

2021 VIRTUAL ZAMBIA SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK

The Zambia Social Protection Week is a public event for Government, Civil Society Organisations, Social Security Institutions, social partners, Cooperating Partners, United Nations agencies, academia, Faith Based Organisations, parliamentarians, media and most importantly the general public. The above stakeholders as well as those that are at the frontline of social protection service delivery will form the broad and inclusive categories for the discussions on opportunities and challenges for an effective and sustainable social protection response to poverty and vulnerability in Zambia. The first event was held in 2016 and thereafter, it was held annually except for the past two years, 2019 and 2020 due to the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in collaboration with Partners will be hosting the 2021 Zambia Social Protection Week under the theme “**Responsive Social Protection in a Changing World**”. The main objective of the Social Protection Week is to evoke public interest and contribute to raising general awareness on current social protection programmes and services whilst stimulating the promotion of exchange of information within the region on alternative means to improving social protection programming and service delivery. The event will be held virtually in order to mitigate the spread of the Covid-19.

The Social Protection sector in Zambia has steadily been making progress towards the realization of the aspirations of the Vision 2030 of promoting and providing sustainable security against deprivation and extreme vulnerability as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which seeks, among other issues to end poverty and reduce vulnerability by 2030. Hence, the Government remains dedicated to advancing social protection interventions aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability levels in the country. This is demonstrated through the various policies that government has put in place; one of them being the overarching National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) approved in

December 2014, and in the process of being reviewed. The NSPP was meant to guide the implementation of social protection programmes in the country.

The NSPP has four (4) key pillars which have been used to achieve the set targets of bettering the lives of the people in Zambia as follows:

1. **Social Assistance Pillar**, aimed at provide in assistance in form of cash or in-kind support to incapacitated and vulnerable individuals and households;
2. **Social Security Pillar**, which is contributory in nature and involves participants making regular payments to a scheme that will cover costs related to life-course events;
3. **Livelihood and Empowerment Pillar**; aimed at promoting entrepreneurial skills and knowledge as well as providing the means for entrepreneurship; and
4. **Protection Pillar**; aimed at providing care, support and legal as well as social safeguards to the citizens in order to prevent and protect the vulnerable people such as children and women from abuse.

The four pillars have been a great guide to interventions being implemented by government and its partners.