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Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Food for Peace
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20523

September 30, 2013

Re: CRS Zimbabwe ARR Submission for Award Agreement Number AID-FFP-A-10-00018

Ms. Goldman,

Please find attached the required components for CRS Zimbabwe's Final Annual Results Report (FY 2013). **The report was compiled in accordance with the Food for Peace Annual Results Report Completeness Checklist and the requirements for Title II emergency programs.**

FY13 showed remarkable success for the program which also saw the completion of the PRIZE final evaluation. The evaluation revealed that PRIZE significantly contributed towards reducing food insecurity for vulnerable individuals in targeted districts. Some key examples were highlighted in the report. Most dramatically the average monthly household income in PRIZE beneficiary households was 21 percent (US \$14) higher than the average monthly income in eight PRIZE districts where average monthly income stood at US \$68 (ZimVac, 2012). CRS is very proud of the PRIZE program and is grateful for its partnership over the past three years with FFP.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or concerns regarding the ARR documents.

Best regards,



David Alt
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**United States Agency for International Development
Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance**

Office of Food for Peace

End of Project Results Report

PRIZE

(Catholic Relief Services-led Consortium/Zimbabwe)

Award Number AID-FFP-A-10-00018

Submission Date: September 30th, 2013

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARDA	Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
AREX	Agricultural Research and Extension Services
AGRITEX	Ministry of Agriculture's Extension Services
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
CMLU	Commodity Management and Logistics Unit
CoP	Chief of Party
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CTDT	Community Technology Development Trust
C-SAFE	Consortium for the Southern Africa Food Emergency
DF	USAID Local Mission Development Funds
DAPP	Development Aid from People to People
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DVS	Department of Veterinary Services
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
FaaB	Farming as a Business training program
FACHIG	Farmers Association of Community self-Help Investment Group
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FDP	Food Distribution Point
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System
FFA	Food for Assets
FFS	Farmer Field School
FSI	Farmer Support Initiative
FY13	Fiscal Year: October 2012 to June 2013
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HH	Households
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross

ICT4D	Information and Communications Technology for Development
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IGA	Income-Generation Activity
IR	Intermediate Result
ISAL	Internal Savings and Lending
LOA	Life of Activity
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MT	Metric Ton
OPVs	Open Pollinated Varieties (seeds)
ORAP	Organization of Rural Associations for Progress
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PHH	Post-harvest handling
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRP	Protracted Recovery Program
RDC	Rural District Council
SPWSNET	Single Parents, Widows and orphan Support Network
VET	Department of Veterinary Services
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding
VS&L	Village Savings and Lending
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ZFU	Zimbabwe Farmers' Union

I. INTRODUCTION

I.I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Promoting Recovery in Zimbabwe (PRIZE) project was a USAID supported Title II extended Single Year Assistance Program (SYAP) implemented by a consortium of three international organizations: Catholic Relief Services, CARE International and ACDI-VOCA. While CARE directly implemented program activities, ACDI-VOCA and CRS implemented through two local NGOs (CTDT and ORAP respectively).

The goal of the project was to *reduce food insecurity for vulnerable households in eight (8) targeted districts of Zimbabwe* by empowering communities to increase their resilience to natural and economic shocks. PRIZE offered an integrated package of activities using a combined approach of short-term food assistance, improving productive assets, promoting savings-led loans, increasing productivity and enhancing linkages to markets. These activities aimed to increase and diversify households' sources of income and build communities' capacity to cope with lean seasons and future shocks.

The award was extended for a third year to June 2013, with additional food and cash resources to consolidate gains achieved in the first two years of implementation. These new resources raised targets to reach 112,097 households with a tailored package of Food for Assets and production trainings, while capitalizing on the past DF funding to target 5,800 households with income generation and marketing training. These same households were offered with savings and lending opportunities as PRIZE expanded the VS&L program to reach 14,400 individuals.

The PRIZE final evaluation revealed that PRIZE significantly contributed towards reducing food insecurity for vulnerable individuals in targeted districts. Some key examples were highlighted in the report. Most dramatically the average monthly household income in PRIZE beneficiary households was 21 percent (US \$14) higher than the average monthly income in eight PRIZE districts where average monthly income stood at US \$68 (ZimVac, 2012). Furthermore, 95% of the PRIZE beneficiaries reported having two meals a day compared to 87% nationally (ZimVac, 2012). These positive changes were also complimented by the consumption smoothing effects of the more than 50% of PRIZE households that received VS&L loans to purchase food in the lean season rather than resort to negative coping mechanisms.

Goal: Reduced food insecurity for vulnerable individuals in 8 districts of Zimbabwe by 2012.

SO1: Emergency food needs of 151,280 individuals are addressed.

IR 1.1: 151,280 transitorily food insecure individuals have food during the hungry season.

SO2: 112,097 vulnerable households have reestablished food security.

IR 2.1: 112,097 vulnerable households have increased food production.

IR 2.2: 5,800 vulnerable households have increased income.

IR 2.3: 14,400 vulnerable households have engaged in mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of economic shocks.

