

The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey

Janet Ncheka Zulu
Senior Gender Analyst,
Central Statistics Office
ZAMBIA

1. Introduction

In recent years, a number of African countries including Zambia have undergone major structural changes both in the political and economic spheres. In many developing countries, the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes has been made at record pace. However, some of the policies and programmes that these countries have been implementing have negatively affected the living conditions of their people.

In Zambia, the need to monitor the living conditions of the people became focused during the 1990s when the country vigorously started implementing the Structural adjustment programmes (SAP). The Government and its cooperating partners realized that the population was adversely affected by these policies and programmes meant to reform the economy. After the year 2000, the continued rising trends in poverty and deteriorating socio-economic conditions in the country prompted the Government and donor community to reassess various development and assistance strategies from the point of view of poverty alleviation. The reassessment culminated into the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in 2001. However, the successful implementation of such policy-oriented strategies requires institutionalisation of monitoring framework both at household and community levels.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) has been conducting the household based Living Conditions Monitoring Surveys (LCMS) since 1996 for monitoring various Government and donor policies and programmes. These are: -

- (i) The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey I of 1996
- (ii) The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey II of 1998
- (iii) The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey III of 2002/2003
- (iv) The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey IV of 2004

The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey conducted in 2004 was a nation-wide survey. The sample design and sample size used in the survey allow for reliable estimates at province, location (Rural/Urban) and national levels.

2. Objectives of the Survey

The main objectives of the LCMSIV Survey were as follows :

- Monitor the impact of Government policies, programmes and donor support on the well being of the Zambian population
- Monitor poverty and its distribution in Zambia
- Provide various users with a set of reliable indicators against which to monitor development
- Provide province specific poverty profiles using different poverty lines
- Identify vulnerable groups in society and enhance targeting in policy formulation and implementation
- Provide data required for estimating Gross Domestic Products' (GDP) household final consumption
- Provide data required for developing new national and province specific weights for the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey 2004 collected data on the living conditions of households and persons in the areas of education, health, economic activities and employment, child nutrition, death in the households, income sources, income levels, food production, household consumption expenditure, access to clean and safe water and sanitation, housing and access to various socio-economic facilities and infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, transport, banks, credit facilities, markets, etc. The survey highlighted salient aspects of living conditions of the various population subgroups at national, provincial and location level.

3. Survey Background and Sample Design Methodology

Survey Background

The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) that the government of Zambia has been implementing since 1991 has had some successes and shortcomings. Some components of the programme such as privatisation have been implemented at record pace. Others such as liberalization of agricultural marketing have not completely taken root. Consequently, a substantial segment of the population has been adversely affected by the cost of reforming the Zambian economy. It is from this realisation that the Zambian government and its cooperating partners decided to put in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism in 1991.

Sample Design and Coverage

The survey had a nationwide coverage on a sample basis and covered both rural and urban areas in all the nine provinces. It was designed to provide data for each and every district in Zambia. A sample size of about 1048 SEAs and approximately 20,000 households was drawn.

Sample Stratification and Allocation

The sampling frame used for LCMSIV survey was developed from the 2000 census of population and housing. The country is administratively demarcated into 9 provinces, which are further divided into 72 districts. The districts are further subdivided into 155 constituencies, which are also divided into wards. Wards consist of Census Supervisory Areas (CSA), which are further subdivided into Standard Enumeration areas (SEAs). For the purposes of this survey, SEAs constituted the ultimate Primary Sampling Units (PSUs).

Sample Selection

The LCMSIV survey employed a two-stage stratified cluster sample design. During the first stage, 1048 SEAs were selected with Probability Proportional to Estimated Size (PPES). The size measure was taken from the frame developed from the 2000 census of population and housing. During the second stage, households were systematically selected from an enumeration area listing. The survey was designed to provide reliable estimates at district, provincial, rural/urban and national levels.

Selection of Households

The LCMSIV survey commenced by listing all the households in the selected SEAs. In the case of rural SEAs, households were stratified and listed according to their agricultural activity status. Therefore, there were four explicit strata created in each rural SEA namely, the Small Scale Stratum (SSS), the Medium Scale Stratum (MSS), the Large Scale Stratum (LSS) and the Non-agricultural Stratum (NAS). For the purposes of the LCMSIV survey, about 7, 5 and 3 households were supposed to be selected from the SSS, MSS and NAS, respectively. The large scale

households were selected on a 100 percent basis. The urban SEAs were implicitly stratified into low cost, medium cost and high cost areas according to CSO's and local authority classification of residential areas.

