



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## THE NGO JOINT INITIATIVE FOR URBAN ZIMBABWE



AID-OFDA-G-13-00148

QUARTERLY REPORT for Period:  
January – March 2014

Report Date: April 30, 2014

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall goal of the project is to promote, improve and protect sustainable livelihoods for urban and peri-urban communities in Zimbabwe through effective response and information coordination of urban actors. The program is mainly focusing on WASH and Agriculture interventions. Under WASH, the project is promoting health and hygiene through Community Health Clubs (CHCs) and School Health Clubs (SHCs), community based solid waste management, clean up campaigns and promotion of Waterguard for Point of Use Water Treatment (PoUWT), to contribute to Public Health Disaster Risk Reduction/Management (DRR/DRM). The program has an additional innovation of WASH Income Generating Activities (IGAs) as well as youth engagement in the same IGAs. Under the agriculture component, the project is promoting compost production (making use of solid waste) and seed multiplication, so as to improve urban agriculture productivity. Heavy rains were received during the quarter, particularly in January and February. This resulted in some flooding of some Chitungwiza settlements that were poorly drained due to blocked storm water drains or houses built on wetlands. The rains, on the other hand, saw Lake Mutirikwi (Masvingo) achieving a massive 40.6% holding capacity, up from 10% during the last quarter, thereby improving water supply situation in the town. Nevertheless, most urban centers like Masvingo, Bulawayo, and Chitungwiza continue to experience water rationing. Stakeholder involvement was very high for all the program activities during the quarter.

## 2.0 PROGRESS REPORT

### SECTOR 1: WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

**Objective:** To increase communities' resiliency to WASH-related shocks, such as disease outbreaks

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

##### Solid waste management

The quarter saw the signing of an MOU between the community based organizations (CBOs) - former community health clubs (CHCs), in Masvingo and a plastic recycling company (Fispack), with the Masvingo city council and Environmental Management Agency (EMA) as witnesses to the MOU. The City council availed land for the construction of structures for handling, sorting and storage of plastic by members of the CHCs. A total of 35 community health facilitators were trained in the plastic recycling value chain, with emphasis on collection, handling, sorting and recycling. Facilitators for the training were drawn from Fispack, The Masvingo City health department, CARE and EMA. The high level Public Private Partnership established in Masvingo city is a model that other partners from other urban centers are expected to learn from, for potential replication.

A total of 154 individuals, 109 in Mutare and 45 in Bulawayo were trained in solid waste management; of these, 100 were females and 54 were males. The trainings which were facilitated by EMA prepared the participants to start the collection of solid waste for recycling within their communities. Following the Solid Waste Management (SWM) training, the Community Health Promoters further conducted six ward based trainings to cascade the education to other community members. The ward-based trainings reached out to a total of 405 individuals, 25 males and 380 females. Each of the six wards reached with the training managed to form a SWM committee at the end of their training.

In Mbare a total of 40 community members (32 females, 8 males) were re-trained in solid waste management to give a cumulative total of 594 individuals (552 females and 42 males) trained in Solid Waste Management during the quarter. The participants are expected to cascade the solid waste management knowledge and skills obtain to other members within their communities through demonstrations and theoretical education, making them the ambassadors of all solid waste management activities in their respective areas.

### **Clean up campaign**

A total of 38 clean up campaigns were conducted in the five JI operational towns of Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Masvingo, Mbare and Mutare. Nine clean up campaigns were held in Bulawayo, six in Chitungwiza, two in Mutare and 21 in Masvingo. These clean up campaigns which included the dissemination of targeted hygiene information and education were attended by 883 people (547 female and 336 males).

In Masvingo, the project facilitated the establishment of a Clean-Up and Anti-Litter Task Force that reports directly to the Mayor. The taskforce's mandate is to spearhead cleanup and anti-littering campaign awareness activities for the City of Masvingo. It is constituted by community leaders such as the Mayor, Town clerk, the District Administrator (DA), the Chief Health Officer, Church leaders, NGOs, EMA (secretariat), CBOs (CHCs) and the Business community with Innscor (Pvt) Ltd. being the current Chair of the committee. The clean-up and Anti-littering taskforce meets the last Friday of every month to review and plan for anti-littering awareness strategies, present achievements, review waste disposal service delivery challenges, and coordinate community initiated clean up campaigns.