I.II. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

The three-year tenure of PRIZE was marked by consecutive years of erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, pest attacks and livestock disease outbreaks across the eight districts. Food insecurity has been a recurrent challenge in Zimbabwe over the past years with at least 12%

of the population being food insecure since 2009 (Rural ZimVAC, 2012). Further, years of deteriorating infrastructure and weakened government extension services had contributed to reduced food security at household, district and national levels. Cereal production was variable over the life of PRIZE due to erratic rainfall patterns experienced in Zimbabwe from year to year. In the southern districts, rainfall amounts were average to below average for all years, while the provinces in the north received average to above average rainfall amounts.

2010 Harvest ¹	2011 Harvest ²	2012 Harvest ³
1.5 million MT	1.6 million MT	1.13 million MT

According to the ZimVAC documents from 2010 to 2012, there was a reduction in the percentage of households planting cereals over the life of PRIZE with an accompanied reduction in the area planted reported from 2011 to 2012, the worst year for crops of the PRIZE tenure. This reduction, along with the poor rains experienced in PRIZE districts led to harvests that were below the national requirements.

In areas with cereal deficits such as those covered by PRIZE, prices continue to follow seasonal patterns. FEWSNet Price Bulletins show prices for maize grain hit values of \$0.59/kg on the markets in Gwanda during the post-harvest period of 2012. The poor harvest for the south in 2012 also saw the majority of households reliant on the markets earlier than usual and may account for the higher prices noted. The average price of maize grain in Gwanda was consistently higher than in Harare, ranging between \$0.40/kg and \$0.45/kg depending on the time of year throughout the lifetime of PRIZE.

I.III. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

In its 3rd year, PRIZE built upon the solid relationship with GoZ established in the first 2 years of implementation as it received full support through its line ministries at district level as well as through local government. The participation of the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), the extension agents from the Agricultural Research and Extension Services (Agritex) and the Department of Veterinary Services (VET) was instrumental in successfully rolling out PRIZE activities.

PRIZE built strong partnerships with other USAID funded programs in the districts served. Relationships have been fostered with Land O'Lakes, FINTRAC, ICRAF, IRD, CREATE Fund and SNV to pair our beneficiaries with improved services in livestock and horticulture marketing beyond the scope of the award.

As part of these efforts, management oversight responsibilities for completed projects have been transferred to the RDCs, to ensure sustained coordinated support to the Asset Management Committees. During handover ceremonies, stakeholders, community representatives, local leaderships and relevant line ministries were engaged in a consultative process to achieve clarity on each entity's areas of responsibility and project ownership.

PRIZE was a key contributor to food security sector learning in Zimbabwe, participating with the Food and Nutrition Council in ZIMVAC assessments, Integrated Phase Classification exercises and other joint assessments as well as sharing program specific learning through

¹ ZimVAC 2010

² ZimVAC 2011

³ FAO GIEWS 17/10/12

national round table discussions. PRIZE also collaborates with UN Cluster activities such as assessments and coordination meetings working to align activities and reduce duplication of efforts.

II. RESULTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND TARGETS

Goal: Reduced food insecurity for vulnerable individuals in 8 districts of Zimbabwe by 2013.

SO 1: 151,280 TRANSITORILY FOOD INSECURE INDIVIDUALS HAVE FOOD DURING THE HUNGRY SEASON

After the ZimVAC 2010 report was released, there were concerns raised about the vulnerability levels in some districts with stakeholders concerned the estimates were too conservative. In districts where this was the case, work was done with district officials to determine a more realistic estimate of the vulnerable population in the programmatic wards. In the end, 202,239 (99% of adjusted need levels) transitorily food insecure individuals received emergency food rations during the period November 2010 to March 2011. **No emergency food rations were distributed during the third year of the project.**

SO 2: 112,097 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE RE-ESTABLISHED FOOD SECURITY

PRIZE endeavored to re-establish the food security of 112,097 vulnerable households by the end of the grant through a comprehensive strategy set out to engage vulnerable households as workers and food recipients in the rehabilitation/construction of agricultural productive assets. Through access to the newly built or rehabilitated productive assets, PRIZE worked to engage beneficiaries to increase production levels and provide a basis for long-term improvements to their food security. Further, 5,800 farmers using these assets were targeted, based on their farming skills and willingness to integrate into the market, to undergo a series of trainings to improve market linkages. In addition to agriculture related activities, PRIZE promoted Village Savings and Loans (VS&L) as a strategy to expand and diversify livelihood options. This project component aimed at engaging 14,400 individuals.