About 15 and 25 households were sampled from rural and urban SEAs, respectively. However, the number of rural households selected in some cases exceeded the desired sample size of 15 households depending on the availability of large scale farming households.

The selection of households from various strata was preceded by assigning fully responding households sampling serial numbers. The circular systematic sampling method was used to select households.

Data Collection

Data collection was done by way of personal interviews using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to collect information on the various aspects of the living conditions of the households.

Gender Integration Strategy

In order to provide a gender perspective of issues in the survey, the questionnaire was designed to capture information as perceived or experienced by males and females. Further, a distinction by sex was made for head of household for all households in the sample.

4. General Concepts and Definitions

Generally, the concepts and definitions used in this report conform to the standard usage in household based survey in Zambia.

- **Building** – A building was defined as any independent structure comprising one or more rooms or other spaces, covered by a roof and usually enclosed with external walls or dividing walls, which extend from the foundation to the roof.

For the purpose of the survey partially completed structures were considered as buildings if they were used for living purposes. Also, in rural areas, huts belonging to one household and grouped on the same premises were considered as one building.

- **Housing unit** – In this survey any structure, which was occupied by one or more households at the time of the survey, was treated as a housing unit. A housing unit was defined as an independent place of abode intended for habitation by one or more households.
- **Household** – A household was defined as a group of persons who normally eat and live together. These people may or may not be related by blood, but make common provision for food and other essentials for living. A household may comprise several members and in some cases may have only one member.
- **Usual member of the household** – In the LCMS 2004 the de jure approach was adopted for collecting data on household composition as opposed to the de facto approach which only

considers those household members present at the time of enumeration. The de jure definition relies on the concept of usual residences.

A usual member of a household was considered to be one who had been living with a household for at least six months prior to the survey. Newly married couples were regarded as usual members of the household even if one or both of them had been in the household for less than six months. Newly born babies of usual members were also considered as usual members of the household.

Members of the household who were at boarding schools or temporarily away from the household, e.g. away on seasonal work, in hospital, away to give birth, visiting relatives or friends, but who normally live and eat together, were included in the list of usual members of the household.

Head of household – This is the person all members of the household regard as the head and who normally makes day-to-day decisions concerning the running of the household. The head of the household could be male or female.

In cases of shared accommodation and the persons or families sharing were identified as separate households, the enumerator had to find out who the head of the separate household were. If they were identified as one household, the oldest person had to be taken as the head if the household members themselves could not identify or did not consider one person as being the head. In polygamous households, the husband was assigned to the most senior wives' household if the wives were identified as separate households. This was done to avoid double counting. In this case the second spouse automatically became the lead of her households.

The background variables used were:

- Province
- Location (rural and urban)
- Sex of head of household
- Stratum
- Socio economic group
- Poverty status
- Age group

Location – Urban area: Central Statistical Office defines an urban area mainly by two criteria which are:

- (i) Population size
- (ii) Economic activity

An urban area is one with minimum population size of 5, 000 people. The main economic activity of the population must be non-agricultural such as wage employment. In addition, the area must have basic modern facilities such as piped water, tarred roads, post office, police post/station, health centre, etc.

Stratum Survey households were classified into strata, based on type of the residential area in urban areas and based on agricultural activities in the rural areas. The urban areas were pre-classified while the rural strata were established during the listing stage. These same strata were used as explicit stratifies during the sampling process.

The presentation of results used 8 strata as follows:

▪ **Rural areas:**

Small-scale agricultural households

Medium scale agricultural households

Large-scale agricultural households

Fish farming households

Non-agricultural households

▪ **Urban areas:**

Low cost housing residential areas

Medium cost housing residential areas

High cost housing residential areas

These 8 groups are mutually exclusive, and hence any given household belongs to one and only one stratum.

Socio economic group: All persons 12 years and above were assigned a socio economic status. The socio economic grouping was based on main current economic activity, occupation, employment status and sector of employment.

