



ZIMBABWE



Country Snapshot

Independence:	1980
Population:	12,311,143 (Zimbabwe Statistical Office 2007)
Population Growth rate:	0.4%
Birth rate:	27.7/1000
Life Expectancy:	39.8
Literacy rate:	91% (2003 est.)
Monetary unit:	Zimbabwean Dollar
Real Growth rate:	-4%
Inflation rate:	66,213.3%
Unemployment:	80%

Source: www.infoplease.com
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Program Overview

CARE began working in Zimbabwe in 1992 in response to a severe regional drought. After establishing a drought mitigation program, CARE began longer term developmental programs with local partners in building small dams, strengthening local microfinance institutions, and launching projects to assist small businesspersons in the rural areas. CARE uses a community-based approach to target the most vulnerable households living in arid to semi-arid communal lands where production of the staple food maize and cash crops is limited by low rainfall and poor soils, and livestock suffer from drought and poor access to veterinary services. Since 1992 CARE has channeled over US\$100 million for development assistance and relief benefiting more than 1,000,000 vulnerable individuals in Zimbabwe.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

In Zimbabwe, CARE helps to increase food security and the income of poor families through ecologically sound agriculture and natural resource management in ways that strengthen local problem solving capacity and social equity, especially for women.

CARE trains farmers in conservation agriculture, improved fertilizer practices and sustainable farming to improve yields and incomes from cash crops. Programs also provide training, technical expertise, irrigation and fencing supplies, tools and seeds to establish community and homestead gardens. These help rural communities increase their food security. CARE's approach prioritizes practical, cost-effective and sustainable solutions.

Other CARE projects promote community-based natural resources management

such as better techniques for harvesting and processing of forestry products. Farmers gain assistance in learning how to take advantage of markets for non-timber forest products such as wild honey, mopane worms – a regional delicacy – and marula, which is used to make a very popular international aperitif.

Small Economic Activity Development

CARE seeks to improve economic security and income opportunities, especially for women, by supporting economically viable activities, increasing productivity and income opportunities and improving household resilience to shocks and disasters. CARE projects help establish networks of agri-business entrepreneurs, facilitate links between buyers, agents and farmers, and provide business skills training.

Using CARE's recognized and successful savings and loan methodology, projects are building the capacity of institutions, groups and individuals to implement internal savings and lending, establishing village-based credit & savings systems.





From September 2007 to March 2008, CARE is distributing 32,300 metric tons of grains and pulses to 486,000 vulnerable individuals in Masvingo and Midlands provinces improving food security of vulnerable individuals in Bikita, Chivi, Masvingo, Gweru, Zaka, and Zvishavane.

Major Donors

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Department for International Development (DfID), US Agency for International Development (USAID), Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), AUSAid, European Commission, ECHO, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, The Oak Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation

CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Canada, CARE USA, CARE UK, CARE France, CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg, CARE Nederland

CARE is also extending the village-based model into urban areas to improve the livelihood of urban vulnerable households.

Water and Sanitation

CARE projects are reducing the impact of the drought through improved access to safe water in communal areas targeting 11,250 vulnerable individuals in Mwenezi, Mberengwa and Chivi, supporting the maintenance of 45 pumps in those districts. CARE is supporting community efforts in the rehabilitation and construction of rural water points in Zaka, Masvingo and Mberengwa targeting 37,500 vulnerable households. One hundred rope and washer 'Elephant' water pumps are being constructed, and community committees are being formed and trained to maintain the pumps. Through the construction of a dam CARE is also improving of access to water in the Silve-Pambe Community for livestock, agriculture and domestic uses.

CARE is constructing 300 improved pit latrines targeting community-home based care clients and at community gardens. Training is given to minimize preventable water-related diseases; and training is provided to latrine builders.

Health

CARE's strives to improve nutrition and to reduce the impact of malaria, diarrhea, HIV/AIDS, opportunistic infections, and water borne diseases. Approximately 11,000 households access information on HIV and AIDS every month. Topics addressed include positive living, stigma & discrimination, and positive gender roles.

A home-based care program is giving nutritional support to 46,796 vulnerable home based clients and their households in Zaka, Mwenezi and Mberengwa, distributing highly nutritious foods that are palatable and easily consumed and absorbed by chronically patients. Nutrition education is given through training and workshops among caregivers and participants. Medical and hygiene supplies are distributed to these households.

Emergencies

CARE is respected for providing relief aid to the neediest recipients in accordance with strict humanitarian principles. In recent years, CARE distributed over 150,000 metric tons of food aid to over one million people.

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