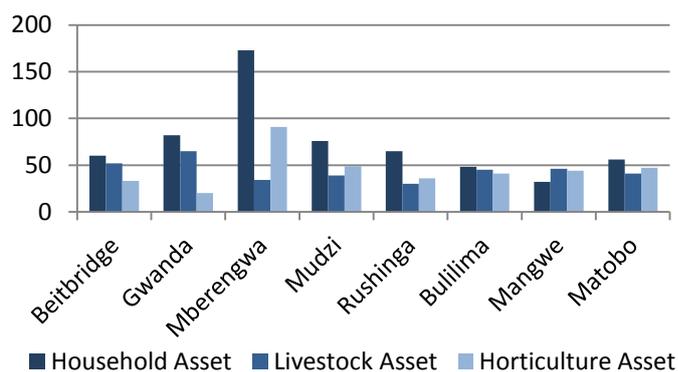
IR 2.1: 112,097 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

To increase food production for 112,097 households, PRIZE worked with communities to create and/or improve 1,305 productive assets, promote conservation agriculture to 3,074 lead farmers, train 2,611 farmers on seed security, and worked with 9,963 farmers to improve livestock practices, and promote community production through the delivery of small investment grants.

ACTIVITY 2.1.1: CREATE OR IMPROVE 1,311 PRODUCTIVE ASSETS

In FY13, a total of 157 assets were created and these include irrigation schemes, livestock sales pens and dip tanks. Over the three years of PRIZE implementation, a total of 1,305 assets were created in the eight districts representing a 99.5% achievement verses target. **A total of 2,097 farmers were growing vegetables in the irrigation schemes during the reporting period bringing the total number of farmers benefitting over the life of the project to 10,323.** A total of 89,172 individuals received food aid to create these assets, receiving 18,333 MT of commodities.

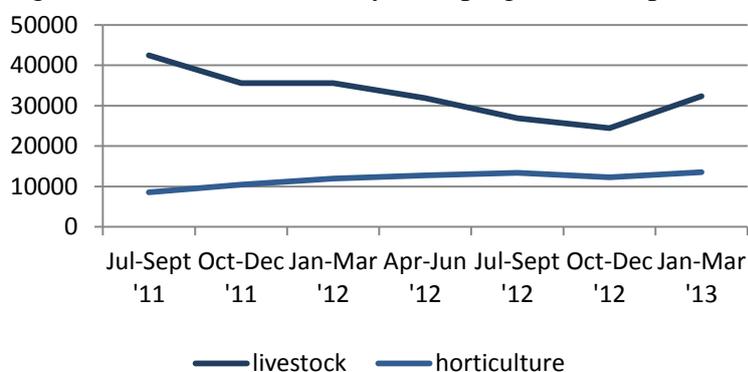
Figure 1: Assets Created By Type by District



As can be seen on the graph, the types of assets created in the districts differed based on the availability of water and livelihood systems practiced. For instance, in Mberengwa there were a large number of household gardens and nutrition gardens created, facilitated by the higher ground water levels. It is also clear that fewer livestock assets were created in Mudzi and Rushinga

compared to the southern districts as livestock rearing is not as prevalent in the north of the country.

Figure 2: Asset Utilization by Grouping (HH, Crop, Livestock)



The PRIZE program did not just create and rehabilitate assets to have them present in the communities, but also worked with communities to ensure that the assets were used. Figure 2 highlights asset utilization by quarter. **As of March 2013, some 46,000 households were utilizing the community assets to improve their livelihoods.**

The graphs above show disaggregated asset utilization levels for year 2 and 3. Utilization of horticultural assets, which included irrigation schemes and nutrition gardens, was relatively consistent. However, it is important to note that the drop in utilization of livestock assets was expected given the lower seasonal requirements for dipping of animals during the winter and the quarantine in many PRIZE districts due to a serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease. The outbreak affected Beitbridge, Gwanda, Matobo, Bulilima and Mangwe from January until the ban on sales was lifted in June. Gwanda only had its ban lifted in July 2012.

The utilization of water resources for agriculture reached a plateau during the dry winter months of 2012. During this period some new assets were created, but the prolonged dry period limited the ability of households to fully utilize the assets. **It is promising to see that, with the start of the rainy season, there was an increase in utilisation of livestock assets from 25,000 in September 2012 to 32,000 in Jan to March of 2013.**

ACTIVITY 2.1.2: PROMOTE CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE TO 2,171 LEAD FARMERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

PRIZE developed CA training modules that encouraged farmers to adopt the six principles of conservation agriculture: minimum soil disturbance; mulching and minimal burning of crop residue; intercropping and crop rotation; timely implementation; precise operations; and efficient use of inputs.

During the reporting period, 6,359 farmers received training on CA from the 640 lead farmers trained during the same period bringing the number of trained farmers over the life of project to 19,162 and number of lead farmers to 3,074. Figure 3 disaggregates these numbers by district and sex. Overall, PRIZE empowered 15,320 women (69% of all farmers trained in CA) to improve their food security status through sustainable cropping practices.

Figure 3: Number of Farmers Trained in CA by District, By Sex

		Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo	PRIZE
CA Lead Farmers	Female	194	198	238	360	166	444	227	225	2052	
	Male	84	76	143	263	142	111	101	102	1022	
CA Farmers	Female	1571	1487	1897	1941	316	2442	1863	1751	13268	
	Male	713	918	1027	1063	203	435	728	807	5894	

ACTIVITY 2.1.3: PROMOTE SEED SECURITY FOR 2,171 VULNERABLE FARMERS

PRIZE focused on improved cropping practices and these also included capacitating farmers on seed selection and storage. Seed security trainings focused on raising awareness of farmers on the pros and cons of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPVs) and hybrid seeds. Hybrid seeds helped farmers in irrigation schemes grow high quality produce according to market standards, and ultimately improve their yields. In dry-land fields, PRIZE encouraged farmers to use OPV seed and to produce, select and preserve OPV seeds for their cropping needs.