Altogether 12 socio economic groups were specified as follows:

- Subsistence farmers i.e. those whose main current economic activity was farming and whose occupational code indicated subsistence agricultural and fishery workers.
- Commercial farmers i.e. those whose main current economic activity was farming and whose occupational code indicated market oriented agricultural and fishery workers.
- Government employees, comprising both central and local Government employees
- Parastatal employees

- Formal sector private employees, i.e. those whose employment status was private employee, and whose employment was in the formal sector, meaning that they were entitled to paid leave or pension or other social security or more than 5 people were employed at their work place.
- Informal sector employees, i.e. those whose employment status was private employee, and whose employment was in the informal sector, meaning that they were not entitled to paid leave and pension and that less than 5 people were employed at their work place.
- Self employed outside agriculture, i.e. their employment status was self-employed and their main current economic activity was running a non-farming business
- Unpaid family worker, based on employment status
- Workers not elsewhere classified, based on employment status
- Unemployed, those whose main current activity was not working or running a business, but were looking for work or means to do business or not working or running a business and not looking for work or means to do business, but available or wishing to do so.
- Inactive, those whose main current activity was full time student, full time home maker, retired or too old to work

Poverty status: All households and household members were assigned a poverty status based on the household expenditure and /or consumption. Each member of a household had the same poverty status and that constituted the household poverty status.

The households and individuals were classified as non-poor, moderately poor and extremely poor.

5. Findings

(i) Demographic Characteristics of the Population

Demographic characteristics of a population are important as this information provides a basis for the analysis of other population characteristics and their relationships with other determinants of population change. The results from the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey 2004, estimated that the population of Zambia was 10.9 million. The population was mainly concentrated in rural areas, at 61 percent compared to 39 percent in urban areas. Copperbelt province had the largest share of population, 15 percent, and was closely followed by Eastern and Lusaka provinces with 14 percent each. The most urbanised province was Lusaka province with 83 percent of the population living in urban areas. The results showed no significant difference between the percentage of males and females at 50 percent each.

The survey results further showed that the national average household size was 5.2. The results also showed that the age group with the highest percentage of household heads was 30-34 with 17 percent. The majority of the household heads were in the age range 25 – 49, about 67 percent.

The percentage of female-headed households at national level was 22 percent. Western province had the highest percentage of female-headed households with 34 percent. The province with the lowest percentage of female-headed households was Lusaka with 19 percent.

The population distribution for the population aged 12 years and above by marital status showed that 43 percent had never been married, 47 percent were married, 1 percent separated, 3 percent divorced and 5 percent widowed.

Analysis by sex showed that, males constituted the highest proportion of the never married at 50 percent compared to 37 percent for the females. There was no significant difference in the proportion of the married females and males. However, females between the ages of 15 to 29 had the highest percentage of the persons that reported to be married compared to males in the same age group.

With respect to orphan hood, the results showed that the percentage of orphans was 18. An orphan was defined as any person aged 20 years and below who had lost at least one parent. The results further showed that the majority of the orphans were paternal orphans, 57 percent. There were 27 percent orphans who had lost both parents and 16 percent maternal orphans.

The most common cause of death reported by the households for the person who had died 12 months prior to the survey was Malaria/fever, 22.1 percent, and was followed by Diarrhea, 13.3 percent and Coughs or chest infections, 10.9 percent.

(ii) Migration

Migration is one of the three components of population change in an area, the others being fertility and mortality. The survey estimated that out of a total population of 10,899,394 in the country, 383,121 persons or 4 percent of the population were involved in migration. Of these migrants, 3 percent were males while 4 percent were females.

There were more migrants in the age range 20-39 as opposed to the other younger and older age groups for both males and females. This pattern has remained the same since 1998 although the proportions of migrants in both 20-24 and 25-29 age groups were higher in 1998 (6 percent) than in 2004 (5 percent)

The results further show that there were more female migrants in the age group 20-24 (6 percent for females and 4 percent for males) while in the age group 25-29 there were more males as opposed to female migrants (6 percent for males and 5 percent for females).

The percentage of migrants in urban areas was higher than that of rural areas by 2 percentage points (3 percent and 5 percent for rural and urban areas respectively).

The poverty status indicators also show that the non-poor migrate more (5 percent) while the extremely poor are the least with 2 percent.

The main reason why people had migrated 12 months prior to the survey was that the head of the household was transferred (25 percent). This was followed by the reason that people had decided to resettle (16 percent) while 'back from school' and 'retrenchment' were the least with 1 percent in either case.

(iii) Education

Education has important implications on several concerns in the population such as health, poverty, employment, earnings and nutrition. The survey focused on formal education offered in schools and colleges.

