALOMO	PETAUKE	MWINILUNGA	SAMFYA	SENANGA
1	School infrastructure	x	x	x		x
2	Inadequate staffing	x	x	X	x	x
3	Inadequate teaching materials	x	x		x	x
4	HIV/AIDS		x	x	x	x
5	Few female Teachers		x		x	x
6	Poor teacher morale		x	x	X	
7	Costs	x		x		x
8	Early pregnancies	x		x	x	
9	Pressure for marriage			x	x	
10	Home chores			x	x	

Poor school infrastructure includes teachers living in poor, often temporally structures often made of grass thatched roofs that often leak, turning classrooms and offices into teachers' accommodation and classrooms that allow wind and rain during the cold and wet seasons respectively. Pupils sit on the ground; there are hardly any teaching/learning materials. The latter issue was singled out and mentioned by four of the five districts. This demoralizes both the teachers and the pupils.

Staffing is a big concern also. This appears in a number of forms. One is inadequate numbers. Teachers are just too few to run the school. Sometimes one teacher is responsible for the whole school, that is teaching four different classes or grades and doing the administration as well.

Another form the problem appears is that of unqualified teachers who are made to teach classes they were not trained for. Drunkenness on the part of some, especially male teachers was also mentioned as a negative factor to successful school performance yet another aspect of the problem of teachers is the critical shortage of female teachers in rural schools.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic was said to negatively affect the education system in two ways, namely, the reduction of the number of trained teachers and secondly, the proliferation of orphans who lack parental support.

Cost of education, especially of the Grade VII examinations still came up as a big concern. Other factors which constrain successful school performance were distance to school, poor sanitation at the school, physical work and punishment administered to pupils, household chores which pupils, especially the girls have to undertake before and after school, thus making them tired and perform badly and community attitudes which weigh heavily against the girl child.

### 2.5.3 Monitoring Indicators

The indicators by which achievements would be monitored include the following:

- Increased enrolment rates and progression rates at all levels of education, including skills training,

- Decrease in dropout and repetition rates,
- Improved pupil/teacher ratio,
- Improved pupil/class ratio,
- Improved pupil/textbook ratio and
- Improved female/male ratios.

#### **2.5.4 Changes and Developments since October 2002**

The biggest positive change mentioned in all the study sites, although probably not directly a result of PRSP interventions was the abolition of school fees for Grades 1 to 7. This was said to have greatly eased the burden of parents and guardians as they were now able to send all their children to school, thus achieving one of the PRSP's objective, namely that of increased school enrolments. However, examination fees still apply. One site complained about this in the October 2002 Baseline Study. The number of complaining study sites had increased to three by May 2003.

Receipt of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative funds was acknowledged in Samfya. The funds, a total of one hundred and twenty two million kwacha (K122 million) were intended to be used in rehabilitating the water and sanitation system at Samfya Secondary School. The work was still in progress at the time of the monitoring team's visit in May 2003.

The Gwembe Tonga Development Project (GTDP) was still constructing the school it had started before the October 2002 Baseline Study. This was expected to open before the end of the year (2003) and to greatly improve both the pupil and teachers' morale considerably.

Other negative developments include the increased intensity of the devastating impacts of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. For instance, during the October 2002 study it was estimated that 10 teachers were lost to the school system every year due to the pandemic. The figure had rises to 15 by May 2003. In addition, while the concern in October 2002 was only with regards to losing teachers through high mortality rates, in May 2003 the concern had explicitly extended to include HIV/AIDS orphans who could not access education.

## **2.6 Health, Water and Sanitation**

### **2.6.1 PRSP Objectives and Expected Results**

The overall objective of the PRSP regarding the health sector is "to improve the health status of all people in Zambia, especially the poor. This is to be achieved by ensuring equity of access to health facilities, improving the quality of health services and encourage lifestyles which support health.

In the Water and Sanitation sector the PRSP wishes to ensure that Zambia's water resources are effectively developed and managed in order to contribute to poverty reduction through increased access to safe water and sanitation, increased food production and food security for low-income people.