In FY13, 252 farmers received seed production, selection and storage trainings bringing the life of project achievement to 2,611 which was 20% above the target of 2,171 farmers. Over two-thirds of those trained were female as the project endeavored to ensure female farmers were as productive as their male counterparts. The table below shows the number of farmers trained over the life of project disaggregated by district and sex.

Figure 4: Number of Farmers Trained in SS by District, By Sex

		Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo	PRIZE
SS Farmers	Female	203	255	195	254	175	255	348	160	1845	
	Male	63	95	130	203	145	46	84	84	850	

Private-public partnerships with Prize were created during the life of the program. PRIZE created strong linkages and partnerships with AGRITEX, DLPD, Social Services and private business (seed companies), such as Pioneer, SeedCo. and PANNAR, to assist dry land CA lead farmers with maize and sorghum seed to plant in their demonstration plots. In an effort to improve the quality of vegetables for the market, farmers from horticultural sites were linked to seed houses such as National Tested Seed (3kg seed) for horticultural seed. Pedstock estimates that the business generated by PRIZE was over US \$12,000.

ACTIVITY 2.1.4: PROMOTE IMPROVED LIVESTOCK PRACTICES FOR 5,900 VULNERABLE FARMERS

Until recently, farmers in Zimbabwe have not been dipping their small livestock (goats and sheep) in chemical baths as a means of disease control. The Consortium has rolled out trainings to educate farmers on the importance of dipping small livestock in addition to larger animals. These trainings include feed management and animal nutrition, disease identification and control and breeding management planning. **During FY13, 418 livestock lead livestock farmers and 2,797 livestock farmers received livestock production trainings bringing**

the total of farmers trained to 9,963 (160 % of the target). More than half of the lead farmers were women and they in turn trained 5,782 female livestock farmers to improve their livestock rearing practices.

Figure 5: Number of Lead Farmers Trained in Improved Livestock Practices by District

		Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo	PRIZE
Livestock Farmers	Lead	Female	14	15	16	177	103	191	208	274	998
		Male	39	41	8	194	123	118	133	115	771
Livestock Farmers		Female	554	695	220	922	378	1087	1033	893	5782
		Male	719	409	238	405	334	622	588	895	4210

Further, during Year 2 PRIZE set out to identify and train paravets to diagnose disease and refer for treatment to assist farmers within their catchment areas. This was a sustainability drive meant to empower the local community members to provide support to fellow community members. **590 paravet officers received training during the period under review adding to the 56 trained in year 2 to reach a total of 646 over the life of the project.** Nearly half of the paravets trained were women. Figure 6 highlights the presence of the paravets by district.

Figure 6: Number of Paravets Trained By District

		Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo	PRIZE
Paravets		Female	17	31	2	16	6	83	64	62	281
		Male	31	64	36	24	24	57	85	44	365

Strong collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development, Departments of Veterinary Services and Livestock Production and Development, including field visits, joint research and discussions at national level has resulted in the development of an innovative data collection and reporting system linking PRIZE trained paravets into the formal sector through SMS-based data regarding livestock activities and status in the wards.

To add value to PRIZE, a number of trainings in natural resource management were facilitated by SAFIRE and then cascaded to the communities. The trainings included natural products processing for improved household nutrition and income generation, conservation and commercialization of woodlands for improved productivity and institutional arrangements for community based natural resources management. Linkages were made between PRIZE and Matopo Research Station for the provision of training by the research institute where farmers were trained in fodder production, animal nutrition and rangeland management. Inter-district exchange visits were also done where farmers were taken for look and learn tours in other districts.

ACTIVITY 2.1.5: PROMOTE COMMUNITY PRODUCTION THROUGH SMALL INVESTMENT GRANTS

Approval was granted by USAID/DF to implement this unique strategy towards the end of the first year. The Small Investment Grant concept was meant to support farmers in acquiring small equipment (less than US \$2,000 in value) that would rapidly boost their production levels. A total of 440 proposals were submitted for the grants and 120 were disbursed, all these grants were disbursed in year 2 of the project. **217 follow up visits to the grant recipients were conducted during year 3 to provide support to the grantees bringing**

total visits over the life of project to 564. The farmers provided 10% of the capital for the purchase of the equipment and all goods were delivered during the second year of the program.

IR 2.2: 5,800 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE INCREASED INCOME.

As part of improving the food security status of households, PRIZE not only worked with beneficiaries to increase production levels, but also to capitalize upon those gains increasing incomes through market linkages, income generating training, and the creation of a system for price information dissemination.