School Attendance

School attendance rate is based on the number of persons who reported attending school at the time of the survey. The rate is computed as a proportion of individuals attending school at the time

of survey in specific age groups. The legal age for a child to start school in Zambia is seven years. The age groups for which the attendance rate was computed were selected to correspond with levels of school (lower primary, upper primary, junior secondary, senior secondary and post secondary).

The survey results showed that school attendance rates among children of primary school age were marginally higher for female children (80 percent) than for male children at 78 percent. The difference was also observed in the 5 to 6 year age group. This may mean that females start school early.

With regards to secondary school age, school attendance among males were higher than that of the females. This disparity increased with increasing school age. The rate for males among the secondary going age of 14 to 15 years was 84 percent compared to 79 percent for females. At post secondary school age, the disparity grows bigger with the rate for males twice as much as that for females, 36 percent for males compared to 18 percent for females. This suggests a greater dropout rate for females at secondary school level or higher.

School attendance was consistently lower in rural than urban areas for all school ages. Seventy-four of primary school ages were attending school in rural areas compared to 87 percent in urban areas. Similarly only 67 percent of secondary school age in rural areas was attending school compared to 76 percent in urban areas.

Within the rural areas school attendance among individuals in small scale agricultural households was the lowest. In urban areas the low cost areas had lower rates than the other two strata.

(iv) Health

The survey collected information on the health status of individuals in Zambia. Health is a very important component of living conditions. Information on health consultations and health facilities visited was obtained from all persons in the survey who reported illness. The reference period was the two week period prior to the survey. The survey results indicated that about 10 percent of persons in Zambia reported an illness in the two weeks preceding the survey. In rural areas, 12 percent of the people reported illness while in urban areas the proportion was 8 percent.

Analysis by sex showed that overall, 11 percent of the female population reported an illness or injury in the two week period preceding the survey compared to 10 percent of the male population.

The most common illness reported was malaria/fever at forty two percent of all the persons that reported illness in the two-week period prior to the survey. This pattern was seen for all age groups and all provinces as the majority of people suffered from malaria/fever.

The proportion of persons that reported to have consulted over the illness was 56 percent of all the persons that reported to have had an illness. Twenty six percent of the persons reporting illness used self administered medicine and 18 percent did nothing about their illness. The distribution by sex did not show any difference in pattern from the distribution at national level.

(v) Economic Activity of the Population

The well being of both individuals and households in society largely depends on their participation in gainful economic activities. The survey results showed that out of the total population aged 12 years and above in the country, 64 percent constitute the labor force. The labor force participation rate was higher for males, (67 percent) than females (60 percent) of the same age group.

The survey results further showed that out of the total national labor force participation rate of 64 percent, slightly over half, 54 percent, were employed and 6 percent were unemployed. Of the remaining 36 percent who were in the inactive population, 26 percent of them were students and 1

percent was retired or too old to work. Of all persons aged 12 years and above residing in rural areas, 61 percent were employed, 2 percent were unemployed and 24 percent were students. In urban areas, however, 44 percent were employed, 12 percent were unemployed and 28 percent were students, suggesting that high unemployment is a phenomenon more prevalent in urban than rural areas.

The labour force participation rates for both males and females are higher in the rural areas, at 70 percent, compared to 55 percent for the urban areas. The high participation rate in rural areas is attributed to subsistence farming which is considered as an economic activity in line with the ILO definition of economic activities.

Very high unemployment rates were observed among young persons and reduced with an increase in age. Twenty-four percent of all persons in the labor force in the age group 12 to 19 years were recorded to be unemployed while 20 percent in the age group 20 to 24 years were recorded unemployed.

The majority of employed persons were engaged in the agricultural sector accounting for 69 percent of all employed persons. The second most popular industrial sectors of employment were the Trade and Community, Social and Personal Services, accounting for 10 and nine percent of all employed persons, respectively.

Eighty-one percent of all employed persons were engaged in the informal sector. Informal sector employment was more common among females (90 percent) than males (74 percent). In addition, informal sector employment was more prevalent in rural than in urban areas, 91 percent as compared to 57 percent.

Of all persons employed in the informal sector, 82 percent were in informal agricultural sector, while 18 percent were in informal non-agricultural sector. The results further show that they were more females, at 83 percent, engaged in the informal agricultural sector than males at 80 percent.

(vi) Household food Production

Agricultural activities contribute to the welfare of the households mainly in two ways. Firstly, the growing of food crops, rearing of livestock and raising poultry contributes to food security of households. Secondly, production of crops and ownership of livestock and poultry provides means of earning income that enable households to get goods and services vital for their welfare.