## **2.6.2 Community Concerns**

A number of concerns, which often coincide with the issues the PRSP intends to address, were raised by the study communities. These included the following:

- Insufficient water supplies in the form of boreholes, wells, piped water and even natural sources like rivers and streams and when accessible the water is often not of good safe quality for human consumption,
- Long distances to water sources,
- The long distances patients have to travel to reach health facilities,
- Erratic and often unavailable transport to health centers and when available it is exorbitantly expensive,
- Understaffing of health centers; often they are run by under qualified personnel,
- Cost of health services compounded by rampant poverty and
- Inadequate space in health centers; often patients of different age groups, sex and suffering from different diseases share the same wards, if not beds!

## **2.6.3 Monitoring Indicators**

Some of the indicators that the PRSP developed for the monitoring of the two sectors are:

Increased access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities, increased number of water wells, of people trained in water and sanitation, increase in life expectancy, decrease in infant and maternal mortality rates, increased number of rural households within five kilometers of a health facility, adequate staffing and drug supplies at health centers.

## **2.6.4 Changes and Developments since October 2002**

Several positive developments were reported in the May 2003 Poverty Monitoring exercise. One which was directly attributed to the PRSP was the rehabilitation of rural health centers (RHCs), especially in Senanga district. This was made possible by receipt and use of HIPC funds.

Senanga district also reported having achieved some measure of decentralization and autonomy in terms of being able to make and implement its own plans, thereby minimizing the otherwise long bureaucracy which previous characterized and debilitated the health system.

Petauke district reported a remarkable increase (of 17.4 per cent) of staffing levels since October 2002. A trained nurse had been appointed at Chikuse clinic. This was an improvement from the previous year when the clinic was headed by an untrained and unqualified person.

Although not yet operational Nkandanzovu settlers/residents expressed some sense of satisfaction at the clinic that was still under construction in their midst. The Gwembe Tonga Development Project was funding it.

No other changes and developments were reported in the five study sites. Thus all the study communities were still complaining of high and unaffordable health costs, shortage of drugs, distance to the health center –some communities were 30 kilometers and more to the nearest health center. Qualified health staff still eluded many health facilities.

### **3. SUMMARY, OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

A few positive changes, some very important and desirable, have been noted during the monitoring exercise. These include the disbursement and effective use of HIPC funds which have resulted in better social infrastructure which will serve the communities better than is currently the case. Food security, which is the prime concern of the various communities and of the PRSP, has been attained in a number of study communities. This was largely due to early delivery of farm inputs and was despite the rains, which for a certain period of the season was not as good as desirable.

Despite these improvements, research participants noted that poverty levels had not reduced since the previous year. Factors which militate against poverty reduction and wealth creation are still strong and operative. Cross cutting issues have been found to be particularly effective in frustrating poverty reduction efforts. These are HIV/AIDS which is negatively affecting all the sectors, especially agriculture, health and education in that it is robbing the sectors of qualified staff. It is also creating heavy burdens on the families which cannot support the growing numbers of orphans.

Governance issues are also contributing to increasing poverty at local levels as people entrusted to alleviate and reduce it use the resources for their own good.

Environmental degradation is still rampant and needs addressing. The inequalities between men and women in all the sectors also need addressing as they impact negatively on production, mining, health and education.

Specific attention and efforts need to be given to these issues by all stakeholders at all levels. In particular, there is need for specific sensitization of development workers on how cross cutting and other issues affect development.

Top down approaches are still the rule of the day. This denies communities and to a large extent even districts to have a say in poverty reduction and growth promoting activities; this denies them the sense of ownership of these activities. Senanga district seems to be on the right track in this area. Other districts should emulate it. Study tours could be helpful in this regard.

At higher national levels, responsible ministries should ensure that PRSP objectives are at least attempted to be aimed at. There is need to create enabling environments in mining and tourism sectors to enable even local people to participate. Small-scale mining is still in the hands of foreigners most of whom operate illegally and hence do not benefit the country. Peace needs to reign in areas with tourism potential. Only higher authorities can do something about this. There are too few women involved in mining operations.