ACTIVITY 2.2.2: CREATE AND STRENGTHEN MARKET LINKAGES FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

PRIZE focused on the development of local markets for the production in the 8 districts to ensure viable local options for producers, including schools, hospitals and the community after the realization that the bulk of the produce would be sold within close proximity to the production sites. Selling closer home assisted in bringing production costs down due to a cut on transport and that led to increased profits by the farmers.

ACTIVITY 2.2.3: TRAIN 5,800 FARMERS IN INCOME GENERATING STRATEGIES

After the establishment of productive assets and trainings on improved production methods, interested farmers were organized into marketing groups around primary production activities to provide trainings on income generating activities. The criteria for selecting the farmers were based on their social understanding, performance, experience, and willingness to participate in the PRIZE project. **IGA trainings were provided to 2,882 farmers during the period under review bringing the life of project achievement to 7,604 with 63% of those trained being female.** Furthermore, a total of 10,427 farmers (180% of the target) were actively involved in the 173 marketing groups at the end of the program. Of these active members, 62 percent were women with participation in the livestock groups at 50.9 percent and 70.9 percent in the horticulture groups.

Figure 7: Number of Marketing Group Members by Sex

	Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo
Cereals	Female	271	113	123	65	82	148	85	48
	Male	135	65	65	37	23	22	55	8
Dry Grains	Female	48	226	178	0	102	154	117	7
	Male	72	112	112	8	70	15	237	11
Horticulture	Female	271	293	1089	7	60	465	420	270
	Male	135	155	407	14	23	119	179	150
Livestock	Female	564	562	97	14	57	110	323	84
	Male	661	610	128	22	73	50	167	34

As a means of ensuring sustainability, AGRITEX, LPD and the Department of Veterinary Services took the lead in all training programs that PRIZE undertook. Focus group discussions with the communities through various learning activities highlighted that the re-establishment of relationships between the extension services and the communities was seen as an important factor for continued utilization of the assets and overall sustainability. **In addition to general trainings held at the group meetings related to formulating crop budgets and profitability, trainings in Farming as a Business were offered to 2,882 farmers in FY13 bringing the life of project achievement to 7,604.** The FaaB training provided guidance on which crops would provide the best cash return for farmers and how

and when to sell livestock. Skills acquired from the FaaB trainings enabled farmers to have stronger negotiation and marketing skills and to plan their activities more systematically and allocate their labor more appropriately.

Figure 8: Number of Farmers Trained in FaaB by District by Sex in FY13

	Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo
Farming as a Business	Female	331	249	600	248	11	114	0	80
	Male	507	161	234	196	20	20	0	111

ACTIVITY 2.2.4: LINK 5,800 FARMERS TO MARKETS

As part of efforts to link beneficiaries to markets, PRIZE facilitated look and learn visits by farmers from all districts to companies such as Pedstock, Karima Investments, Pedstock, Favco, Ebenezer, Holiday Inn Beitbridge, Mnene Mission, Grills, NASHGO and individual buyers of small livestock were linked to farmers where appropriate. Farmers also visited the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo and other agricultural shows in their respective districts throughout the life of the grant.

Livestock market linkages were facilitated through livestock auctions, bringing buyers and sellers together. During the second year of activities, PRIZE scaled up cattle and small livestock auctions to ensure structured marketing. **Figure 9 disaggregates the marketing groups into three main value chains, cereals, horticulture and livestock, showing annualized incremental sales for marketing group members from July 2012 to June 2013.** During the third year of PRIZE, farmers earned US \$1,094,512 from these value chains, an incremental increase of US \$722,040 over incomes the year before they benefitted from PRIZE.

Figure 9: Incremental Sales by Marketing Group Type

	Base Incomes	Annual Sales	Incremental Sales
Cereals	\$4,225	\$54,893	\$50,668
Dry Grains	\$5,758	\$18,853	\$13,095
Horticulture	\$13,061	\$206,257	\$193,196
Livestock	\$341,618	\$809,809	\$468,191

ACTIVITY 2.2.5: CREATE A SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING ACCURATE AND TIMELY PRICE INFORMATION

Accessing reliable information on market prices, demand and supply and weather forecasts is critical to farmers to guide their decisions. PRIZE met with many different partners offering such services but costs were inhibitive and a joint decision to withdraw this activity was made with the Economic Growth Office of USAID representative in Harare. In lieu of a formal system, PRIZE disseminated Zimbabwe Farmer Union pricing information updates to the farmers during the program.

IR 2.3: 14,400 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ENGAGED IN MECHANISMS TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC SHOCKS

PRIZE worked with target communities to increase access to cash to help build the capacity of households to mitigate the impacts of economic shocks. To do so, Village Savings and Lending groups were promoted.