The survey results showed that an estimated 1,372,760 households were engaged in agricultural production activities during the 2003/2004 agricultural seasons representing an increase of 3.6 percent over the 1997/1998 agricultural seasons. The number of agricultural households during the Census 2000 was 1,305,783.

Rural-urban comparisons show that 90 percent of rural households and 26 percent of urban households were involved in agricultural production activities. Eastern Province had the highest number of agricultural households with 253,450, while Lusaka Province had the lowest with 45,655.

An estimated 1.1 million metric tonnes of maize was produced national wide with Eastern Province producing 249,916 metric tonnes as the highest followed by Southern Province with 180,934 metric tonnes. About 434,345 households owned livestock. Of these, 52 percent owned cattle, 53 percent owned goats, 28 percent owned pigs and only 4 percent owned sheep.

A total of 3,223,758 cattle were owned during the LCMS IV. Of these, rural households owned 2,999,4823.

An estimated number of 876,211 households reported to have owned poultry during the 2003/2004

Agricultural seasons representing a 2.6 percent increase over to the 1998 level. Of these 97 percent reported to have owned chickens.

A total of 15,160,029 chickens were owned during the 2003/2004 agricultural seasons. Of these, rural households owned 11,800,361.

(vii) Household Income and Assets

Household income and household assets play a vital role in the economy. Both contribute to poverty alleviation and well being of the population. Households generally depend on income to meet their day-to-day expenditure on food, housing, clothing, shelter, education, health, etc. Therefore, household income plays a vital role in the measurement of living conditions of households. The LCMS 2004 collected data on income for persons aged 5 years and above. The results showed that that mean monthly income for a Zambian household in 2004 was K 502, 030. The modal income group for the country ranged from K150, 001-K300, 000, representing 24 percent of the population. The majority of Zambian households, or approximately 65 percent, had incomes below K450, 000.

Analysis by sex showed that male-headed households had higher mean monthly incomes compared to female-headed households. The mean monthly income for a male-headed household was K535, 790, while the mean monthly income for female-headed households was K382, 314. The modal income was also lower for the female-headed households. While the modal income for male-headed households ranged between K150, 000 and K300, 000, the modal income for the female-headed households ranged between K50, 000 and K150, 000.

The results further showed that degree holders earned six times higher than those who had not attended school at all. They were reported to have a mean monthly income of K1, 374, 260, compared to a mean monthly income of K237, 668 for those who had not attended school. While only 13 percent of those with no education earned more than K450, 000 per month, on average, 89 percent of degree holders earned more than K450, 000. The modal income for those with educational levels up to Grade 9 ranged between K150, 000 and K300, 000. The modal income for those with educational levels exceeding Grade 9 was reported to exceed K800, 000. The results show that the mean monthly income increases as the level of education increases. Those who had attained higher levels of education were more likely to earn more than those with lower levels of education. It can thus be deduced that one's educational level has a bearing on the level of income.

Analysis of households by poverty status revealed that the non-poor households had the highest mean monthly income of K712, 797; the moderately poor households had a mean monthly income of K504, 956 while the extremely poor households had a mean monthly income of K323, 087. The modal income for the non-poor households exceeded K800, 000; the modal income for the moderately poor ranged between K150, 000 and K300, 000; while the extremely poor households' modal income was between K50, 000 and K150, 000.

The average per capita household income, defined as the total household income divided by the number of persons in the household was K120, 656 in 2004. The male-headed households had higher per capita income than the female-headed households.

The major sources of household income were regular salaries (38 percent) and non-farming business (23 percent). Consumption of own produce accounted for 13 percent, while the sale of agricultural produce only accounted for 4 percent of total household income.

With regards to asset ownership, the survey revealed that the majority of Zambian households (82 percent) owned a hoe. The other most commonly owned assets were bed (70 percent); brazier or mbaula (66 percent); mattress (64 percent); axe (62 percent); residential building (58 percent); and radio (54 percent).

Generally, male-headed households owned a lot more of any one of the assets than female-headed households, except for ownership of residential buildings for which the proportion of females was higher at 63.2 percent compared to that of the males at 56.3 percent.

