



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**ZIMBABWE**

# COUNTRY PROFILE



G. PIROZZI/CRS

*Over 173,000 orphans and vulnerable children received education assistance, psychosocial support, income generating support, and/or food security assistance from USAID.*

## OVERVIEW

Zimbabwe's interrelated political, economic, and social crises have continued since 1998, taking a terrible toll on the country's people. Consecutive years of economic decline have resulted in periodic shortages of food, fuel, electricity, and other critical imports. Zimbabwe's once robust social services are decaying, exacerbated by the AIDS epidemic and a considerable brain drain of skilled personnel. The U.S. Government's interests in Zimbabwe are to support the people of Zimbabwe in this deteriorating political and economic environment, to strengthen the prospects for stability by fortifying civil society and democratic institutions, to implement a robust response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and to mount a flexible humanitarian response.



## PROGRAMS

### MITIGATING THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS

Zimbabwe has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world, estimated at 20 percent of the adult population. Life expectancy has dropped from 61 years in 1990 to 34 years today. USAID's program to mitigate Zimbabwe's HIV/AIDS crisis includes training, technical assistance, and commodities to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS, improve maternal health and nutrition, and build the capacity of the health system. USAID's collaboration with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports the Zimbabwean government's national anti-retroviral therapy (ART) program, currently providing five health facilities with training, technical assistance, and ART medicines for 100 patients per site. A new effort to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) provides these services to more than 73,000 pregnant Zimbabwean women. Twenty USAID-supported voluntary counseling and testing sites counseled over 172,000 new clients in 2005.

### STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

Zimbabwean civil society remains a vibrant force, with increasing levels of political consciousness and debate. Unfortunately, the Government of Zimbabwe has responded by tightening restrictions on the independent media and journalists, and proposing legislation that would curb the work of non-governmental organizations. USAID's program is designed to help

### ZIMBABWE SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1980  
Population: 13.2 million (2004)  
Income per person: n/a

*Source: World Bank Development Indicators*

### USAID IN ZIMBABWE

[www.usaid.gov/zw](http://www.usaid.gov/zw)

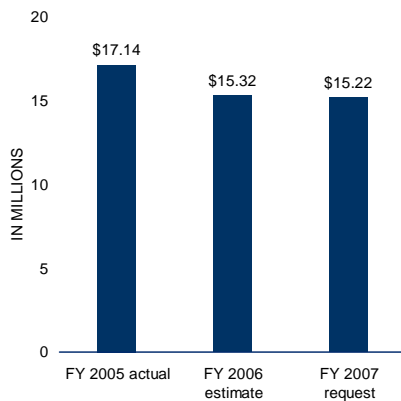


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## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE



For more information, see the  
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification  
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

civil society organizations express their views on legislative matters, and to support Parliament's ability to be more receptive to their positions. Activities include advocating to Parliament and local authorities, building an effective committee system within Parliament, and supporting local authorities to be more capable and open to citizen input. In addition, USAID is training elected mayors and councilors in modern management practices, good governance, and effective participation with civil society - in effect, grass-roots efforts to enhance long-lasting democracy.

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Poor policies and deterioration in the rule of law continue to decimate the economy, including the agricultural sector. Combined with erratic rainfall, this has created the worst humanitarian crisis in southern Africa—up to half the population has been threatened with acute hunger since 2002. During that period, USAID provided a total of 298,000 metric tons of food commodities to the United Nation's World Food Program. A further 169,000 metric tons was distributed, through a group of international non-governmental organizations, to vulnerable individuals and food-insecure rural households through various programs. Non-food assistance amounted to over \$12 million in fiscal years 2003 and 2004. USAID continues to provide targeted feeding to schools and the most disadvantaged.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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