



The workshop enabled government representatives, reporters, editors and spokespeople to better understand, report and communicate pertinent issues around the country's debt situation and the extent of IFFs

HIGHLIGHTS

AFRODAD holds media and government officials training workshop on reporting and framing the debt situation and the extent of Illicit Financial Flows in Zambia



Participants pose for a group photo during the workshop at Twengale Guest Lodge Lusaka Zambia

AFRODAD, in partnership with the [Center for trade policy and Development \(CTPD\)](#) and [Debt Jubilee Campaign UK](#) hosted a three-day media capacity building workshop on debt and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Lusaka, Zambia from 28 – 30 August 2019.

The workshop which ran under the theme “Financing for Development: Building on Effective DRM and Public Debt Management” was attended by over 30 participants including journalists from Zambia’s leading and most influential media outlets based in Lusaka and representatives from various government ministries. Speakers from the academia and seasoned trainers raised the profile of Africa’s developmental issues related to debt and IFFs that are often underreported but have the power to frame government agenda to transform living standards.

The intensive training programme provided the journalists and government officials with information, tools and strategies to understand issues surrounding debt

sustainability and the meaning of IFFs and how curbing them can help government to develop much needed public services.

Mr Tirivangani Mutazu, AFRODAD senior policy analyst underscored the need to continuously capacitate journalists in Africa to be able to identify societal problems and to report on them in a manner understandable by the citizens while ensuring that the identified issues are on the government agenda. Mr Brian Mwiinga, Head of programmes & research CTPD emphasised the role that needs to be played by media in transmitting information, thereby raising public awareness and encouraging positive changes by government offices bearers in solving developmental cancers like unsustainable debt and IFFs.

The training couldn't be timelier as [Zambia has borrowed heavily in recent years and is now in high risk of debt distress](#). Zambia's external debt at the end of the first quarter of this year had increased to \$10.178 billion from \$10.05 billion at the end of 2018. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has repeatedly warned that Zambia is struggling with high debts and shrinking foreign currency reserves. [Zambia's foreign-exchange reserves have plunged from a peak of almost \\$4 billion in 2015 to \\$1.4 billion in February as foreign-debt servicing costs soared. Yields on the country's \\$1 billion Eurobonds due in April 2024 jumped 69 basis points to 18.09%.](#)

Zambia also needs to curb IFFs and to increase funding and expenditure to key sectors of health and education if the nation is to make meaningful progress towards human development. As per an AFRODAD's recent study, the proportion of IFFs to actual expenditure on the education increased from 383 percent in 2009 to 509 percent in 2013. The highest proportion of 624 percent was recorded in 2012. Therefore, IFFs were as high as 624 percent of the actual expenditure on education and as high as 1, 748 percent of the actual expenditure on health.



Participants pictured during the workshop at Twengale Guest Lodge Lusaka Zambia

Feedback can be forwarded to: communications@afrodad.co.zw

Our Financial Partners



CONTACT US:

African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
 31 Atkinson Drive, Hillside, PO Box CY1517, Causeway,
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Tel: +263 24 778531/6 or 2912751-4 | Fax: +263 24 747878

Website: www.afrodad.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