(viii) Household Expenditure

Percentage Share of Household Expenditure to Food and Non-Food

Household expenditure plays a vital function in the economy in several ways. First, it is most closely associated with household poverty, well-being and living standards. In general, households are classified into different poverty classes on the basis of their expenditures on goods and services which include, among other things, basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing, etc. Household well-being and living standards are judged by the quantity of goods and services that the household is able to access. Secondly, household consumption expenditure constitutes a sizeable proportion of private consumption expenditures, significantly affecting aggregate demand, income and employment in an economy. Thirdly, household expenditures serve as a useful proxy for household income, which in many cases, tends to be under-reported by most households. It is in this regard that government institutions, non-governmental organizations and individuals responsible for policy formulation and poverty reduction have a special need for household expenditure data.

The Survey results showed that households in Zambia apportioned a larger percentage of their expenditure to food (65 percent) than to non-food (35 percent). Household expenditure share to food were higher among rural households (79 percent) than urban households (53 percent). The reverse is true for urban households where expenditure share to non-food was higher (47 percent) than among rural households (21 percent).

The 3 most important food items in Zambia in order of percentage shares are fish (37 percent), bread and cereals (18 percent) and vegetables (11 percent). Other food items claiming a significant share of expenditure are meat and sugar, each 5 percent.

Eastern Province based households (78 percent) committed the largest share of total expenditure to food while committing the lowest share to non-food (22 percent). These also allocated the highest percentage (78 percent) of their expenditures to food, predominately fish (33 percent).

Households in rural areas tend to spend proportionately more on food (79 percent) than do their urban counterparts (53 percent). Fish takes up the largest share of expenditures of both rural households (52 percent) and urban households (25 percent).

Percentage Share of Household Expenditure to Non-Food

The results further showed that Non-food items took up 35 percent of total household expenditure, with urban households recording a much higher share (47 percent) than rural households (21 percent).

Analysis at the provincial level showed that clothing assumed the highest portion of expenditures among households on the Copperbelt and in Northwestern province, each recording 11 percent.

For most of the other households, including those in Lusaka province, clothing assumed shares of between 8 and 9 percent of total expenditures. The share of expenditures to clothing was lowest in Eastern province (6 percent).

(ix) Poverty Analysis

As at December 2004 constant prices the Cost of Basic Needs Basket (food and non- food inclusive) was K111, 747 per adult person per month. Overall, 68 percent approximately 7,480,000 of the Zambian population lived below K111, 747 for their daily needs. Additionally, 53 percent of 7,480,000 Zambians could not afford to meet the cost of basic food basket of K78, 223 per adult person per month.

Analysis by sex revealed that female headed households had 71 percent of people falling below the aggregate poverty line while male had 66 percent. Extreme poverty was more prevalent among female headed households at 57 percent than male headed households at 51 percent.

The survey results further revealed that on average the poor people in Zambia lived on 47 percent of K111, 747 per adult person per month. Of resources needed to eradicate poverty in Zambia, 75 percent would go to rural areas and 25 percent to urban areas. Poorest of the poor were mainly found in rural areas, 80 percent of severely poor persons were in rural areas of Zambia while 20 percent were in urban areas.

In general poverty levels reduced marginally from 73 percent in 1991 to 68 percent in 2004. Rural poverty declined from 88 percent in 1991 to 78 percent in 2004. On contrast, however urban poverty increased slightly from 49 percent in 1991 to 53 percent in 2004.

Incidence of extreme poverty in rural areas declined from 81 percent in 1991 to 53 percent in 2004 while in urban areas there was a slight increase from 32 percent in 1991 to 34 percent in 2004.

Reduction of extreme poverty in Eastern province was considerably pronounced from 76 percent in 1991 to 57 percent in 2004.

(xi) Housing Characteristics

Poverty among many households in Zambia can also be measured by the housing standards and the extent to which the population has access to safe water sources, good sanitation and other social economic infrastructure. Provision of clean and safe water supply should be the top priority for Government because of the link that exists between inadequate supply of safe water and incidence of water borne diseases.

The 2004 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS IV) collected data on housing and household characteristics pertaining to types of dwelling, building materials used for roofing, walls and floors, tenancy of housing units, main source of water supply for housing units, sanitation, energy for cooking and lighting and households' access to facilities.

Facilities for which information was collected included the food market, post office, bank and health facilities among others. Information on other facilities such as the community school, input market, public phone and Internet café included in the LCMS IV were being collected mainly to provide additional background variables in the analysis of poverty at the household level. For each of these facilities, various aspects such as distance, walking time, means of getting to the facility, use and reason for not using a particular facility were also recorded.