ACTIVITY 2.3.1: FORM AND TRAIN 1,082 VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS GROUPS

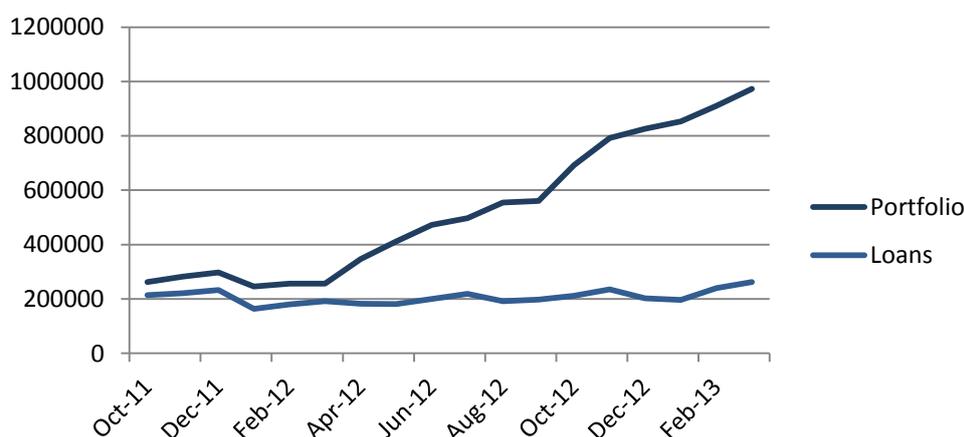
PRIZE mobilized communities introducing the VS&L approach and its successes. Interested community members were encouraged to form groups and register as clients. A training curriculum was developed by the consortium for the groups and covered group and member selection, leadership/management, constitution development (bylaws and regulations) and record keeping. VS&L activities are done in parallel with value chain and market linkage activities and have been shown to complement each other very well.

Figure 10: Number of VS&L Groups Established By District

	Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo
VS&L Active Groups		272	341	368	90	153	193	192	212
VS&L Members	Female	2191	2099	2212	703	1170	1610	1915	1530
	Male	230	290	342	61	293	161	289	160

Much progress has been made toward the targets with 1,821 groups formed since the beginning of PRIZE (168% of all targets). The PRIZE portfolio currently sits at US \$972,302 with loans worth over US \$4 million dispersed over the life of the program. **A total of US \$ 280,776 was saved by 1,712 new clients during the reporting period and of these new clients more than 85% were women.** These funds have been used for activities ranging from increasing food security, dietary diversity, and accumulation of socio-economic assets such as household utensils, and productive assets. There has been stagnation in the loans being granted by the groups as can be seen in Figure 11. Focus group discussions highlight that one reason for this is limited IGA opportunities for community members. Within many of the communities covered by PRIZE interventions, beneficiaries are still apprehensive about taking larger loans to attempt riskier ventures.

Figure 11: Portfolio Size Compared to Loans Dispersed By Quarter



ACTIVITY 2.3.2: TRAIN 5,052 VS&L PARTICIPANTS IN SELECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

PRIZE implemented selection, planning and management of income generating activities to members of mature VS&L groups to help them capitalize on the loans; ensuring use of the loans had positive impacts on their livelihoods. The SPM curriculum focused on business ideas and principles, aimed to help the communities overcome some of the apprehension around taking larger loans.

As the VS&L groups matured through the curriculum, they were offered the SPM training. **In FY13, 2,130 individuals received SPM training bringing the cumulative number of those trained to 5,393 members.**

One of the key lessons from PRIZE is that SPM is generic, and in many instances clients need more in-depth training on specific projects to best capitalize on the general trainings. VS&L officers trained clients and ensure that the clients' planning and financial management skills were sound, but there is need for the technical training and skills development on specific projects tailored to the individual business initiative of the group so that efficiencies and profit can be maximized beyond generic business planning.

Figure 12: Number of Members Trained in SPM by District by Sex

		Sex	Beitbridge	Gwanda	Mberengwa	Mudzi	Rushinga	Bulilima	Mangwe	Matobo
SPM Trained Members	Female		649	624	612	484	525	696	580	789
	Male		36	57	71	53	80	69	50	91

III. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The PRIZE M&E system went through a series of changes which were meant to sharpen the process and ensure that relevant data that answers to the indicators was collected. The project started in July 2010 and the first SMILER workshop, developing tools and defining roles and responsibilities was conducted in October 2010. The workshop was conducted by an M&E specialist who was on TDY and set the tone for the M&E system.

A baseline survey was conducted in December 2010 and the report was finalized in July 2011. Following the institution of the SMILER tools, the first data quality assessment was conducted in November 2011. The DQA looked at the consistency of the data that was being collected by the partners which highlighted some gaps in data collection. The SMILER tools were revised and finalized in February 2012 and it is within the same period that the second round of DQA was conducted to ensure all gaps addressed. As the tools were finalized, the database conceptualization was completed and it is at that stage that the data system improved and there was consistency across all the agencies on data collection, collation and reporting.

The PRIZE external final evaluation was held in February 2013 and noted some of the issues that the M&E system had faced early on and the changes made to address those issues. Learning events were conducted thereafter including joint PRIZE/Government case study research and an internal lessons learning workshop. The case study research culminated in a national round table discussion to document critical lessons in project planning and management for future programs.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

PRIZE engaged an external consultant Sun Mountain who conducted an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) during the development of the PRIZE proposal. The recommendations from that study informed the nature of environmental issues which required attention during the implementation of PRIZE. During PRIZE implementation the EMMP was operationalized to ensure that the monitoring laid out in the plans was performed. This led to the construction of environmentally oriented activities such as waste pits on all

dip tanks, promotion of biodegradable acaricides and use of treated timber for fencing compared to indiscriminate cutting of trees for use as fencing poles.

