

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Zimbabwe
Program Title:	Economic Opportunities
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	613-010
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$500,000 CSH
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$500,000 CSH; \$511,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2000
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID is working to expand economic opportunities for disadvantaged Zimbabweans, focusing recently on issues of food security and income. The program includes: 1) drought-tolerant crops; 2) market linkages; 3) household nutrition gardens; 4) business opportunity centers (BOCs); and 5) a legal services voucher program.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations; Improve Child Survival, Health and Nutrition (\$450,000 CSH). In response to Zimbabwe's prolonged food crisis, USAID is continuing to implement its low-cost drip irrigation household nutrition gardens, drought-tolerant crops, and market linkage activities to enhance food security for households, including those caring for orphans and vulnerable children. A total of 56,612 households will be served in FY 2005 through these USAID activities. The program focuses on increased productivity, encouraging local nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners to re-invest their own resources, and leveraging resources from other donors and the private sector. The household garden activity offers short-term basic agronomic and pest control courses to 16,300 households and to 17 church-owned gardens, with the objective of increasing vegetable output by an average of 20% per household. The program also provides business competency and loan management training to a microfinance institution that is piloting a new loan product for 350 farmers to purchase 500 square meter drip irrigation kits. The program is closely monitoring five local partner NGOs and their field staff to improve repayment rates for seed loans. Principal contractors and grantees: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI - prime), and Rural Unity for Development Organization (RUDO) and such local NGOs as the Association of Zimbabwe Traditional Environmental Conservationists (AZTRECH), Islands of Hope (VECO), Community Technology Development Trust (COMMUTECH), Organization of Rural Association for Progress (ORAP), Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), Zim Ahead, the National Dairy Association of Zimbabwe, Interfresh, Cargill, Gairezi Development Association, and Pundutso (all subs).

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure; Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information. These program components will be addressed through the Mission's BOCs, which are 15 centers operated by two local NGOs in key rural and peri-urban centers. A total of 40,000 households will be able to access information, and communication and business services through the BOCs. USAID is funding the equipment for 10 centers, and the remainder is being funded by partner NGOs. The aim is to make these centers financially viable. USAID will strive to integrate other USAID program activities within the BOCs to strengthen internal synergies and productivity and to boost income. Each implementing NGO is investing 5% of its surplus earnings into local community HIV/AIDS activities. Principal contractors and grantees: DAI (prime), and One-Up Business Trust and the Development Trust of Insiza (subs).

Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor During Periods of Stress (\$50,000 CSH). USAID is continuing to support five local NGO partners to write wills and provide guardianships to protect the assets and rights of orphans and vulnerable children following the death of one or both parents. A total of 6,000 wills will be written for 4,380 households in 2005. In addition, the program will evaluate the impact of this component on women, orphans, and vulnerable children with a focus on the harmonization

of traditional practices vis-à-vis the concept of wills. Principal contractors and grantees: DAI (prime), and Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT), Midlands AIDS Service Organization (MASO), Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Seke Rural Home-Based Care (SHBC), and Networking Support for HIV Trust (subs).

FY 2006 Program: Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations; Improve Child Survival, Health and Nutrition (\$500,000 CSH; \$400,000 DA). This program is expected to close in 2006. The program may fund close-out activities, including a program review by an independent consultant with the objective of capturing "best practices" for use in later programs. Funds permitting, the program may fund follow-on activities. These may include funding a value-chain analysis study of the fresh fruit and vegetable sub-sector. Other activities may include a study to obtain data on the state of the business sector for future strategic planning purposes and to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the sub-sector. Depending on macroeconomic conditions, the program also may consider providing equity capital, through an employee stock ownership vehicle, to capitalize a microfinance institution that is transforming itself into a specialized bank focusing on the micro-entrepreneurial poor. Principal contractors and grantees: DAI (prime), and RUDO and local NGOs: Association of Zimbabwe Traditional Environmental Conservationists (AZTRECH), Islands of Hope (VECO), Community Technology Development Trust (COMMUTECH), Organization of Rural Association for Progress (ORAP), Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), Zim Ahead, the National Dairy Association of Zimbabwe, Interfresh, Cargill, Gairezi Development Association, and Pundutso (all subs).

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$111,000 DA). The program may support the transformation of BOCs into locally-owned economic development institutions. Funds may be used to fund the equity of local communities. Funds permitting, market development grants may be provided to BOCs to extend their outreach programs to local schools. Principal contractors and grantees: DAI (prime), and One-Up Business Trust and the Development Trust of Insiza (subs).

Performance and Results: The program has achieved great success despite Zimbabwe's declining economy. Through improved productivity, characterized by committee restructuring, increased use of local NGOs as implementing partners and leveraging of resources from other donors, the program continued to post commendable results. To date, the program has served a total of 217,167 households (approximately 1.3 million individuals) against a target of 153,049 households. The program has a visible presence in almost every district of Zimbabwe. By end of the program, a total of 318,117 households, or approximately 2 million individuals representing about 16% of Zimbabwe's total population, will have directly benefited from USAID's program. USAID's household nutrition garden activity is now being replicated on a larger scale by several donors in Zimbabwe.

By enhancing food security, improving nutrition and diets, providing opportunities to earn income, protecting assets, and increasing access to information, this program is addressing the most critical needs of disadvantaged Zimbabweans.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Zimbabwe

613-010 Economic Opportunities	CSH	DA	DFA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003				
Obligations	2,000	4,325	105	500
Expenditures	1,500	3,551	105	434
Unliquidated	500	774	0	66
Fiscal Year 2004				
Obligations	500	1,006	0	0
Expenditures	288	608	0	66
Through September 30, 2004				
Obligations	2,500	5,331	105	500
Expenditures	1,788	4,159	105	500
Unliquidated	712	1,172	0	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds				
Obligations	0	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA				
Obligations	500	0	0	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005				
Obligations	500	0	0	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA				
Obligations	500	511	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	3,500	5,842	105	500