The survey results showed that the most common type of dwelling at national level was traditional housing; occupied by about 64 percent of households. The rest lived in modern/conventional

dwelling. Ninety one percent of households in rural areas occupied traditional housing compared with only 22 percent in urban areas. Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces were the only ones with the majority of households occupying modern/conventional types of dwelling (84 percent and 61 percent of households, respectively).

The majority of households, about 73 percent occupied their own dwellings. Home ownership was higher in rural areas, 90 percent than urban areas 47 percent. Renting of houses was most common in urban areas especially in Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces.

About half of the households nationwide had access to sources of water considered clean and safe both in the wet and dry season. Treatment of water in both the wet and dry seasons was only practiced by 38 Percent of households nationally.

About 46 percent of households used Kerosene/paraffin as the major source of energy for lighting. This was followed by 20 percent of households that used electricity. By residence, the majority of households in rural areas (62 percent) used kerosene/paraffin for lighting compared with only 20 percent of urban households.

The highest proportion of households in urban areas used electricity (48 percent). Utilization of electricity for lighting was highest in Lusaka province (46 percent) followed by Copperbelt province with 44 percent of the households.

Firewood was reported by the majority of households (56 percent), at national level, as the major source of cooking energy, followed by charcoal, which was used by 27 percent of the households. Overall, electricity was only used by 16 percent of the households. Among 90 percent of rural households, utilization of firewood was a very common source of cooking compared with 8 percent of the urban households. Charcoal was used by the largest percentage of urban households (53 percent), followed by 39 percent of households who used electricity.

The survey results further showed that 60 percent of households used a dug pit to dispose of garbage, while 34 percent used dumping as an alternative garbage disposal method. Burning was only practiced by only 2 percent of households as a means of garbage disposal. Collection of garbage was only reported by about 5 percent of the households in Zambia. Digging pits was most common among the urban households while dumping was most common among the rural households.

Over half the households countrywide used the pit-latrines (64 percent) with more rural households at 67 percent than urban households, at 59 percent. About one in 10 households did not have a toilet facility. Slightly more than half of the households in Western Province (55 percent) did not have toilet facility while slightly less than one third of households in both Southern (27 percent) and Eastern (29 percent) provinces did not have a toilet facility. More than half of the households were within a 5kilometer radius of a food market, middle basic school and upper basic school, health facility, a hammer mill and public transport. Over 50 percent of households in rural areas were at a distance of over 16 kilometers from the post office, high school, secondary school, input market, police station/post and a bank. All households in urban areas were within 5 kilometers to a food market and public transport.

(xii) Community Developmental Issues

The Zambian government in collaboration with the World Bank set up institutions in various line ministries with the mandate to help in the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure such as schools,

health centres, etc and also the building of new infrastructure, and providing micro-credit to the poor.

Additionally, as one of the poverty reduction mechanism, the government put in place the Zambia Social Investment Fund (ZAMSIF) whose goal is to contribute to improving the welfare and living conditions of poor and vulnerable communities all over Zambia.

As a way of assessing the impact of the various measures undertaken to alleviate poverty, The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey collected information on the following:-

- The type of social and economic facilities that the community would like provided or improved in their community including what directly affects their households.
- The type of projects or changes that have occurred in the communities
- The community's contributions to the various projects that were carried out in the communities

The survey results revealed that rehabilitation, tarring or resurfacing of roads was the most desired project in the communities. It was desired by 28 percent of the households.

Rehabilitation of schools (34 percent), improvement of radio reception (28 percent), provision of hammer mills (25 percent) and provision or improvement of transport service (24 percent) were the most widespread developmental projects taking place in the communities.

Generally, more than 80 percent of the households indicated that the developmental projects had improved their lives and gave reasons such as saving time, improvement of quality of services and reduction of worries as some of the significant ways in which the projects had improved their livelihood.

Very few households participate in the various projects that were taking place in their communities. However, those who participated in the projects, contributed through the provision of labor. The government remains the principal sponsor of the various community projects in the communities.

6. Conclusion

The 2004 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey collected data on the living conditions of households and persons in areas of education, health, economic activities, household food production, household expenditure, household income and assets, poverty, housing characteristic, amenities and access to facilities, and community development issues. In order to provide a gender perspective of issues in the survey, the various aspects of living conditions or variables on which data was collected captured information for male and female individuals and differentiating the male and female headed households. Most of the information contained in the report was analyzed by sex.