## **HYGIENE PROMOTION**

### **Community Health Clubs**

A total of 60 (6 males, 54 females) Community Health Promoters (CHPs) were trained in PHHE. These in turn recruited 462 heads of households (58 males, 404 females) to join community health clubs during the quarter. In Masvingo, the project facilitated the strengthening of seven existing CHCs and helped for the establishment of additional seven new CHCs. A total of 108 volunteers, working as CHPs (60 in Bulawayo, 28 in Chitungwiza and 30 in Mbare), were trained in hygiene promotion and facilitation of CHCs. The trained CHPs established 108 CHCs with a membership of 2,409 club members (2336 females, 73 males), 462 in Bulawayo, 447 in Chitungwiza and 1,500 in Mbare.

The community health clubs have also engaged themselves in Voluntary Savings and Lending (VSALs) that have resulted in the groups being able to sustain bringing the members together as a club to discuss health and hygiene issues as well as other issues that affect their livelihoods. In Chitungwiza, one club called Health Fellows approached a funeral assurance company (Nyaradzo) and negotiated for a group funeral cover, now benefiting all the members and their family members. The club is using proceeds from the toilet cleaning detergents that the group is producing as part of their efforts to practically contribute to the improvement of household hygiene within their catchment area.

### **School Health Clubs (SHC)**

A cumulative of 60 school Health Coordinators (54 males, 6 females; 27 in Chitungwiza, 15 in Mbare and 18 in Bulawayo), were trained in PHHE to enable them to lead school health clubs at

their respective schools. By the end of the quarter, the School Health Coordinators had established 26 SHCs with a total membership of 969 pupils.

The JI-trained Volunteers in Community led PHHE and CHC Facilitation have become very active in independently establishing CHCs and facilitating community level hygiene promotion activities, targeting both sexes and a range of age groups including children starting from 6 year olds. In Makokoba, Bulawayo CRS has established a Young Star Community Health Club for children (6-13 years), which is a good case study for replication in other JI operational areas. The kids' CHC has helped increase the children's hygiene knowledge acquired outside school and has made them strong agents for Hygiene Behavior Change Communication within their homes.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction training**

In Chitungwiza 60 stakeholders including councilors, government officials and NGOs working in the districts were trained in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Officials from the Civil Protection Unit and the District Administrator's office facilitated the training. The training was aimed at capacitating the stakeholders to identify the threatening hazards in the district and to come up with a plan to address them. This stakeholder training in DRR culminated in the training of 39 health promoters (6 males, 33 females). In Mutare, a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training was conducted for 36 health promoters (1 male, 35 females) representing four suburbs namely Sakubva, Dangamvura, Hobhouse and Chikanga. Sixty youth (35 females, 25 males) in Mutare also underwent training on disaster risk reduction to give a cumulative total of 195 people (110 males, 85 females) who were trained in DRR during the quarter to equip the youth with knowledge on identification of risk factors in their localities. The goal of the training was to stimulate community-based hazard identification, planning and assist communities to develop appropriate contingency and Emergency Preparedness and Response plans, including strong emphasis on environmental management and socio-political risk management. Participants were able to identify hazards, vulnerabilities, challenges, strengths and weaknesses in their environments. The participants were tasked to come up with plans for various areas and how these could be resolved including opportunities for land reclamation.