V. GENDER

PRIZE worked to involve women in all facets of programming, through targeting for involvement in interventions traditionally considered male, to ensuring that they are involved in management decisions within the groups formed under the grant. Women made up 71.5 percent of beneficiaries receiving training in farming as a business, post-harvest handling and marketing, improved livestock production, conservation agriculture and savings, internal lending and income generating activities. Women also accounted for over 60 percent of lead farmers and paravets, empowering communities through the spread of their knowledge.

PRIZE FFA work norms dictate that when FFA assignments are delegated each day, gender is considered with men being allocated heavier tasks. Child minding was offered at the worksites for those with small children. Older women who cannot traditionally participate in the work benefit from rations, while workers are able to be near their children for feeding and care.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED

PRIZE integrated learning into its programming to ensure that the outcomes achieved best served the targeted communities. The program management unit brought together technical staff from each of the partner agencies to review and move the program toward its goal. Through these individuals, quarterly working group meetings were held to review progress and raise issues experienced. In addition to programmatic review, PRIZE M&E in collaboration with the Humanitarian Accountability team, reviewed results and issues received through their systems.

During the second year of the program, this learning culminated in two value chain consultancies investigating utilization modalities, an FFA learning event reviewing implementation methods and a joint Government/PRIZE assessment looking at program outcomes. **During the third year, this learning continued with an M&E learning event to formalize the process changes throughout the grant and a joint Government/PRIZE case study into the factors that affect utilization, success and sustainability at PRIZE assets and within groups established by the program.**

VII. SUCCESS STORIES

1.) “Strengthening our voices; strengthening our livelihoods” – After years for farming without negotiating power to get fair prices for their products, communal farmers in Musuki were routinely exploited by commodity buyers. *“We were being oppressed by buyers because we lacked adequate information for lobbying & advocacy power. Prices for our commodities were pegged by buyers without our input, we could not even ascertain if the price was profitable or not. The buyers took advantage of the farmers since they were not united and were not speaking with one voice,”* said Mr. Hungwe, the Marketing Committee Chairperson for the Musuki Small Irrigation Scheme.

Following the establishment of the Musuki Small Irrigation Scheme through PRIZE, communal farmers participating in the scheme received trainings in FaaB and Marketing skills. As result, farmers have seen their production evolve from subsistence to semi-commercial, as garden participants organized themselves into vibrant marketing groups.

These farmers can now collectively bargain for higher prices with buyers, and directly interact with buyers to better understand buyer needs.

Overtime, the Musuki group established a continuing business relationship with the Munene Mission Hospital among other buyers. Discussions with the buyers involve product quality, frequency of supply, pricing structure and mode of payment. As a result, each individual farmer has been able increase their income and improve their quality of life in minor but significant ways. A majority of the farmer group members constructed and/or renovated their houses, paid for their children`s educational needs and can now afford adequate meals as monthly household incomes have increased.

“We have already tasted the fruits of group marketing, farmer buyer interactions; so we will not look back!” – Musuki farmer marketing group member

2.) “Ward 28 sees unexpected benefits from conservation agriculture” – With conservation agriculture (CA) techniques allowing early planting in Ward 28, farmers discovered they had more free time on their hands for other activities as their early planted crops flourished. Mr. Gumbo a CA farmer from Chibharo village was one such farmer who witnessed these unexpected benefits. Mr. Gumbo was able to take advantage of the early rains as his CA field was ready well ahead of time resulting in 95% germination of his planted seeds. In comparison, his conventional plot, planted only 4 days after the CA plot recorded low seed germination of only 52%. In addition, to Mr. Gumbo’s surprise, weed growth has been suppressed by mulch that was applied on his CA plot, saving him time and labor. On the contrary, poor germination has been compounded by problem of encroaching weeds in the adjacent plot where he practiced conventional farming methods.

As he admires his healthy crop in the CA plot, Mr. Gumbo proudly reiterates that he dosed each plot measuring 0.1ha with 7kgs compound D basal fertilizer. He is astonished that crop in the conventional plot shows no response to the fertilizer while the CA plot has a completely different result. The basal fertilizer was applied in CA basins whilst in the conventional plot the fertilizer was broadcasted. As a result, the November ’12 rains washed away large volumes of the top soil from the conventional plot. The CA plot retained the top soil and harnessed moisture in the basins, directly benefiting the plants.

After comparing his results, Mr. Gumbo is planning to commit his entire land holding of 0.5 ha to CA next cropping season. In the end, Mr. Gumbo would harvest approximately 800-1000 kg of grain from his 0.1ha CA plot and only 300kg from the conventional plot. Seeing this dramatic difference, Mr. Gumbo was convinced that the investment in CA ahead of normal planting season had the potential of yielding even more unexpected benefits.