### **Promotion of Point of Use Water Treatment (PoUWT)**

A total of 4555 households (2684 from Bulawayo and 1871 from Chitungwiza) redeemed their water guard vouchers during the quarter. Working with Population Services International and a local manufacturer (Nelsport), the program is promoting point of use water treatment, through the promotion of a locally produced water treatment solution, Waterguard. This is meant to ensure that developed behavior on PoUWT is reinforced with the availability of a local brand for sustainability purposes. This was also supported in the program during the quarter through working and strengthening the capacities of local retail shops and approved Community Based Distributors for the distribution of the solution, to ensure sustainability of supply of the product beyond the program

### **Sewage Services for Youth**

Fifteen youth, (10 males, 5 females) from Chitungwiza were trained on sewage declogging services in an effort to equip them with skills to respond to sewer blockages at household level for a fee. The training was facilitated by Officers from the Council's Sewer Department. The five-day training covered introduction to plumbing and drain laying, tools and accessories in plumbing, appropriate sanitation technologies, sewerage reticulation, design of sewers and cleaning, safety

and health and business skills. The trained youth later formed three groups consisting of five members each. These were assisted with safety clothing, worksuits, gumboots, PVC gloves and face masks, to enable them to start their IGA by attending to private sewer blockages within the vicinity of their areas of residence..

The same activity is still to be approved in Mbare. It was strongly objected in Masvingo and Bulawayo. In Bulawayo, the youth will be restricted to the upgrading of gulley traps which according to the city council, has become a priority in dealing with blockages as revealed by a study conducted by the city. The damaged gulleys are now widely believed to be the major cause of sewage blockage in the city's high density residential areas. In Mutare, training under the same activity will kick off during the next quarter, as the targeted youths need to be trained in DRR as a precursor to the sewerage services training.

## **SECTOR 2: IMPROVING AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION / FOOD SECURITY**

**Objective:** To improve urban populations' reliable access to nutritious food through improved incomes and production

### **Seed multiplication**

In Chitungwiza, 108 farmers were engaged in multiplication of sugar bean seeds. Of these, 72% of the fields had sugar bean crops at reproductive stage, 5% are at harvesting stage and 13% are at vegetative stage. On average an acre is under the crop per farmer. For Mutare a total of 213 farmers were trained in seed production by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture. The objective of the training was to equip community technical knowledge on the production of seedlings. The training covered aspects on land preparation, planting process, pest management, hardening, and marketing.

The farmers have since started producing the seed and most of the seed is being sold locally to the community members. A 3 day citrus and mango seedling multiplication training targeting 35 farmers was held in Masvingo. In attendance during the training were also four Agritex Extension workers who work with targeted farmers in the urban wards. The training was facilitated by officials from the Chiredzi Agricultural Research Station. A total of 68 farmers were also trained on Irish potato production in the seven JI wards of implementation in Masvingo. The potatoes production training was a response to the needs and request from urban farmers and also to make maximum utilization of the compost being made by farmers. In Mbare a total of 218 farmers (37 males, 181 females) were trained in seed multiplication and a demonstration plot was established at Chitsera Primary school. This amounted to a cumulative total of 534 farmers (91 males and 443 females) trained in seed multiplication during the quarter.

### **Compost production**

A total of 35 participants (7 males, 28 females) from wards 5, 6 and 7 attended training on compost production during the quarter in Masvingo. The training was facilitated by Agritex Extension workers with aim of capacitating the farmers on compost making.

The JI's model of training composting and vegetable crop and seedling production facilitators has resulted in the facilitators becoming vegetable gardening role models and Lead Farmers. Demand for training services by other community members from these facilitators has become very high and the establishment of household level nutrition gardens with a variety of vegetable crops has

become viral in the targeted areas. This has increased the local availability of fresh, hygienic, essential and nutritious vegetables for households within the targeted communities. This is also expected to result in financial gains to the families through selling surplus produce and savings from buying vegetables on the market.

### **Nutrition, Business & Market Skills Training**

One hundred and five people (19 males, 86 females) participated in the Nutrition, Business and Marketing skills training. The rationale of the training was to equip farmers with necessary business and marketing skills that are necessary in agriculture and other businesses and empowering them with nutritional practices that are essential for health. In Masvingo, 35 people (7 males and 28 females) were trained in market and business management.

## **MONITORING & EVALUATION**

Normal quarterly monitoring assessment was conducted during the period.

## **PLANS DURING THE NEXT QUARTER**

- Conducting of the midterm evaluation for the program;
- Training of stakeholders in DRR; and
- Training of club members in PHHE.