PRIZE Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) YEAR 1 to 3 (July 2010 - June 2013)					
	Baseline Values	Year 1 Achievement	Year 2 Achievement	YEAR 3 Achievement	Life of Project achievement
Performance Indicators					
Goal: Reduced food insecurity for vulnerable individuals in 8 districts of Zimbabwe by 2012.					
SO 1: Emergency food needs of 151,280 individuals are addressed.					
1.1. Household Hunger Scale Score HHS (Impact) (Population) (Fanta2/PRIZE)	1.27 (1.19-1.36)				
IR 1.1: 151,280 transiently food insecure individuals have food during the hungry season.					
1.1.1. Number (annual) of people benefiting from USG-supported social assistance programming (Vulnerable Group Feeding), disaggregated by sex (output) (F-process)		202,239.00		-	202,239.00
Male		83,778.00		-	83,778.00
Female		109,945.00		-	109,945.00
1.1.2. Percentage of FDPs displaying proper visual aids ⁴ about food storage best practices (including non-chemical pest-control strategies) on food distribution days (output) (IEE)		69.10			69.10
SO 2: 91,605 vulnerable households have re-established food security					
2.1. Months of adequate household food provisioning (Impact) (Population) (FFP)	4.11 (3.67-4.60)				
2.2. Average Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) (Impact) (Population) (FFP) ⁶	4.03 (3.94-4.12)				
IR 2.1: 112,097 vulnerable households have increased food production.					
2.1.1. Percentage of farmers trained using 2 or more PRIZE-promoted sustainable agriculture technologies ⁷ (Outcome) (FFP) (IEE)	-				68%
2.1.2. Number (cumulative) of farmers irrigating their farmland using water from the water resources created/improved (Outcome) (PRIZE)		575.00	3,608.00	9,658.00	9,658.00
2.1.3. Number (cumulative) of hectares of land brought under irrigation potential by PRIZE activities (Outcome) (PRIZE)		261.88	1,045.79	1,397.40	1,397.40
2.1.4. Number (cumulative) of productive assets including water resources ⁸ improved or created by PRIZE activities (Output) (PRIZE)		519.00	1,148.00	1,305.00	1,305.00
2.1.5. Number of assets (e.g dams/irrigation, dip tank) management systems with maintenance/management committee functioning at appropriate ⁹ levels (outcome) (IEE)		150.50	482.00	643.00	643.00
2.1.6. Number (cumulative) of vulnerable farmers growing vegetables in community gardens created in program communities (Outcome) (PRIZE)		623.00	8,226.00	10,323.00	10,323.00
2.1.7. Number (cumulative) of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agriculture sector productivity (including livestock) training, disaggregated by sex (Output) (F-process)		2,733.00	6,868.00	7,454.00	7,454.00
Male		890.00	2,453.00	2,643.00	2,643.00
Female		1,843.00	4,415.00	4,811.00	4,811.00
IR 2.2: 2, 500 vulnerable households have increased income.					
2.2.1. Percentage of beneficiaries (individual farmers) who cultivated two or more PRIZE-promoted priority products (Outcome) (PRIZE)	-				67%
2.2.2 Number (cumulative) of farmers trained in income generating strategies, disaggregated by sex (Output) (PRIZE)		2,888.00	3,766.00	6,648.00	6,648.00
Male		999.00	1,266.00	2,515.00	2,515.00
Female		1,889.00	2,500.00	1,633.00	4,133.00
2.2.3 Value of incremental sales of farmers (collected at marketing group level) attributed to PRIZE implementation, disaggregated by product type (Output) (FFP)		\$ 161,796.57	\$ 869,390.00	\$ 722,040.00	
Cereal		\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 50,668.00	
Dry grains		\$ -	\$ (10,118.00)	\$ 13,095.00	
Horticulture		\$ 65.00	\$ 52,214.00	\$ 193,196.00	
Animal product/livestock		\$ 158,847.14	\$ 820,250.00	\$ 468,191.00	
Others		\$ 2,884.43	\$ 6,244.00	\$ (3,110.00)	
2.2.4 Average number of FFA trainings that the value chain farmers participated in, disaggregated by sex (Output) (FFP) - Male	-				1.05
2.2.4 Average number of FFA trainings that the value chain farmers participated in, disaggregated by sex (Output) (FFP) - Female	-				1.06
IR 2.3: 11,400 vulnerable households have engaged in mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of economic shocks.					
2.3.1. Total savings in USD (cumulative) deposits held by USG-assisted VS&L/SILC groups. (Outcome) (F-process)		\$ 214,440.00	\$ 691,526.00	\$ 972,302.00	\$ 972,302.00
2.3.2. Percentage of VS&L/SILC group members who used loans or savings to establish productive investments ¹⁰ (Outcome) (PRIZE)	-				45%
2.3.3. Number (cumulative) of clients at USG assisted VS&L/SILC groups, disaggregated by sex (Output) (F-process)		9,242.00	13,886.00	15,598.00	15,598.00
Male		1,198.00	1,687.00	1,935.00	1,935.00
Female		8,044.00	12,199.00	13,663.00	13,663.00